

<b>Report on</b>	Air Quality in the Mid Ulster District Council Area 2019
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Fiona McClements, Head of Environmental Health

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the air quality and associated ongoing monitoring in the Mid Ulster District Council area.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Although air quality in the UK is generally good, air pollution can have negative impacts on human health and the natural environment.
2.2	Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) provides the framework within which air quality is managed by Northern Ireland's local authorities. The LAQM process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether air quality objectives are likely to be achieved. Where exceedances are considered likely, the local authority must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) setting out the measures it intends to put in place to improve air quality in its District so that these objectives are achieved.
2.3	In Northern Ireland Local Authorities report on air quality within their districts via Progress Reports and Updating and Screening Assessment Reports. Air Quality Progress Reports have been submitted by the former Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council, Cookstown District Council, and Magherafelt District Council since 2002. These reports initially looked at a number of pollutants listed under European Directives and examined whether or not air quality objectives were likely to be met.
2.4	After the initial assessment in the legacy areas it was determined that air quality objectives for four out seven pollutants would be met. However, it was felt that further examination would need to be undertaken for the remaining three pollutants. A list of the pollutants and the relevant air quality objectives are set out in Appendix 1 of this report.
2.5	These pollutants were Nitrogen Dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> ), Sulphur Dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> ) and PM10. For a number of years, the levels of SO <sub>2</sub> and PM10 were monitored at areas identified as worst case scenarios in each of the Districts. These areas were chosen due to the relatively high number of solid fuel burning properties near by the

	<p>monitoring sites. After several years of monitoring it was found that all the areas chosen were within the air quality objectives and were unlikely to exceed the objectives in the future. As a result, monitoring was discontinued for these two pollutants. The only remaining pollutant that is routinely monitored in the Mid Ulster District is Nitrogen dioxide.</p>
2.6	<p>Air Quality monitoring has been carried out for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in Magherafelt, Cookstown and Dungannon since the initial reports were submitted in 2002. Monitoring is also undertaken in the villages of Moneymore and Moy. NO<sub>2</sub> is associated with road traffic and monitoring has taken place on congested traffic routes in the District. Mid Ulster District Council currently has three AQMA's within the District. The AQMA's within the District are located in Moy, Dungannon and Magherafelt and maps of their location can be found in Appendix 2.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>Mid Ulster District Council has 20 non-automatic monitoring sites for Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>). The Air quality monitoring takes place along the roads that are more heavily congested throughout the District, and that run close by occupied residential properties.</p>
3.2	<p>The results of the diffusion tube monitoring for 2018 are indicated in Appendix 3. As can be seen from the table, 2 of the 20 sites exceeded the air quality objective of 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. These sites are located at Newell Road in Dungannon and Charlemont Street in Moy and are located within the Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) for Dungannon and Moy.</p>
3.3	<p>This year marks the first year when all the monitoring sites in the Magherafelt AQMA have recorded levels below the air quality objective. This reduction is likely to be largely as a result of the recently completed bypass of the town.</p>
3.4	<p>Results for the Cookstown and Moneymore areas continue to be within compliance levels with the air quality objective.</p>
3.5	<p>Further to the submission of the Air Quality Report for 2018, it is proposed to review the Mid Ulster District Council Air Quality Action Plan and facilitate a multi-agency meeting in October. The provisional date is 25th October at 10am in Committee Room 3 of the Magherafelt office of Mid Ulster Council. The meeting will review the Air Quality results for the District, and how this relates to the Air Quality Action Plan. It will note work undertaken to date and focus on areas where work is still ongoing and outstanding. The Action Plan focusses on air quality within the Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's), but many of the recommendations can be actioned on a District wide basis. The meeting will also provide the opportunity for an input into future actions that should be incorporated into the Action Plan to fully reflect Mid Ulster District Council's commitment to air quality in the District. The meeting will feature a number of Departments within the Council, and also a number of external agencies with an input into this issue such as DfI Roads.</p>

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: £1,600 for provision and analysis of NO <sub>2</sub> tubes of which 50% is grant funded through the Environment Fund Grant Scheme 2019-20.
	Human: £6,000 per annum of which 50% is grant funded through the Environment Fund Grant Scheme 2019-20.
	Risk Management: N/a
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/a
	Rural Needs Implications: N/a
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Members to note the air quality update and note the provisional date of the proposed meeting (25 <sup>th</sup> October at 10am in Committee Room 3 of the Magherafelt office of Mid Ulster Council), should any Member wish to input.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1: Air Quality Objectives included in Regulations for the purpose of LAQM in Northern Ireland
6.2	Appendix 2: Maps Showing Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's) in Mid Ulster.
6.3	Appendix 3: Air Quality Monitoring Results 2018.
6.4	Appendix 4: Air Quality Action Plan.