

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

30th MARCH 2006

Draft Air Quality Strategy

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	Improved Health and Wellbeing
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Enabling Community Wellbeing
KEY PRIORITY:	Public Health
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Anne Hingley
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of Planning, Health and Environment
CONTACT OFFICER:	Richard Williams (Ext. 2581) Richard.Williams@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
APPENDICES:	Appendix 1 – Draft Air Quality Strategy (This appendix is available electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request. See front cover for contact details.)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of the completion of the Draft Air Quality Strategy public consultation exercise, and to recommend adoption of the Draft by full Council.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to RECOMMEND to Council:

- 2.1 **The Draft Air Quality Strategy, as contained the separate appendix to this report, be adopted.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 As Members are aware the Council has actively been assessing air quality within the District since 1998 as part of the Government's strategic approach to improving air quality.
- 3.2 The Council has two roles with respect to air quality:

- To develop strategic plans with respect to reducing poor air quality within the Wyre Forest area
 - To monitor and quantify current air pollution status within the District.
- 3.3 The Council has published four Air Quality Review and Assessment Reports, and two progress reports to date. In addition, there are two air quality management areas declared within the District:
- Horsefair in Kidderminster
 - Welch Gate in Bewdley.

The Council also adopted an Action Plan for these areas late in 2004.

- 3.4 As part of the Government's rolling programme of reviews, the Planning, Health and Environment Division is currently preparing the next update and screening assessment for April 2006.
- 3.5 Cabinet agreed the Draft Strategy on the 22nd December 2005, and the consultation process was extended to the public and interested parties. Details were also made available on the Council's website for 28 days, commencing 5th January 2006.
- 3.6 The consultation period finished on 5th February 2006 and officers are recommending that Cabinet recommends that the Council adopts the Strategy at its meeting on 16th April 2006

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 As part of an Air Quality Strategy process, Councils are encouraged by DEFRA to develop a long term strategy which enables them to handle air quality in a corporate and multidisciplinary way – allowing the Council to take air quality decisions into account in all their wider policy areas, such as land use planning, transport planning, energy efficiency, waste management, economic development and regeneration.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Air Quality Strategy is to be delivered within existing budgets.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 No legal implications. The Strategy will seek to tie up with existing local planning, and health and sustainable development policies.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Long term strategy is required to secure future improvement in air quality.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 No representations were received from interested parties.

9. CONSULTEES

- 9.1 Forward Planning Manager
9.2 Senior Health and Sustainability Officer
9.3 District Councillors
9.4 Parish/Town Councils
9.5 Environment Agency
9.6 Neighbouring Local Authorities
9.7 Primary Care Trust

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

DEFRA Policy Guidance – LAQM PG(03)
The Wyre Forest District Council Sustainable Strategy 2004-2007
Wyre Forest District Local Plan 2004

27th February 2006