

Title: Air Quality Strategy

Committee: Operational Services

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1.0 Issue

- 1.1. Changes introduced under the Environment Act 2021 require all local authorities to produce an Air Quality Strategy document to demonstrate how they will maintain and improve air quality in their areas. An Air Quality Strategy for East Cambridgeshire has been produced and is attached.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. Members are requested to approve the Air Quality Strategy 2024 - 2029.

3.0 Background/Options

- 3.1. From 2023, all local authorities are required to produce a local Air Quality Strategy. The requirement relates to local authorities in England and was included in the recently updated DEFRA Local Air quality Management (LAQM) Policy (PG22) and Technical Guidance (TG22). It reads as follows: *“Those authorities who have not had to designate AQMAs (Air Quality Management Areas) and produce AQAPs (Air Quality Action Plans) will from 2023 be required to draw up a local Air Quality Strategy. These strategies will not have a set format, and authorities will be able to draw on content within their ASRs (Air Quality Annual Status Reports) and local transport plans to produce them.”*
- 3.2. ECDC is required to produce an Air Quality Strategy.

4.0 Arguments/Conclusions

- 4.1. Although air quality has improved across the UK over recent decades it continues to be the biggest environmental risk to public health, with children, the elderly and the already vulnerable most affected.
- 4.2. Air quality in East Cambridgeshire is relatively good and is improving. The strategy highlights the air pollutants of particular concern within East Cambridgeshire such as fine particulate matter, nitrogen oxides and ammonia, and outlines the consequences for society and the environment of poor air quality.
- 4.3. The strategy sets out the council's powers and responsibilities and the actions it will take to maintain and improve air quality in the district.

5.0 Additional Implications Assessment

5.1 In the table below, please put Yes or No in each box:

Financial Implications No	Legal Implications No	Human Resources (HR) Implications No
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) No	Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) No	Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) No

6.0 Appendices

Draft Air Quality Strategy 2024 - 2029.

7.0 Background documents

Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, 2023. Air Quality Strategy: Framework for local authority delivery

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-air-quality-strategy-for-england/air-quality-strategy-framework-for-local-authority-delivery>

East Cambridgeshire District Council, 2024. 2024 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR)

[2024 ASR ECDC \(1\).pdf \(eastcambs.gov.uk\)](2024 ASR ECDC (1).pdf (eastcambs.gov.uk))