

Ref:

Called in

Yes/No

**THE THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**RECORD OF DECISION OF CABINET**

Cabinet Member

Councillor Heather Keen

Relevant Portfolio:

Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

Date of Decision:

15 June 2023

Subject:

Amendment to Air Quality Management Area

Key Decision

Yes

In Forward Plan

Yes

Brief summary of matter:

The Environment Act requires the Council to review and assess air quality. Where air pollution exceeds or is at risk of exceeding health objectives, an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) must be declared and an Air Quality Action Plan developed within 18 months to reduce pollution.

The report seeks Cabinet approval to revoke the urban AQMA, which is no longer appropriate as measured levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) are well below nationally set health based Air Quality Objective (AQO) levels, and declare a smaller area from St Lawrence to Shah Place, Ramsgate where pollution levels are at risk of exceeding health based objectives for NO<sub>2</sub> due to the area being heavily trafficked.

Decision made:

Cabinet approved the revocation of the Urban AQMA Order (Annex 3 to the report) and approved the declaration of a smaller defined St Lawrence AQMA (Annex 4 to the report) and authorised the application of the Common Seal to the Order.

Reasons for decision:

The revocation of an AQMA after 5 years in areas where there are no exceedances of the Air Quality Objective levels, and declaration of a minimum AQMA where there are potential exceedances, is a statutory requirement.

Alternatives considered and why rejected:

Alternative not to approve was rejected as it may place the Council in breach of the Environment Act 1995 and the recommendations from Defra.

Details of any conflict of interest declared by any executive Member who has been consulted and of any dispensation granted by the Standards Committee:

None

Author of Officer report:

Morgan Sproates, Regulatory Services Manager

Background papers

AQMA Cabinet Report June 2023 - Google Docs  
Annex 1 - Thanet Detailed Assessment  
Annex 2 - AQMA Consultation Responses - Anonymised  
Annex 3 Revocation AQMA order 2023 - Google Docs  
Annex 4 AQMA order for St Lawrence 2023 - Google Docs

Statement if decision is an urgent one and therefore not subject to call-in:

None

Last date for call in: 23 June 2023