


NOTICE OF DECISION OF CABINET MEMBER

Pursuant Section 15(4) of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended by section 63 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the senior executive member may discharge any of the functions that are the responsibility of the Cabinet or may arrange for them to be discharged by another member of the Cabinet or Officer. On 1st December 2010, the Council adopted the Strong Leader Model for Corporate Governance 2011 as required under Part 3 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (The 2007 Act).

In accordance with the authority delegated to me / by the Leader (delete as appropriate), I have made the following decision:

Subject	Decision	Reason for decision	Date for Decision to be taken
Worcestershire Air Quality Action Plan 2013	Adopt the Countywide Air Quality Action Plan and agree to support and assist progress of the measures identified in the Plan that will provide effective resolution to the poor air quality enabling revocation of the Air Quality Management areas in the Wyre Forest District.	Satisfies the legislative requirement and facilitates improvement in air quality	22 nd October 2013

I confirm that the appropriate statutory officer consultation has taken place with regard to this decision.

Dated: 24/10/13
 Signed: 
 Councillor: Marcus J. Hart
 Cabinet Member

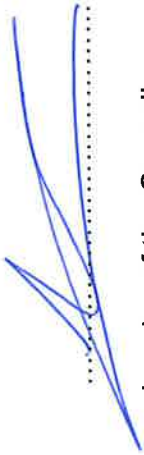
NOTICE OF DELEGATION OF DECISION TO CABINET MEMBER BY STRONG LEADER

Section 15(4) of the Local Government Act 2000, the senior executive member may discharge any of the functions that are the responsibility of the Cabinet or may arrange for them to be discharged by another member of the Cabinet or Officer. On 1st December 2010, the Council adopted the Strong Leader Model for Corporate Governance 2011 as required under Part 3 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (The 2007 Act).

I, J-P Champion, as Strong Leader, delegate the decision to adopt the Worcestershire Air Quality Action Plan 2013, to the Cabinet Member detailed below:

Cabinet Member for Environmental Services – M J Hart

Dated: 16th Oct 2013.

Signed: 

Leader of the Council

To: Cabinet Member for Environmental Services

From: Director of Economic Prosperity & Place

Date 11th October 2013

Worcestershire Air Quality Action Plan 2013

1. PURPOSE

The adoption of the Air Quality Action Plan will permit WRS to act on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council in identification and implementation of the most effective measures to reduce nitrogen dioxide levels in Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) so that they no longer exceed the National Objective and may be revoked.

2. RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the Countywide Air Quality Action Plan and agree to support and assist progress of the measures identified in the Plan that will provide effective resolution to the poor air quality enabling revocation of the Air Quality Management areas in the Wyre Forest District.

3. BACKGROUND

Under the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management Process (LAQM) as set out in Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, the Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland 2007 and the relevant Policy and Technical Guidance documents, local authorities have a duty to prepare an Action Plan where an Air Quality Management Area has been declared.

Air Quality Management Areas are declared where the air quality objectives applicable to Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) have been exceeded. The objective of most importance to this Committee is the annual mean NO₂, which should not exceed 40 microgrammes per metre squared. Traffic is the main source of NO₂ in the Wyre Forest District.

There are currently two AQMA's in the Wyre Forest District at Welch Gate, Bewdley and Horsefair/Coventry Street, Kidderminster. Stourport-on-Severn High Street is currently the subject of a Detailed Assessment to establish whether the National Objective for Nitrogen Dioxide has been breached and consequently whether an AQMA is required in this location also.

Poor air quality can affect peoples' health, causing problems such as heart disease and breathing problems. Up to 24,000 people per year die prematurely because of its effects (DETR 2000). Nitrogen Dioxide in particular is known to

cause respiratory illnesses and possibly increase the risk of lung infections. Young children and asthma sufferers are most sensitive to this pollutant.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications with adoption of the Countywide Air Quality Action Plan.

Work on progression of the measures contained in the Air Quality Action Plan is proposed to be facilitated by WRS staff within the existing budget.

5. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Adoption of an Air Quality Action Plan is a requirement under Part IV of Environment Act 1995.

6. CONCLUSION

Adoption of the Air Quality Action Plan will enable Wyre Forest District Council to facilitate a coordinated, focused and updated approach in tackling poor air quality with an aim of being able to revoke the AQMAs.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) reports to Defra (on behalf of Wyre Forest District Council) at least annually, on progress with Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) which will include an Annual Action Plan Progress Report in addition to the other reporting requirements. In the event that a Local Authority fails to prepare an Air Quality Action Plan, or mismanages the Action Planning process, Defra may choose to pass on a portion of any fine given to the UK by the European Commission for non-compliance with the EU Directive which is translated into UK legislation by the LAQM process. The Action Plan complies with Government Guidance, reducing financial risk.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

All LAQM work and procedures will be delivered in accordance with Wyre Forest District Council's appropriate Equal Opportunities Policy.

The LAQM process focuses attention on areas of poor air quality which generally coincide with areas of poor socio-economic quality. The aim of the LAQM process is to target delivery of improvements in air quality where they are most needed which should have a positive impact on areas of poor socio-economic quality. It is the Action Planning process that targets how the improvements are to be delivered.

9. CONSULTEES

Consultation on the Air Quality Action Plan was undertaken between April and June 2013 with Stakeholders (such as Defra, Ward Councillors, Taxi Associations, Bus Companies and the County Council) consulted and a further consultation with Ward Councillors in September 2013. Many comments were received and the Plan has been altered to consider these, it is the amended version which is brought to the Committee for adoption.

10. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Worcestershire Air Quality Action Plan 2013
Available on the Worcestershire Regulatory Services website
<http://www.worcsregservices.gov.uk/pollution/air-quality/air-quality-action-plan.aspx>

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

2012 Updating & Screening Assessment for Wyre Forest District Council;
available on the Worcestershire Regulatory Services website
<http://www.worcsregservices.gov.uk/pollution/air-quality.aspx>