

Byres Road/Dumbarton Road Air Quality Management Area – Revocation noted etc – Recommendation to City Administration Committee.

6 There was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability, regarding the revocation of the Byres Road/Dumbarton Road Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), advising that

- (1) the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process placed an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether the air quality objectives were likely to be achieved and where an exceedance was considered likely, the local authority must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an AQAP setting out the measures it intended to put in place in pursuit of the;
- (2) where monitoring had shown that the air pollution objectives were being met, and were likely to continue to be met, local authorities were required to revoke the AQMA following a suitable period of compliance;
- (3) that revocation of an AQMA was a recognition that air quality had been improved, to the benefit of all who live, work or otherwise use the area where previously air pollution levels were in excess of health based objectives and revocation should not be interpreted as a belief that air pollution was no longer a concern, however it was acknowledged that significant progress had been made;
- (4) a report in support of the revocation of the Byres Road/Dumbarton Road AQMA was detailed, as an appendix to this report;
- (5) an assessment of measured ambient NO₂ concentrations since the declaration of the Byres Road/Dumbarton Road AQMA in 2007 found a reducing trend in measured annual average concentrations since 2011, such that the annual average concentrations had been below the relevant objective levels for a number of years;
- (6) the Scottish Government guidance advised that a minimum of 3 years of compliance with the objectives be achieved before revocation was considered and monitoring had shown that no exceedances had been recorded within the AQMA since 2017, however, due to uncertainty caused by falling pollution levels during the pandemic, an extended period of compliance had been recorded in respect of this AQMA;
- (7) based on the continued compliance with air quality objectives for NO₂, and predicted future compliance, it could be concluded that there was no continued requirement for an AQMA in the Byres Road/Dumbarton Road area and that the AQMA be revoked and this recommendation was supported by robust monitoring data as detailed in the report;
- (8) the decision to revoke the Byres Road/Dumbarton Road AQMA had been included in the conclusions of both the 2022 and 2023 Air Quality Annual Progress Reports, based on the evidence included in section 5 of the

Revocation Report and the independent report appraisers, the Scottish Government and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) had agreed with the report conclusions and advised the Council to proceed with the revocation as soon as was practicable;

- (9) once a revocation of an AQMA had taken place, the order would be submitted to the Scottish Government for information, with SEPA and other relevant parties being notified, and the revocation widely publicised to ensure that the public and local businesses were fully aware of the situation;
- (10) the draft Air Quality Action Plan 2024, whilst necessarily focussed on the remaining City Centre AQMA, took a similarly holistic approach to air quality improvements as previous plans and it was therefore expected to continue to provide improvements, including within the area of the revoked AQMA; and
- (11) whilst there was a high degree of confidence that the relevant air quality objectives would continue to be met, all current monitoring would continue indefinitely to ensure that compliance continued, with all results being reported within the Air Quality Annual Progress Reports.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) noted
 - (i) the improvement in pollution levels monitored within and around the Air Quality Management Area and the longstanding compliance with the statutory air quality objectives; and
 - (ii) the Byres Road/Dumbarton Road AQMA Revocation Report; and
- (b) agreed to recommend to the City Administration Committee approval of the revocation of the Byres Road/Dumbarton Road AQMA.