

**LOCAL AIR QUALITY IN ARGYLL AND BUTE –  
PROGRESS REPORT 2013**

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**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1** The environment of Argyll and Bute has major influences on its economy, tourism, and on the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors to the area. The environment is a key theme of the Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement.
- 1.2** Air quality standards can impact on health and the Government have national standards in place for seven major air pollutants. Under the Environment Act 1995, Local Authorities were given the statutory responsibility to assess local air quality. This paper presents the Local Air Quality Progress Report of Argyll and Bute Council, which has been developed by the Council's Environmental Health service.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1** Members are asked to note the conclusions of the Local Air Quality Progress Report 2013, which confirms that local air quality in Argyll and Bute is good and well within the national standards for the seven indicator pollutants.

**3. AIR QUALITY IN ARGYLL AND BUTE**

- 3.1** Previous air quality detailed assessment reports have identified that there was a need to undertake specific monitoring of particulate matters (which are generated principally from the combustion of solid fuels) and Nitrogen oxides (predominately from vehicular emissions). This work is included in a monitoring programme undertaken by the Council's Environmental Health service.

**4. PROGRESS REPORT 2013**

- 4.1** The Progress Report for 2013, which is attached for Members' information, concludes that local air quality in Argyll and Bute is below the national prescribed standards for all seven indicator pollutants (Benzene, 1,3 Butadiene, Carbon monoxide, Lead, Nitrogen dioxide, Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) and Sulphur dioxide). Specific monitoring confirms that

- (i) Diffusion tube results for Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) are within the 2004 annual mean objectives. This monitoring is undertaken at fixed sites across Argyll.
- (ii) Particulate monitoring (PM<sub>10</sub>) levels are within the national 24-hour mean and annual mean objectives. This monitoring was undertaken at Tarbert, which was identified previously, as an indicator site in Argyll, with high levels of Particulates due to solid fuel central heating and the topography of the area in which the village is sited.
- (iii) There were no planning applications which had a potential to significantly affect air quality. Where there are, either safeguarding conditions are applied or the application will be recommended for refusal.

**4.2** There have been notable achievements from the air quality work which has been ongoing for some years, namely :-

- (i) Particulate concentrations at Tarbert have been consistently well below the national objectives and there is a year on year downward trend in concentrations, demonstrating improving air quality. The reasons are unknown, although the reduction in domestic solid fuel heating systems will have been a factor. As a result, monitoring has ceased with Scottish Government approval.
- (ii) The stacks or flues at The Maltings, Islay, were replaced in 2010, following discussions and joint working between Diageo and the Council's Environmental Health team. By doing so, this has addressed intermittent issues in the local community around Port Ellen with smoke, and also reduced the carbon monoxide levels.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

**5.1** The Council's Local Air Quality Progress Report for 2013 identifies that national air quality objectives have been, and continue to be, achieved. There is no requirement for us to proceed to any Detailed Assessment or to implement any Local Air Quality Management Areas (LAQMAs).

**5.2** Monitoring work will continue to assess air quality standards in Argyll and Bute, and to meet the statutory requirement to provide annual reports to the Scottish Government, and to take action where national levels are breached. The work undertaken by the Council's Environmental Health team will continue to assess local air quality standards to provide assurances that air quality in Argyll and Bute remains good.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

<b>6.1</b>	<b>Policy</b>	None
<b>6.2</b>	<b>Personnel</b>	None
<b>6.3</b>	<b>Finance</b>	None
<b>6.4</b>	<b>Equal Opportunities</b>	None
<b>6.5</b>	<b>Risk</b>	None
<b>6.6</b>	<b>Legal</b>	Meets the Council's statutory duty and the Progress Report has been submitted to Scottish Government.

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