

Report to:	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee 7 March 2022
Lead Cabinet Member:	Cllr Brian Milnes
Lead Officer:	Soraya Hashemi

Air Quality Update

Executive Summary

1. This report presents an update on the progress made in line with the new air quality strategy
2. It also confirms the completion of the following items since the previous meeting in September 2021
 - Revocation of the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) on 20th January 2022. The revocation order is presented as Appendix A.
 - The Air Quality Strategy was adopted on 4th February 2022. The Strategy is presented as Appendix B.

Recommendations

3. The committee is invited to review the reports and comment on the updates provided.

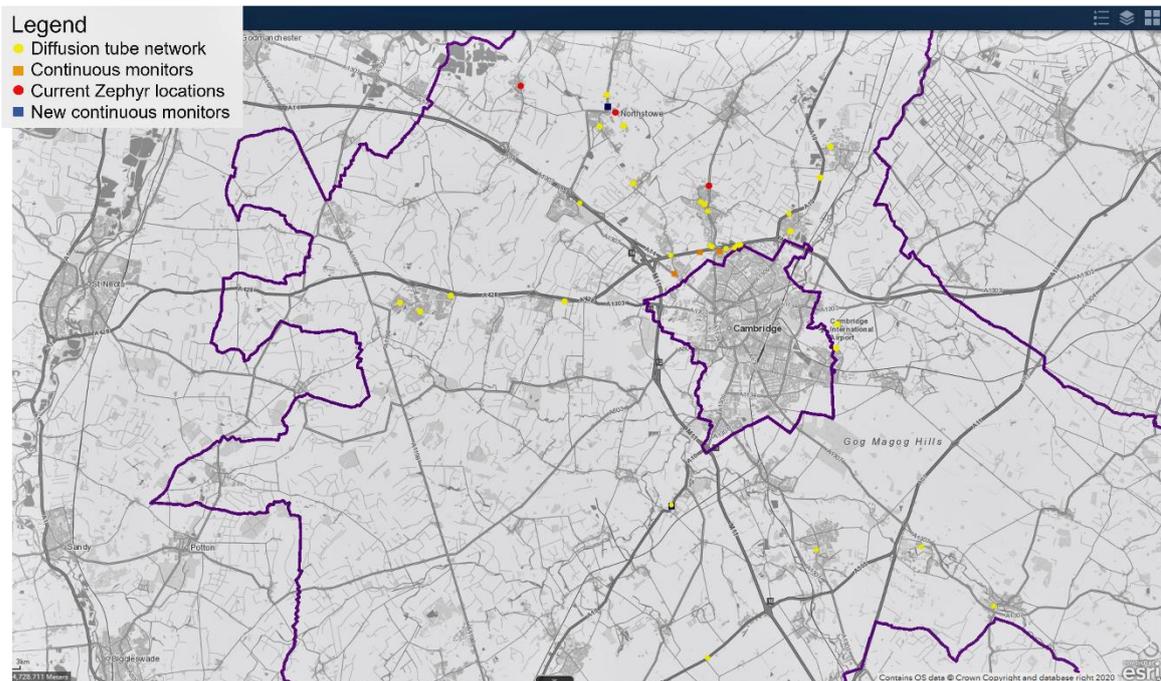
Details

4. Following the revocation of the Air Quality Management Area, the Air Quality Action Plan dated 2009 and the Air Quality Strategy dated 2008 are superseded.
5. The adopted Air Quality Strategy outlines 3 focussed actions which are presented below with a summary of progress made since last meeting in September 2021
 - a. Action A: air quality is monitored and understood district wide and appropriate measures are introduced to meet air quality objectives.
 - b. Action B: policies are in place to minimise impacts from future developments
 - c. Action C: public engagement is aimed at increasing local knowledge and supporting better choices in reducing daily impact on air quality.

Action A: air quality is monitored and understood district wide and appropriate measures are introduced to meet air quality objectives

6. A review of our monitoring network was completed with a focus on the need for future monitoring in areas of major developments and future growth.

7. The location plan of our monitoring network is presented below and in Appendix C.



8. Officers have identified that additional continuous monitors will be located in Northstowe and Harston.
9. This will facilitate a base line monitoring data for the new town in Northstowe and a long-term monitoring data along A10 in Harston. They are aimed to be operational by end of March. (Subject to completion of ground works commencing on the 10th March).
10. Furthermore, 3 portable monitors i.e. Zephyrs are added to the network which are used to conduct short term studies in different areas of concern.
11. It is officer recommendation that these units be installed for a period of 6 months to allow for a meaningful data set. A previous study undertaken in Harston was presented at the CEAC meeting in September 2021 before being published on the council's website.
12. The Zephyr monitors are currently located in Northstowe, Swavesey and Histon. The next intended project, following a meaningful data set of these area, is to co-locate one Zephyr unit with the real time continuous monitors so that we can demonstrate the reliability of the equipment.
13. Currently Zephyr initiatives involving the monitoring of air quality near primary schools is ongoing. The findings are presented in a short report to engage with the public. These are discussed further below.

Action B: policies are in place to minimise impacts from future developments

14. Air quality is consulted on planning applications for major developments where we use low emission strategies to promote and accommodate sustainable transport.
15. We advise on the use of low emission boilers and heating systems to meet certain standards in reducing emissions from the buildings.
16. We work closely with the developers to ensure air quality is addressed appropriately. This is achieved through site specific Supplementary Planning Documents for developments such as Waterbeach New Town and Bourn Airfield.

17. We work closely with our planning and policy teams to ensure that air quality is considered in all future Local Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents to ensure appropriate conditions are supported.

Action C: public engagement is aimed at increasing local knowledge and supporting better choices in reducing daily impact on air quality

18. Zephyr initiative: monitoring of air quality near primary schools:

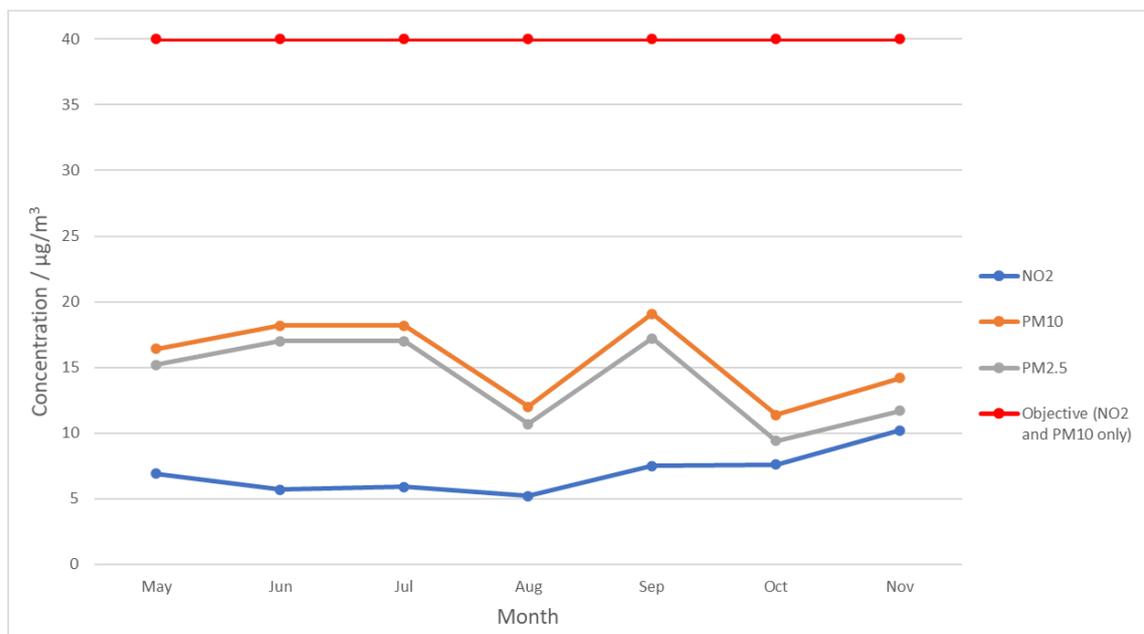
The major reason for investigating air quality around primary schools is that children are amongst the most vulnerable to the effects of air pollution. This is due to children's airways and respiratory systems being less developed than an adult's and because they breathe more rapidly than adults. This was reflected by the theme of National Clean Air Day in June 2021 of 'protect our children's health from air pollution'.

19. We have participated in National Clean Air Day by installing a Zephyr unit at a school in Cambourne, carrying out a presentation about air pollution at school and held a live conversation about air quality with Cllr Heylings on our Facebook page.

20. The study was conducted at Monkfield Park Primary School in Cambourne between May and November 2021. The results show that no levels of pollution above the air quality objectives are recorded near this school. The full report is presented in Appendix D.

21. It was clear that pollutant concentrations were considerably lower during the school holidays than term time, both for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentrations and particulate matter (PM₁₀). This suggests that traffic related to the school likely has a significant impact on the air quality. However, it is important to note that other factors such as weather conditions both locally and regionally could play a role and impact the concentrations of smaller particulate matter PM_{2.5}.

22. The results are shown in the graph below.



23. Currently there are 3 other studies ongoing in Histon, Northstowe and Swavesey.

24. A public portal is set up to access the real-time data for these monitors¹.
25. The team continue to promote the work the council undertakes to promote air quality. They have provided two articles about air quality for the winter's edition of South Cambs magazine, an article for the parish council e-bulletin and an article for the Zero Carbon Communities Newsletter.
26. Contact air quality team for your concerns or suggestions on air.quality@scambs.gov.uk

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

Being green to our core

Appendices

Appendix A: Air Quality Management Area Revocation Order
Appendix B: Air Quality Strategy
Appendix C: Air Quality Monitoring Network Plan
Appendix D: Cambourne Zephyr Report

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¹ <https://portal-preprod.earthsense.co.uk/SouthCambsCouncilPublic>