

## Blaby District Council

### Cabinet Executive

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	23 June 2025
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Air Quality Action Plan 2025 - 2029</b> This is a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan.
<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Cllr. Les Phillimore - Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services</b>
<b>Report Author</b>	Environmental Services Manager
<b>Strategic Themes</b>	All Themes: Enabling communities and supporting vulnerable residents; Enhancing and maintaining our natural and built environment; Growing and supporting our economy; Keeping you safe and healthy; Ambitious and well managed Council, valuing our people

#### 1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 To seek approval for the Air Quality Action Plan (Draft) 2025 – 2029.

#### 2. Recommendation(s) to Cabinet Executive

- 2.1 To approve the draft version of the Air Quality Action Plan 2025 – 2029 for consultation.
- 2.2 To delegate authority to the Environmental Health, Housing & Community Services Group Manager, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to make minor amendments to Air Quality Action Plan 2025 - 2029 prior to submission to DEFRA and consultation.

#### 3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 The Council is required to produce an Air Quality Action Plan following the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area.
- 3.2 To allow for small changes to be made to the Air Quality Action Plan prior to submission to Defra and the public consultation.

#### 4. Matters to consider

##### 4.1 Background

In November 2024, the Council declared a new Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), AQMA 7 at Lubbethorpe Road in Braunstone Town. This

was following an exceedance of the annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide. AQMAs must be declared by local authorities in areas where Air Quality Objectives have been exceeded. There are two AQMAs in the district:

- AQMA 6: Mill Hill, Enderby
- AQMA 7: Lubbesthorpe Road, Braunstone Town

Under the Environment Act 2021, the Council is required to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) within 18 months of declaring a new AQMA. An AQAP is a document that outlines actions the Council and other stakeholders will take to improve air quality within the AQMAs.

Introducing an AQAP is a lengthy process and is completed in several stages. The draft version submitted for Cabinet approval has been produced by the Environmental Services Team in collaboration with other stakeholders such as Public Health. Should the draft be approved by Cabinet, the AQAP will then be submitted to Defra for approval to proceed to consultation.

Once approved by Cabinet and Defra, there is an 8-week consultation period. Several bodies will be consulted including the Secretary of State, the Environment Agency, neighbouring local authorities and Leicestershire County Council including Public Health and Highways. Residents and businesses will also be consulted on the draft Action Plan, particularly those located within the AQMAs.

The consultation responses will be included in the final version of the AQAP and any actions will be amended as required. The final AQAP will be brought to Cabinet later in 2025/early 2026 for approval prior to publication.

## 4.2 Proposal(s)

- 4.2.1 Members to approve the draft Air Quality Action Plan to proceed to Defra submission and consultation.
- 4.2.2 To delegate authority to the Environmental Health, Housing & Community Services Group Manager, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to make minor amendments to the draft Air Quality Action Plan 2025 - 2029 prior to consultation.

## 4.3 Relevant Consultations

- 4.3.1 Once the draft has been approved by both Cabinet and Defra, an 8 week consultation will be conducted. Those consulted will be:
  - Secretary of State
  - Environment Agency
  - Neighbouring District and Borough Councils
  - Leicestershire County Council Highways

- Leicestershire County Council Public Health
- National Highways
- Local businesses within the AQMAs
- Residents within the AQMAs

The consultation will also be posted on the Council's website and social media to invite comments from residents and businesses outside of the AQMAs as well.

The responses from the consultation will be considered, and changes will be made to the AQAP as required. The results of the consultation will also be included in the final report and will be presented when the final version of the AQAP is brought to Cabinet for approval.

#### 4.4 Significant Issues

- 4.4.1 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities and there are no areas of concern.

### 5. Environmental impact

- 5.1 There will be positive environmental impacts. Actions aimed towards improving air quality often also contribute to Net Zero targets.

As this is a draft document to be consulted on and actions are not finalised, a NZCIA will be completed prior to final publication if required.

### 6. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

- 6.1 Any costs associated with the publication of the AQAP are covered by existing budgets and grants. Cost implications for specific measures are included within the AQAP.

### 7. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
The Council does not submit the AQAP to Defra within the required timeframe.	Approve the draft AQAP to allow Defra submission and for the consultation process to begin.

### 8. Other options considered

- 8.1 The Council is legally required to produce an Air Quality Action Plan following the declaration of a new Air Quality Management Area and therefore no other options have been considered.

## 9. Appendix

- ## 9.1 Appendix A – The Blaby District Council Air Quality Action Plan (Draft) 2025 - 2029

**10. Background paper(s)**

- 10.1 There are no background papers for this report.

## 11. Report author's contact details

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