

**Subject:** Environmental Health Air  
Quality Policy

**Status:** For Publication

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**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> December 2007

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**Report of:** Head of Street Scene and Neighbourhood Services

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**Portfolio**

**Holder:** Portfolio Holder for Clean and Green Rossendale

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**Key Decision:** No

Forward Plan  General Exception  Special Urgency

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is intended to set out the Council's policy in relation to sources of air pollution that would be taken to improve air quality, minimise the creation of nuisance and thereby protect the health and well-being of residents in Rossendale both now and in the future.

**2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities and associated corporate objective.

- Delivering Quality Services to Customers (Customers, Improvement)
  - By establishing a written policy, the standards of service can be made explicit and be monitored to ensure consistent service delivery.
- Keeping Our Borough Clean and Green (Environment)
  - By minimising air pollution, and improving air quality to the benefit of the environment, a contribution can be made to the delivery of the Environment Strategy and to mitigating the effects of climate change.
- Promoting Rossendale as a cracking place to live and visit (Economy)
  - Promoting consideration between residents and between businesses and residents makes the environment a more pleasant and desirable place to live.
- Improving health and well being across the Borough (Health, Housing)
  - Protecting people from air pollution will help protect their health and well-being.

### **3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

### **4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS**

4.1 Air pollution is one of the determinants of health about which people do not always have direct control. In these circumstances, the Council has a duty to act on their behalf in order to protect and improve the environment in which people live.

4.2 The Foreword to the Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (July 2007) provides a useful introduction to the subject. It states that “the quality of air in the UK has improved considerably over the last decade. Overall the air we breathe is cleaner today than at any time since before the industrial revolution”.

4.3 It continues “despite this positive picture, air pollution still harms health and the environment....Air pollution is currently estimated to reduce the life expectancy of every person in the UK by an average of 7-8 months with estimated health costs of up to £20 billion each year. Air pollution also has a detrimental effect on our ecosystems and vegetation. Clearly there are significant benefits to be gained from further improvement”.

4.4 This issue is one that affects everyone, every business, community and organisation. This Air Quality Policy is intended to set out the main issues that the Council, together with other stakeholders, can tackle in order to help improve and protect the local environment in Rossendale.

### **5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCE**

5.1 There are no financial implications in this report.

### **6. COMMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF REGULATORY SERVICES**

6.1 The Environmental Health Air Quality Policy is an important contribution to keeping the Borough Clean and Green.

### **7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

7.1 There are no Human Resource implications in this report

### **8. CONCLUSION**

8.1 Air quality is a fundamental determinant of people’s health and a significant criterion in the definition of the place of Rossendale. As such, by adopting this Policy, the Council will be making a valuable contribution towards the achievement of its Corporate priorities.

## 9. RECOMMENDATION

9.1 That Cabinet approves the policy.

## 10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

10.1 Further consultation will now be required to discuss with stakeholders how this policy can be brought into effect. This will take place during current work to implement the overall Environmental Strategy.

## 11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required Yes

Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached Yes

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|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
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| <b>Background Papers</b>   |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Document   | Place of Inspection   |
| Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Defra. July 2007 | Stubbylee Hall, Bacup |
| Smarter Choices – Changing the Way we Travel. Department of Transport. July 2004         | www.dft.gov.uk        |