

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
4 OCTOBER 2007

AIR QUALITY
(Director of Environment & Leisure)

1 INTRODUCTION

1. The UK Government published its strategic policy framework for air quality management in 1995, establishing national strategies and policies on air quality which culminated in the Environment Act 1995. The air quality strategy provides a framework for local air quality control through air quality management and air quality standards. The air quality data is used to inform the Council's policies in relation to its Local Transport Plan. By way of example, the data has informed the impact on air quality in relation to the RAF Staff College redevelopment, Peacock Farm and the town centre regeneration.

2 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Council collects comprehensive air quality data on the Borough from air quality stations, lamppost monitors and diffusion tubes at specific locations throughout the Borough. Every 3 years, the Council is required to carry out an air quality review and assessment of air quality in its area. The last review was carried out in April 2006 and concluded that the Council is not required to carry out a detailed review and assessment for carbon monoxide, benzene, 1, 3-butadiene, lead, PM¹⁰ or sulphur dioxide. The review required Bracknell Forest Borough Council to carry out monitoring for nitrogen dioxide.
- 2.2 To monitor for nitrogen dioxide, the Council currently has 2 air quality continuous stations, one at Fox Hill School, urban background location, and the other off Downshire Way (Old Bracknell Close and Boxford Ridge). The Council has 2 lamppost monitors, one placed in Elizabeth Close to monitor Bagshot Road and another located at the roundabout junction between Binfield Road and Millennium Way in Bracknell. Bagshot Road/Downshire Way are the Borough's busiest transport routes. Binfield Road/Millennium Way is the transport route likely to be the preferred route for material to arrive for the regeneration of the town centre. In addition these stations are supported by a network of 77 nitrogen dioxide tubes distributed at 27 locations throughout the Borough.
- 2.3 The standard for nitrogen dioxide until 2010 is an annual mean concentration of 40 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$, and one-hour mean concentration 200 $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ not to be exceeded more than 18 times per year. To monitor progress, the Council is required to submit an annual progress report to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Based on the 2006 air quality review, the 2007 report has concluded that the Council is not breaching the current air quality standards, but must continue to monitor for nitrogen dioxide. The 2007 data will be reviewed in 2008 and a conclusion drawn as to whether an air quality management area is thought to be needed.

3 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 There are no implications identified.

4 STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

4.1 There are no strategic risk management issues identified.

Background Papers

Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment

for Bracknell Forest Borough Council (AEA Technology) April 2006

Air Quality Progress Report 2007 for Bracknell Forest Borough Council

Contact for further information

David Steeds, Environment & Leisure Department – 01344 352530

david.steeds@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

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