

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel

Date **24 January 2024**

Report of: **Head of Environmental Health**

Subject: **Air Quality Update**

SUMMARY

Members are invited to consider the report and make a recommendation to the Executive that they revoke the two air quality management areas (AQMA's), one in Gosport Road known as the Fareham AQMA, and the other in Portland Street, known as the Portland Street AQMA. The AQMA's are no longer required as measured levels of nitrogen dioxide are below the nationally set air quality objective levels.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel recommends to the Executive that the two AQMA's be revoked by approving the Order as attached at Appendix A to the Draft report to be considered by the Executive at the meeting scheduled to take place on 04 March 2024

INTRODUCTION

1. The UK government is required under the Environment Act 1995 to produce a national air quality plan. The plan sets out the UK's air quality objectives and recognises that action at national, regional and local level may be needed, depending on the scale and nature of the air quality problem.
2. Between 1998 and 2001, Fareham Borough Council undertook its first round of review and assessments of air quality. Following subsequent monitoring and progress reports the results showed that the NO₂ annual mean objective would be exceeded both in 2005 and 2010 in Gosport Road at the junction with Newgate Lane and Redlands Lane, and therefore Fareham Borough Council were required to declare an AQMA in the area. The Fareham AQMA was declared in April 2006 and the Council installed a continuous analyser in Gosport Road to measure traffic related NO₂ concentrations.
3. Following the 2006 Updating Screening Assessment the Portland Street AQMA was declared on 1 December 2007 for nitrogen dioxide from vehicle exhaust emissions.
4. In 2008 Fareham Borough Council published its Air Quality Action Plan which contained 48 measures aimed at reducing NO₂ concentrations.
5. Following discussion and review of the 2023 data with Defra, Fareham Borough Council are instructed to revoke both AQMA'S in early 2024. This would be achieved by the Executive receiving the Report at Appendix A on 4 March 2024 and approving the order detailed at Appendix A of that Report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

6. There is a risk of reputational damage and further measures from DEFRA if the AQMA's are not revoked.

CONCLUSION

7. Monitoring has shown that the air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide in the Fareham AQMA and Portland Street AQMA is not currently exceeded. Assessment indicates it is not likely to be exceeded in the future, and as such both should be revoked by order.

Annex 1: Draft Report to the Executive 04 March 2023

Enquiries: For further information on this report please contact Ian Rickman on 01329 824773