

Report on	Air Quality Meeting October 2019
Date of Meeting	2 nd December 2019
Reporting Officer	Fiona McClements

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	This report provides a further update on the ongoing work in relation to Air Quality across the Mid Ulster District Council area and outlines proposed actions within the current Council Action Plan as a result of a recent meeting with elected Members and representatives from other relevant departments and organisations.
2.0	Background
2.1	Mid Ulster District Council currently has three Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's) and an Air Quality Action Plan was drawn up in 2017 in order to help address air quality issues in these areas and in the District as a whole. A meeting was recently held on 25th October to review the plan, and identify further actions that the Council can take to help meet air quality objectives. Representatives from DfI Roads were in attendance at the meeting, along with representatives from other Council departments and elected Members. It is envisaged that these meetings will take place twice a year with various external agencies invited to attend at different times.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	During the Air Quality meeting a presentation was given regarding the current air quality situation in the District (see Appendix 1).
3.2	<p>A review of the current action plan was undertaken, and a discussion took place with a view to exploring additional points that could be taken at a very local level which may help alleviate some of the poorer air quality conditions being experienced in two of the sites, at Charlemont Street, Moy and Newell Road Dungannon.</p> <p>The Actions that were proposed following the meeting can be summarised as follows:</p> <p>Traffic Management Charlemont Street, Moy</p>
3.3	<p>Yellow box junction recently added</p> <p>Action: Review air quality at this location to see if yellow box leads to any air quality improvement.</p>

3.4	Can any changes be made re signals for Right turn at certain times of the day? Action: Roads Service to consider whether changes to light phasing could be made at certain times.
3.5	Can signage be erected to encourage idling traffic to turn off their engines at this location? Action: Planning to consider whether such signage can be erected.
3.6	Can countdown to green light signal be added to lights at this location? Action: Environmental Health to write to relevant minister requesting trial of countdown lighting at this location.
Residential Improvement - Newell Road, Dungannon	
3.7	Has planning permission for housing on waste land to rear of houses on Newell Road expired? Action: Planning to check re current status of these plans.
3.8	Mature trees that overhang Newell Road. Can these be cut back to allow greater dispersion of NO2 fumes from traffic. Action: Environmental Health to write to landowner requesting trees be cut back.
Alternative Transport - General Air Quality - Promotion of walking	
3.9	To encourage walking in the District and ensure that planning proposals within these areas and linked areas have minimum width pavements to support both walking and safe cycling. Planning consider this in applications. Consistent with area plan.
3.10	Ensure all developments within urban areas, town and villages have safe walking and cycling linkages to ensure pedestrian and cycling routes away from main traffic routes. Consideration should be given to urban areas, towns and villages, in AQMAs and near to urban schools. Action: Planning to consider this in applications. Consistent with area plan.
3.11	Discussion regarding return bus scheme in Kerry. Parents able to accompany children on bus to school. Bus returns along same route enabling parents to return home. Could something similar be set up in Mid Ulster? Action: Further details of Kerry scheme to be sought. Initial contact to be made with Translink by Environmental Health to explore further.
3.12	Further Bike to Work scheme in Mid Ulster District Council. Can further encouragement be given to staff to cycle to work by providing showering, changing, clothes storage at more locations? Action: Environmental Health to explore this possibility.
3.13	Promotion of scheme to reduce car idling at hotspots such as local schools during drop off and pick up times at the school. Could be facilitated by posters or potentially by 'Roads Service Active Transport Initiative'. Action: Environmental Health to co-ordinate details of such a scheme.

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: N/a
	Human: N/a
	Risk Management: N/a
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/a
	Rural Needs Implications: N/a
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	It is recommended that the additional action points from the meeting outlined above and in Appendix 2 be adopted and incorporated into the Council Air Quality Action Plan.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 – Air Quality In the Mid Ulster District Presentation.
6.2	Appendix 2 – Action Points From Air Quality Meeting of 25th October 2019.