

## **Air Quality Action Plan update and consultation response - Update noted – Recommendation to City Administration Committee.**

**5** There was submitted a report by the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability, regarding an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) update and consultation response, advising

- (1) that the statutory Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process required 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. 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 objectives;
- (2) that the Council had prepared 2 previous AQAPs, in respect of the City Centre Air Quality Action Plan (AQMP) in 2004 and Byres Road/Dumbarton Road and Parkhead Cross AQMPs in 2009 and since then, updates on the actions within these plans had been included in the Air Quality Annual Progress Reports (APRs);
- (3) that air pollution levels had improved in recent years, however, levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) remained of concern and the City Centre AQMA was still in effect;
- (4) that in November 2021, Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS) announced that its first investigation would consider air quality, specifically focusing on compliance with the NO<sub>2</sub> limit value set in Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe, which formed part of retained law following the UK's exit from the European Union;
- (5) that after taking evidence from the Scottish Government, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and local authorities, ESS had published its conclusions and recommendations in the form of an improvement report in September 2022 and those recommendations had been accepted by the Scottish Government and updated policy guidance was produced in March 2023, which set out what a local authority must include in an AQAP;
- (6) that the revised LAQM policy guidance specified that current AQAPs should be reviewed and, where necessary, updated within 1 year of the revised guidance being published, and every 5 years;
- (7) that the Glasgow AQAP update outlined, the actions that Glasgow City Council would deliver between 2024-29 to reduce concentrations of air pollutants and exposure to air pollution together with the priorities as detailed in the report;
- (8) that whilst the focus remained on the City Centre AQMA, which was currently the last AQMA not scheduled for revocation, this AQAP adopted a holistic and city-wide approach to reducing emissions and improving air quality across the Glasgow City Council area;

- (9) that the draft AQAP had been subject to statutory consultation with the public element of the consultation open for a period of 6 weeks from 13th February to 20th March 2024 with responses, as detailed in an appendix to the report;
- (10) that the observations and recommendations made by statutory consultees had been incorporated into the revised AQAP and that the final version included 21 actions compared to 18 within the consultation draft version, as detailed in the report; and
- (11) of the next steps which would include
  - (a) the AQAP being submitted to the City Administration Committee for approval and thereafter formally submitted to the Scottish Government; and
  - (b) actions within the AQAP being progressed according to their respective timescales with progress being reported within the annual Air Quality Progress Reports and submitted to the relevant Committees.

After consideration, the committee

- (i) noted the report together with the contents of the Air Quality Action Plan and consultation report; and
- (ii) agreed to recommend to the City Administration Committee approval of the Air Quality Action Plan.