

EASTLEIGH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 19 January 2021

AIR QUALITY UPDATE

Report of the Senior Pollution Control Officer

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Eastleigh Local Area Committee note:

- (1) the update to the air quality measurements for Eastleigh in 2020; and**
 - (2) progress made against the Air Quality Action Plan.**
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Summary

This report provides an update to the Eastleigh Local Area Committee (ELAC) on the state of air quality and progress in implementing the Eastleigh Air Quality Management Area Action Plan. It covers the period to the beginning of December 2020 and includes recent data from monitoring stations in the Eastleigh Local Area and an update on the Eastleigh Air Quality Management Area Action Plan. 2020 levels appear to be lower than the previous 3-year average.

Statutory Powers

Environment Act 1995 Part IV Section 83(2)

EU Directive 2008/50/EC, transposed into The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 in the UK

Strategic Implications

1. The causes and consequences of poor air quality and the action needed to tackle it relate to many of the Council's corporate objectives: Health and Wellbeing, Environment, Economy & Housing. While this issue cuts across portfolios, the Cabinet member for Transport leads on this issue as part of the Council's 'Tackling congestion' objective, recognising that many interventions relate to Transport, and interventions designed to reduce congestion will often also improve Air Quality.
2. European and national statutory air quality duties derive from negative impacts on health and wellbeing, especially for the very young and old and

people with existing health conditions, even at pollution levels lower than statutory exceedance levels.

Introduction

3. Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) must be declared where pollutant concentrations are found to be at risk of exceeding national objective levels, which are shown in Appendix 2. Once declared, AQMAs must have an associated Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) which contains measures aiming to bring levels of air pollution under the objective values.
4. The four AQMAs in Eastleigh Borough are covered by the Borough-wide AQAP 2020 – 2025 which was adopted in February 2020. Two of these are located in the Eastleigh Local Area, Eastleigh AQMA No. 1 (A335) in the centre and Eastleigh AQMA No. 2 (M3) passing through the south west and bordering the western boundary (see Appendix 1 for map). They were both declared due to a risk of exceedance of the annual objective for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂).

Air Quality Monitoring Results

5. Monitoring across the Eastleigh Local Area is carried out by two principle methods:
 - Diffusion tubes measure NO₂ and provide monthly values.
 - Three continuous monitoring stations measure NO₂ with higher accuracy and time resolution, allowing them to show changes as they happen during the course of the day. Particulate matter (PM) is also measured at one of these stations.
6. Air quality monitoring data is presented in Appendix 2 and covers up to the end of December 2020, and end of November for the continuous analysers and diffusion tubes respectively. Where gaps in the data are seen a short explanation of the reason has been provided. Results are verified through independent data ratification by Imperial College London which has not yet been completed for 2020. Therefore this is only an estimate of the year to date. Finalised results for 2020 which can be put into context with long term trends will be provided in the June 2021 report. A comparison of the 2020 data collected so far for 3 locations, Southampton Road, Leigh Road / Pluto Road, and Junction 13 M3 / Leigh Road, is included. This shows 2020 levels below the previous three year average, which is to be expected as levels of pollution are falling. However the periods of lockdown show lower levels than we would expect from this falling trend alone.
7. Restrictions imposed due to the Covid-19 outbreak caused some disruption to the diffusion tube monitoring from March to May. As a result, a single set of samples were collected covering 4 March to 13 May, followed by a gap in sampling until 3 June when the standard DEFRA sampling calendar was resumed. The March – May tubes were exposed for a longer time period than

is recommended, and there was also a significant delay to these being analysed after collection which meant they were past their expiry date. This means these results are compromised, although they have been included here as an indication of the air quality during that time period, but should be treated with caution.

8. An extended period of data loss occurred at Southampton Road, starting on 13 August. This was due to a leak in the cabinet which houses the equipment resulting in substantial ingress of water during a period of heavy rain. Fortunately the analysers were not damaged by this, but were removed while the problem was addressed. A cabinet repair was investigated but it was decided a replacement was the best option and the data gap reflects the time taken for this to be delivered and installed. It was decided not to return the analysers into the old cabinet while waiting for the replacement due to the risk of a similar event resulting in expensive damage to the equipment.

Air Quality Action Plan

9. Progress against each of the ELAC relevant actions in the Borough-wide AQAP is shown in Appendix 3, with some of these discussed in more detail below.
10. Additional diffusion tubes have been deployed at Campbell Road as part of the action to undertake focussed sampling exercises in areas of community concern. These new locations CR3 and CR4 are shown on the map in Appendix 1. Monthly NO₂ concentrations are available from June 2020 and the results will be ratified and finalised as an annual average along with the rest of the diffusion tube network in early 2021. Initial results do not indicate any new issues or exceedances in this area but this will be reviewed when at least 6 months of data is available and the concentrations have been adjusted to an annual average for 2020.
11. The action to pedestrianise Eastleigh Town Centre as a one-off event was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic and the postponement of Clean Air Day. However there has been an opportunity to trial this as part of the pandemic recovery and a proposal to close Market Street, High Street and a section of Wells Place was agreed by ELAC on 9 June 2020. This was designed to provide a safe trading environment, enabling safe queuing and social distancing through the provision of additional pedestrian space with an aim to encourage people back to the town centre. Additional benefits were the support of air quality work through directly reducing vehicle emissions on these roads and by encouraging active travel to the town centre. The trial is supported by a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order which is valid until 21 April 2021 and on 15 September 2020 the ELAC Committee supported keeping the current closure in place until this date. Feedback on the scheme from both businesses and the public is being monitored and evaluated throughout.
12. A successful bid to the Transforming Cities fund, which was received in March 2020, includes provision for improvements to cycle infrastructure in the Eastleigh Area. This will cover two cycle routes, one running north to south from South Street to the town centre and one running east to west across the

town centre. Work will include some junction upgrades, changing junction priorities and modal filters to create a 'quiet streets' route for cycling.

Financial Implications

13. Funding sources for individual actions are shown in the table in Appendix 3 and include grant applications and Section 106 Agreements as well as existing budgets and available resource.
14. Any actions identified in the new AQAP that require additional funding for delivery will be taken to the relevant Local Area Committee (LAC) or Cabinet for approval. Where possible Eastleigh Borough Council will work in partnership to deliver these and will take every opportunity to secure additional funding that is made available through grant funds or securing developers contributions from Section 106 Agreements.

Risk Assessment

15. The AQAP will ensure that the Council takes a managed approach to air quality by identifying the most effective actions and targeting priority locations. Progress against the AQAP will be reported annually and the actions reviewed and updated when necessary to ensure they remain relevant to Council priorities and activities.

Equality and Diversity Implications

16. The Equality Act is relevant to the decision in this report as it relates to addressing an issue that, although it has an impact on all residents, can disproportionately affect the most vulnerable in society such as children, people with health issues and areas of social deprivation. An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been carried out and was submitted with the AQAP. In summary the EqIA shows that the Council has made efforts to engage those groups which are most affected by poor air quality and taken into account their concerns as part of the development of the plan. The aim of the AQAP is to improve air quality across the Borough, this will benefit everyone but particularly those groups which air pollution has the biggest impact upon. In this way, the AQAP is working to reduce inequality and adverse impacts on vulnerable groups.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

17. The AQAP supports work in the Climate and Environmental Emergency Strategy and Action Plan and many actions are relevant to both areas of work.
18. The AQAP aims to improve air quality across the Borough, particularly in local areas where air quality does not meet national objective levels. Poor air quality has significant impact on the local environment and public health and in many cases air quality improvements are also positive for climate change. Conflicts can arise however, where action in one area has a detrimental effect on the other, therefore it's important to consider how to achieve the maximum

benefit. In this way the AQAP will contribute towards the environmental targets set out in the Climate and Environmental Emergency Strategy.

Conclusion

19. This report provides an update on monitoring for the Eastleigh Area, however it should be noted that results have not yet been ratified therefore this is only an indication of the year to date.
20. Eastleigh Borough Council continues to work towards delivering improvements in air quality and the AQAP sets the Council's programme of work for this.

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Appendices Attached:	1- AQMA & Sampling Point Map 2- 2020 Air quality data for ELAC 3- Progress against AQAP measures

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information.

Background Papers: None