



Licensing and Regulatory Committee	Thursday, 16 June 2022	Matter for Information
---	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Report Title: **Air Quality Update (June 2022)**

Report Author(s): **Jon Wells (Senior Strategic Development Manager)**

Purpose of Report:	To note progress on air quality and future proposals/a way forward.
Report Summary:	The Council has a duty to review and assess air quality in their area. This report outlines the work carried out, results and future work initiatives.
Recommendation(s):	That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	David Gill (Head of Law & Democracy / Monitoring Officer) (0116) 257 2626 david.gill@oadby-wigston.gov.uk Jon Wells, (Senior Strategic Development Manager) (0116) 257 2692 jon.wells@oadby-wigston.gov.uk
Corporate Objectives:	Providing Excellent Services (CO3)
Vision and Values:	Accountability (V1) Customer Focus (V5)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	For context, the local air quality management (LAQM) regime requires every local authority to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas. Air quality is a devolved matter, and for England these reviews identify whether national objectives in the Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000 have been, or will be, achieved by an applicable date.
Financial:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Regulatory Governance (CR6) Reputation Damage (CR4)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable.
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.

Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None
Background Papers:	Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, Annual Status Report, June 2021
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diffusion Tube Data 2021 2. Zephyr air quality monitoring results 2021 – A6 3. Blaby Road Project

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The local air quality management (LAQM) regime requires every district and unitary authority to regularly review and assess air quality in their area. These reviews identify whether national objectives have been, or will be, achieved at relevant locations, by certain dates. If the air quality standards are not met then we must define air quality management areas (AQMAS) and then produce action plans.

2. Annual Status Report

- 2.1 The Council are required to produce an annual review of air quality in the area, this is called an Annual Status Report (ASR). (The link to the one produced in June 2021 is provided in the background papers).
- 2.2 The ASR is submitted to Defra in June each year and describes how we monitor air quality, a summary of our monitoring data and a comparison of the data with air quality objectives to provide an overview of local air quality. Any planned actions are included, and detail of any new development or approved planning applications that may affect air quality.
- 2.3 This year's document will be submitted to Defra by 30 June 2022.
- 2.4 In the Oadby and Wigston area there are no air quality management areas (AQMAS).

3. Monitoring

- 3.1 The Council uses diffusion tubes for the passive measurement of nitrogen oxides in the borough. There are currently 21 tubes and the results for 2021 are shown in Appendix 1 with a comparison against the objective level of 40µg/m³.
- 3.2 An Chemiluminescent air quality monitoring station has been purchased and is now in place along Blaby Road, South Wigston near the junction with Canal Street. This will measure real time data which will soon be available to access on a public website as part of a colocation study. This is funded from developer contributions (s106) relating to the Premier Drum and R F Brookes redevelopment.
- 3.3 A Zephyr air quality monitor located along the A6 corridor (near 158 Leicester Road) was provided as part of a joint study with Leicester City Council (LCC). LCC have in the last year withdrawn from this project and we intend to reuse the monitor and link the data to the website with the data from the new monitoring station along Blaby Road. In this way the public can see the data and we can be assured that real time monitoring is taking place at the two most polluted areas. Previous results obtained from this monitor are shown in Appendix 2.

- 3.4 The Council maintains a watching brief on the air quality through the continued use of targeted air quality passive diffusion tubes and consultation with the planning department on pre-application advice and consideration of applications received. Where appropriate s106 (developer contributions) are sought particularly for air quality purposes in areas of housing growth or brownfield development.

4.0 Future Projects and initiatives

- 4.1 Consideration of air quality and health in future planning and development approach
- 4.2 Influencing environment and transport decisions by aligning air quality and health and taking an active role in working groups and the development of future transport plans
- 4.3 Improving information and communication with the public and other organisations about air quality and health
- 4.4 Targeted communication, campaigns and projects with the public and organisations about air quality and health. One such project will commence during 2022 with the Leicestershire County Council Public Health and County Highways teams, this Council and the schools and academies along the Blaby Road corridor. The project will seek to address the high prevalence of asthma and viral wheeze cases in the under 15 year olds. It is hoped that this new partnership approach may create improvements in how we understand air pollution, reduce our contribution to it and mitigate against its risks to health in this area.
- 4.5 Implementing its own agile working plan to support alternative ways of working, promoting a cycle to work scheme, supporting the use of electric cars by installing electric charging points in car parks and promoting and rewarding low emission transport in our hackney carriage and private hire policy which was revised in 2021.