

31 July 2014		ITEM: 6
Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT		
Wards and communities affected: Tilbury Riverside and Thurrock Park Tilbury St Chads		Key Decision: Key
Report of: Cllr Phil Smith, Portfolio Holder for Public Protection		
Accountable Head of Service: Lucy Magill – Head of Public Protection		
Accountable Director: Graham Farrant - Chief Executive		

Executive Summary

Work carried out in 2011 led to concerns that there were problems with air quality in parts of Tilbury. Follow-up investigation confirmed the annual average air quality for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) was likely to be above 40 micrograms per cubic metre (µg m³).

Further monitoring and modelling work confirmed it was likely the Air Quality Objective would be exceeded in specific parts of the town and there is a need for a new Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) to be declared along Dock Road, Calcutta Road and part of St Chad's Road.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 To recommend to Cabinet that they declare a new Air Quality Management Area along Dock Road, Calcutta Road and part of St. Chad's Road.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The system of Local Air Quality Management started in 1998 as a result of the Environment Act 1995. It requires local authorities to identify and take action to tackle local air quality problems arising from the following pollutants: sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, fine particles (PM₁₀), benzene, 1,3-butadiene, carbon monoxide and lead.

2.2 Local authorities have a statutory duty to assess the levels of these pollutants against air quality standards and objectives laid out in the Air

Quality Regulations 2000. These objectives are based on how these pollutants effect health. If it is considered the objectives are unlikely to be met, the authority is obliged to declare an AQMA followed by completing an Action Plan, detailing how the council intends to improve air quality for the health of residents.

- 2.3 In April 2001 Thurrock Council declared 20 AQMAs as air quality modelling for NO₂ and PM₁₀ showed these areas were above the air quality objectives. The main contributor to the high levels of pollutants in these areas is directly related to road traffic emissions, in particular Heavy Goods Vehicles. This then led to the development of an Air Quality Action Plan in summer 2002.
- 2.4 In October 2003, as part of the council's ongoing review and assessment the next air quality report concluded there had been sufficient changes in air quality to warrant a more detailed assessment. This was for nitrogen dioxide, benzene, particulates and sulphur dioxide in specific locations. It was completed in October 2004 and the number of AQMAs was reduced from 20 to 15 and a revised Air Quality Action Plan was produced which led to the production of an Air Quality Management Order in 2005 listing the current 15 AQMAs. (Figure 1 and Table 1 – which also shows the proposed AQMA for Tilbury).
- 2.5 The 2011 Air Quality Progress Report and the subsequent Detailed Assessment Report identified a problem with for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) Tilbury. They identified the annual average Air Quality Objective for NO₂ (of 40 micrograms per cubic metre (µg m⁻³)) was likely to be exceeded.
- 2.6 The 2013 Further Assessment Report formally identified the area where the AQMA in Tilbury is required, this was achieved by use of detailed air quality modelling, the areas identified as being in exceedences were situated along - Dock Road, Calcutta Road and part of St Chad's Road - an area mainly made up of retail and residential premises.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 Thurrock Council should declare an AQMA for NO₂ along Dock Road, Calcutta Road and part of St Chad's Road, Tilbury. This will require the formulation of an Air Quality Action Plan to try and improve air quality within these areas. These actions will need to be focused around transport.
- 3.2 The Secretary of State will have to be informed of progress on these measures annually.
- 3.3 Declaration of Tilbury's new AQMA will lead to recommendations and actions to improve overall air quality and health for residents.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 Having reviewed all the relevant air quality monitoring and modelling data for this area it is clear the annual average objective for NO₂ is in breach at relevant areas of public exposure. Under Section 83 of the Environment Act 1995 the council has a legal obligation to declare an AQMA.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 As part of the declaration of the AQMA the council will liaise with the Secretary of State, the Environment Agency, the Mayor of London, surrounding local authorities and those members of the public who will be situated within the AQMA.

5.2 These consultees will be advised a review of air quality in Tilbury has been completed along with recommendations for declaration of an AQMA. This is required by Sections 83 and 84 of the Environment Act 1995.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

6.1 Declaring an AQMA, will highlight issues with air quality and lead to positive action to improve air quality and the general environment.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Michael Jones**
Management Accountant

All costs associated with these reports can be contained within the relevant revenue budget for Environmental Protection. There will be no financial implications as a result of the declaration of a new Air Quality Management Area.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Mike Kelly**
Solicitor Regeneration

The declaration of AQMAs, the formulation of action plans and assessment of air quality are statutory duties of the council under the provisions of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995.

The council is obliged to undertake regular monitoring of air quality and to make an Air Quality Management Order when thresholds are breached and are unlikely to be met within a reasonable timescale.

Following the implementation of an AQMAO the Council has a duty to implement an Air Quality Action Plan which makes recommendations for improving air quality within the AQMA.

By pursuing this course of action the council will seek to update and amend the current AQMAO 2005 to reflect the proposed revisions within the Further Assessment Report 2013.

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Price**
Community Development Officer

The introduction of an AQMA along Dock Road, Calcutta Road and part of St Chad's Road will support the wellbeing of some vulnerable members of the local community including those suffering from health conditions affecting the upper-respiratory system. An AQAP will tackle existing air quality problems and help to bring down levels of nitrogen dioxide which may reduce the number of health impacts for people living and working in and around the AQMA.

The council will engage members of the public who will be situated within the AQMA and will have due regard to the Equality Act 2010 through this process. Action will be taken to mitigate any risk of negative community impact highlighted through the engagement process.

7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, local authorities have a statutory duty to improve and protect the health of their population.

It is recognised that exposure to consistently high levels of air pollution can have an adverse impact on health, particularly in those with heart or lung problems, especially if they are elderly.

The declaration of this new Air Quality Management Area, which covers residential and retail premises, will lead to the development of a specific Air Quality Action Plan that identifies ways in which the levels of nitrogen dioxide can be reduced in this specific area.

In declaring this new AQMA the appropriate officers in Thurrock Council will be better informed to provide advice for preventing or mitigating against any new developments that could worsen air quality, or introduce additional exposure in this area.

Andrea Atherton, Director of Public Health

8. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

References

Defra, (2009). Local Air Quality Management, Technical guidance LAQM.TG09. Defra, London.

Defra, (2009). Local Air Quality Management, Policy Guidance LAQM. PG09. Defra, London.

Thurrock (2011). Local Air Quality Management – Air Quality Progress Report 2011

Thurrock (2011). Local Air Quality Management – Detailed Assessment For NO₂, Tilbury. 2011

Thurrock (2012). Local Air Quality Management – Updating Screening Assessment. 2012

Thurrock (2013). Local Air Quality Management – Further Assessment for NO₂ Tilbury. 2013

<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/air-quality/air-quality-monitoring>

All Reports can be provided if needed

9. Appendices to Report

Table 1: Summary of existing Thurrock Air Quality Management Areas & proposed (in Grey)

Figure 1: Map of Air Quality Management Areas in Thurrock (with AQMA designations)

Figure 2: New proposed Air Quality Management Area {AQMA 24}: Tilbury: Dock Road, Calcutta Road & St Chad's Road

Report Author Contact Details:

Name: Dean Page – Air Quality Pollution Officer

Appendices to the report

Table 1: Summary of existing Thurrock Air Quality Management Areas & proposed (in Grey)

Number of AQMA's	AQMA (Designation Number)	Pollutant	Description of Air Quality Management Area
1	1	NO ₂	479 properties, Grays town centre and London Road Grays
2	2	NO ₂	220 properties, London Road South Stifford and adjoining roads
3	3	NO ₂	60 properties, East side of Hogg Lane and Elizabeth Road
4	4	NO ₂	56 properties, West of Chafford Hundred Visitor Centre
5	5	NO ₂ and PM10	65 properties, Warren Terrace, A13 and A1306
6	7	NO ₂ and PM10	2 Hotels, next to M25
7	8	NO ₂ and PM10	1 Hotel, next to Junction 31 of the M25
8	9	NO ₂	1 Hotel, next to Junction 31 of the M25
9	10	NO ₂ and PM10	76 properties, London Road Purfleet near to Jarrah Cottages
10	12	NO ₂	15 properties, Watts Wood estate next to A1306
11	13	NO ₂	15 properties, London Road Aveley next to A1306
12	15	NO ₂	1 building, Near to M25 on edge of Irvine Gardens, South Ockendon
13	16	NO ₂	1 cottage, Next to M25 off Dennis Road
14	21	NO ₂	1 Hotel, on Stonehouse Lane
15	23	NO ₂	115 properties, London Road West Thurrock
(16)	(24)	NO ₂	78 properties, Tilbury: Dock Road, Calcutta Road & St Chad's Road (to be Declared)

Figure 1: Map of Air Quality Management Areas in Thurrock (with AQMA designations)

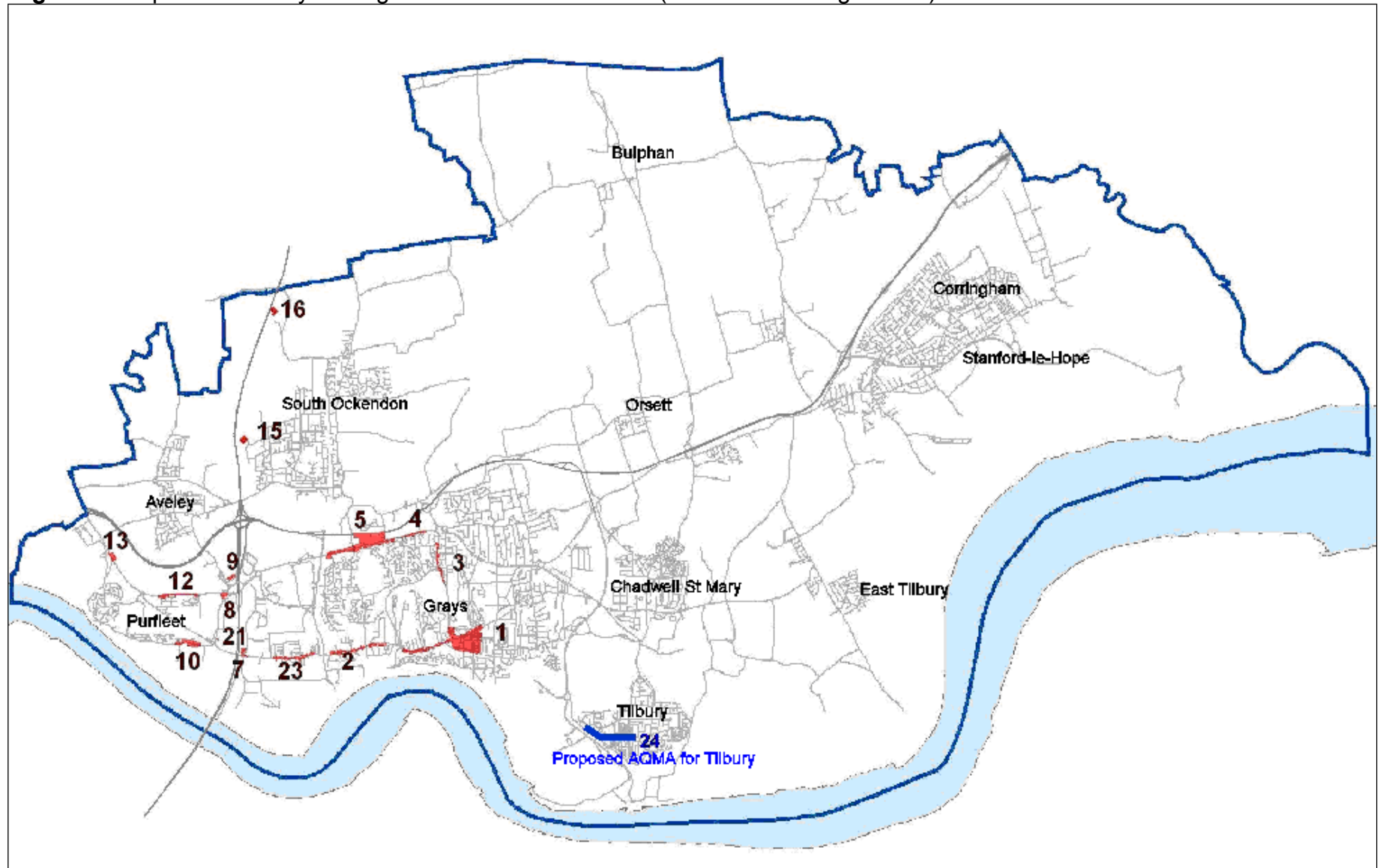


Figure 2: New proposed Air Quality Management Area {AQMA 24}: Tilbury: Dock Road, Calcutta Road & St Chad's Road

