

Committee: **Cabinet**

Date of meeting: **19th April 2023**

Report Subject: **Local Air Quality Progress Report – 2022 (For 2021)**

Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Helen Cunningham – Deputy Leader/ Cabinet Member - Place & Environment**

Report Submitted by: **David Thompson – Service Manager, Public Protection**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Governance Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet	Council	Other (please state)
28.2.23	02.03.23	30.03.23			March 2023	19.04.23		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform members of the findings of the Local Air Quality Progress Report produced in fulfilment of the statutory requirements of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 for the calendar year of 2021.

2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 The 2022 Air Quality Progress Report for Blaenau Gwent CBC was submitted to Welsh Government in September 2022, in accordance with their required timetable. The report contains the latest air quality data for the calendar year of 2021 applicable to the County Borough and provides current information relating to any new local developments or issues that may have an impact on air quality.
- 2.2 The report was accepted by Welsh Government in December 2022. WG fed back that the report is well structured, detailed and provides the information specified in the guidance.
- 2.3 The Environmental Health Section carries out air quality monitoring at 27 locations within the borough for Nitrogen Dioxide. The results indicated that the Nitrogen Dioxide levels at each of the monitoring locations were considerably below the national air quality objective for Nitrogen Dioxide in 2021.
- 2.4 Air Quality in Blaenau Gwent continues to be generally good. As in previous years, the report concludes that it is unlikely that any of the air quality objectives that the Council are required to have regard to, are being exceeded or will be exceeded within the Borough and therefore there is no need for any further Detailed Assessment for any pollutant nor a need to declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).

3. Options for Recommendation

3.1 That Members note the content of the 2022 Air Quality Progress Report for Blaenau Gwent CBC in relation to the continued monitoring and ongoing review of air quality within Blaenau Gwent by the Environmental Health Section in fulfilment of the Authority's statutory duties in compliance with Part IV of the Environment Act 1995.

4. **Evidence of how this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

4.1 This is a statutory duty in accordance with Part IV of the Environment Act 1995.

4.2 This work supports the achievement of the Blaenau Gwent Corporate Plan 2022-27, the Well-being objectives and plan, Decarbonisation Plan, Green Infrastructure and Active Travel Plans & Strategies.

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

5.1 ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***

All costs relating to undertaking this work and producing the report are met from existing Environmental Health budgets.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

This is a statutory duty in accordance with Part IV of the Environment Act 1995. Local authorities are required to review and assess air quality within their areas. Failure to do so will result in both significant legal and reputational risks.

5.3 ***Legal***

This air quality work is carried out to ensure the Authority complies with its statutory duties.

5.4 ***Human Resources***

All work relating to the fulfilment of the Authority's statutory obligations with regards to Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 will continue to be undertaken by existing Officers within the Environmental Health Section.

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

6.1.1 The 2022 Air Quality Progress Report is the latest in the series of reports produced in fulfilment of the Authority's statutory duty with respects to Local Air Quality Management. The full report is available on the Authority's website and the pdf document at the end of this report.

6.1.2 The current National Air Quality Standards to which the Authority must have regard to relate to the following pollutants: Benzene, 1,3 Butadiene, Carbon

Monoxide, Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) & (PM 2.5), Lead, Sulphur Dioxide and Nitrogen Dioxide. Each pollutant has an evidenced adverse health impact above certain levels, the standards reflect levels at which the risk of such adverse health impacts are minimised.

6.1.3 The current 2022 report contains the latest air quality monitoring data for the calendar year of 2021 applicable to the County Borough and provides current information relating to any new local developments or issues that may have an impact upon air quality. Officers have concluded that it is unlikely that the impact of these will result in a potential exceedance of any of the UK National Air Quality Objectives within the Borough.

6.1.6 In 2022, consideration has been given to the impact of the proposed Ciner glass manufacturing facility on the Rassau Industrial Estate, Ebbw Vale will have on air quality. (This facility will require a Part A2 environmental permit from Blaenau Gwent CBC to operate in compliance with emission limits.)

6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

This report will reassure the public that the air quality within our borough is of a good standard.

6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

Air quality monitoring is carried out at a variety of locations including domestic properties, schools and community buildings and all of the monitoring results and air quality reports are available on the council's website.

6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

By ensuring we maintain good air quality within the borough we are protecting the public health of future generations.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

The Environmental Health Section take proactive steps to prevent the deterioration of our air quality by working closely with the Authority's planning section to identify developments and industrial processes prior to their introduction.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

Planning & Environmental Health section work closely together to monitor developments in the area that may have an impact on air quality.

6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***

This report does not impact on other service areas.

6.8 ***Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions***

This work compliments the above agendas. No adverse impacts

6.9 ***Integrated Impact Assessment***

No adverse impacts

7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

7.1 This work will continue to be monitored by the environmental health section and routinely reported annually.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- *Appendix 1 - BGCBC 2022 Air Quality Progress report (pdf embedded below)*



BG.ENVH.AQR.PR.202
2.pdf