

## **HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Report To:** Cabinet  
4 September 2018

**Subject:** AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN FOR BEDALE

**Bedale Ward**  
**Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health, Waste and Recycling: Councillor S Watson**

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### **1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for the Air Quality Action Plan for Bedale prior to public consultation.
- 1.2 Local Air Quality Management forms a key part of the UK Government's strategies for achieving air quality objectives. Local Authorities are required to carry out regular reviews and assessments of air quality in their area against standards and objectives in the national Air Quality Strategy and submit the findings annually to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
- 1.3 The primary pollutants in Hambleton come from transport related emissions and include nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter. The air quality in the district is predominantly assessed by portable diffusion tubes monitoring nitrogen dioxide at 38 locations.
- 1.4 Whilst air quality in Hambleton is generally good, diffusion tube monitoring identified an exceedance of the air quality objective (annual average) for nitrogen dioxide at one location on Bridge Street in Bedale. The monitoring demonstrated that the area exceeding the objective was relatively small and confined to the 'White Bear Hotel junction' rather than being more widespread in Bedale.
- 1.5 Where air quality objectives are exceeded Local Authorities have a duty to declare an Air Quality Management Area and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan setting out the measures required to improve air quality.
- 1.6 Due to the exceedance of the air quality objective in Bedale the Council declared its first Air Quality Management Area in November 2017.
- 1.7 A draft Air Quality Action Plan has been produced to detail how the air quality will be improved in the Air Quality Management Area. The Bedale Aiskew and Leeming Bar bypass scheme is considered the most effective solution to reduce pollution levels in the Air Quality Management Area. Monitoring results from 2017 show a reduction in pollution levels that are now below the air quality objective.
- 1.8 The Air Quality Action Plan must be subject to a public consultation exercise and must be approved by Cabinet before this exercise takes place. Consultees will include the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, North Yorkshire County Council, Public Health England and the Environment Agency.
- 1.9 Following the consultation the completed report will be provided to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

1.10 Diffusion tube monitoring will continue in Bedale to assess whether the recent improvements to pollution levels in the Air Quality Management Area can be maintained. This will inform whether further measures could be required if improvements are not maintained or whether the Air Quality Management Area designation could be removed.

**2.0 LINK TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES:**

2.1 Approval of the Air Quality Action Plan and improvements to air quality will contribute to the delivery of three of the Council’s key priorities: Enhancing Health and Well Being, Caring for the Environment and Driving Economic Vitality.

**3.0 RISK ASSESSMENT:**

3.1 There are no risks with implementing the recommendation.

3.2 The key risks in not approving the recommendation are shown below:-

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Implication</b>	<b>Prob*</b>	<b>Imp*</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Preventative action</b>
Failure to gain approval for the Air Quality Action Plan for Bedale prior to the consultation excessive.	Hambleton District Council will not comply with its legal duty and could be subject to sanctions from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.	4	3	12	Approve the Air Quality Action Plan prior to consultation.

Prob = Probability, Imp = Impact, Score range is Low = 1, High = 5

3.3 Overall the risk of agreeing with the recommendation outweighs the risks of not agreeing the recommendation and is considered acceptable as the Authority has a statutory duty to implement an Air Quality Action Plan where it has declared an Air Quality Monitoring Area.

**4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

4.1 There are no financial implications for the Air Quality Action Plan consultation exercise. Air quality monitoring will continue as part of the Council’s routine duties and will be met within the existing Environmental Health service budget. In the future further monitoring or air pollution modelling may be required if the Air Quality Management Area remains in place and may require additional funding out with the current Environmental Health budget.

**5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

5.1 The Authority must fulfil its statutory duty and ensure that the Air Quality Action Plan for the Bedale Air Quality Management Area is subject to a consultation exercise.

**6.0 EQUALITY/DIVERSITY ISSUES:**

6.1 Equality and Diversity Issues have been considered however there are no issues associated with this report.

**7.0 RECOMMENDATION:**

7.1 That Cabinet approves and recommends to Council that the Air Quality Action Plan for Bedale is agreed before the consultation exercise.

PAUL STAINES  
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**Background papers:** Air Quality Action Plan for Bedale

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