



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Cwm Taf
University Health Board

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cyf:
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Dept/adran:

Mr Llewellyn Patrick
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Civic Centre
Castle Street
Merthyr Tydfil
CF47 8AN

Dear Mr Patrick

Re: Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council air quality action plan 2018 – In respect of Section 82, Part IV of the Environment Act 1995

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2018 Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). We have reviewed the report and make the following observations;

We have consulted with our colleagues at the Environmental Public Health Service (delivered collaboratively through Public Health Wales' Public Protection Team and Public Health England's Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards Wales).

The AQAP provides a detailed and thorough review of the options available to improve air quality affecting Merthyr Tydfil. It is clear that MTCBC recognises the public health impact of air pollution and is committed to improve local air quality; we support the air quality improvement efforts outlined.

The AQAP prioritises the need to improve air quality in Merthyr Tydfil, specifically Twynrodyn Road. It also recognises that actions should taken in Merthyr town centre should not result in unintended consequences at other locations. This is especially important from a public health perspective given the 'non-threshold' status of some air pollutants. Air pollution concentrations should be reduced wherever possible in order to minimise health risks; statutory air quality objectives should not be seen as 'safe' levels to pollute up to. We support the "1a option" that protects the public through reduced traffic in the air quality management area (AQMA) and does not increase traffic in other areas.

Additionally, we would support actions that not only improve air quality in localised AQMAs but across communities and the County Borough as a whole. Encouraging combinations of active travel, low emission and more sustainable forms of transport present a win-win opportunity to improve air quality and public health beyond the boundary of AQMAs. Any improvement in active travel, whether in an AQMA or not, will have positive health consequences and will also support and

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benefit interventions targeting other health outcomes, such as active travel and increased physical activity.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nnoaham', written in a cursive style.

Kelechi Nnoaham
Director of Public Health