



Leicester  
City Council

**Forward Timetable of Consultation & Meetings:**  
**CABINET (INITIAL CONSIDERATION)**  
**ARTS, LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY**  
**CABINET (FINAL CONSIDERATION)**

**4th September 2000**  
**7th November 2000**  
**20th November 2000**

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**ENVIRONMENT ACT 1995:  
REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF AIR QUALITY**

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**Report of the Director of Environment and Development.**

**1. Purpose of Report**

To inform members of the findings of the statutory Review and Assessment of Air Quality (including proposed Air Quality Management Areas) and to seek member approval of the proposed consultation arrangements.

**2. Summary**

The Environment Act 1995 requires all local authorities to undertake a review and assessment of air quality in their areas. The main aim is to identify areas where national air quality objectives (future targets based on health-related standards) will not be achieved. These must be declared as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs), and an Action Plan must subsequently be prepared and implemented.

The Review and Assessment is a three-stage process. Stage I (a simple screening process) was completed and reported to Environment & Development Committee in December 1998. This then necessitated the City Council proceeding to Stage III of the Review & Assessment for nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide and PM<sub>10</sub> particulates.

The DETR's "suggested deadlines" for completion are detailed below:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| December 2000   | Completion of final report after consultation and formal designation of any Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) |
| November 2001<br>(Within 9-12 months of AQMA designation) | Completion of a more detailed review within AQMAs and preparation of a draft Action Plan for consultation.       |
| May 2002<br>(Within 12-18 months of AQMA designation)     | Action Plan should be in place.  |
| December 2003   | Completion of a second full Review & Assessment  |

Stage III of the Review and Assessment is far more complex and requires the use of air quality models to predict future levels of pollutants at all locations. The findings of this work are detailed in the "Leicester Air Quality Review and Assessment 2000 Final Report - Consultation Draft". This will mark the start of a six-week consultation period. The report will be considered by Arts, Leisure & Environment Scrutiny on 7th November 2000. Feedback will be reported to Cabinet on 20th November 2000, with a view to declaring the proposed AQMAs.

### **3. Recommendations**

Cabinet is asked to:

- a) Note the findings of the Air Quality Review & Assessment and proposed Air Quality Management Areas detailed in the "Leicester Air Quality Review and Assessment 2000 Final Report - Consultation Draft", and to approve this as a basis for public consultation; and
- b) Approve the consultation proposals summarised in the Appendix to this report, with feedback being reported to Scrutiny and Cabinet in November

### **4. Headline Financial and Legal Implications**

This work has largely been undertaken within existing departmental budgets. However, in recent years capital costs associated with air quality monitoring and modelling have been supported through a number of successful SCA bids.

Under the Environment Act 1995, the City Council has a statutory duty to complete this Review & Assessment and declare any Air Quality Management Areas (by the suggested deadline of October 2000). Under Section 85 of the Act, if it appears to the Secretary of State that a local authority is not meeting its obligations under the Act, the Secretary of State may direct the local authority to undertake a review as directed, revoke or modify AQMAs, prepare or modify its action plan, or to implement any measures in its action plan.

### **5. Report Author**

Adrian Russell, Pollution Control Group, Extension 6411

## APPENDIX

### Consultation

The process of undertaking this Review & Assessment of Air Quality has involved widespread internal and external consultation, which is reflected in the text of the "Leicester Air Quality Review and Assessment 2000 Final Report - Consultation Draft". An overview of the findings of the Review & Assessment were presented to Directors Board on 25th July 2000 and to Chairs & Directors on 14th August 2000.

Wide-ranging consultation is key element of the local air quality management process, and there is a wide range of statutory and recommended consultees. These are detailed in Appendix F ("Consultation Strategy") of the Final Report.

In relation to public consultation, it is recognised that the Review and Assessment is a very complex and technical process, and the Final Report is a lengthy document. Therefore, the main aim is to be produce a simple summary leaflet explaining the main findings and providing details of how and where copies of the full report can be viewed (libraries, internet, etc.) by anyone interested. Provision will be made for the translation of the summary information contained in the consultation leaflet. The proposed timetable for consultation is:

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 4th September  | Cabinet consideration<br>Publication of Consultation Draft Report<br><b>Start of public consultation period.</b><br>Summary leaflets in public access buildings<br>Copies of full report in libraries, on internet, and sent to consultees |
| 11th September | Leicestershire Air Quality Forum joint consultation meeting (targeted towards "common" consultees such as Health Authority, Environment Agency, Highways Agency, key industries, etc.)   |
| 27th September | Article appears in October LINK  |
| 30th September | Exhibition/display at City Rooms (enabling the public to discuss findings with officers)   |
| 13th October   | <b>End of public consultation period</b>   |
| 7th November   | Arts, Leisure & Environment Scrutiny   |
| 20th November  | Report back to Cabinet and declaration of AQMAs  |

### Policy Implications

These are detailed in Section 4.4 of the Full Report.

### Equal Opportunities Implications

Disadvantaged groups are more likely to live in areas of the City subject to higher levels of pollution.

### Sustainable and Environmental Implications

The local air quality management process aims to ensure that future national air quality objectives are achieved within the City; a key urban sustainability issue.