



PRCC.02 11/12.
Prosperous Communities
8 June 2011

B

Subject: Motion from Councillor Underwood-Frost - Pollutants affecting the West Lindsey District Council Area

Report by: Director of Neighbourhoods and Health

Contact Officer: James Nicholson
01427 675105
Director of Neighbourhoods and Health
James.nicholson@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary: This report is to ask Members to consider the motion from Councillor Underwood-Frost and to recommend that a further report be produced on the scope of further work that the Committee may wish to be undertaken.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

(a) That Members request a further report on the scope of work that could be done in relation to health and pollutants in the West Lindsey area.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: Agreeing to a further report on the scope of work will not lead to any legal implications.

Financial : Providing a further report as to the scope of work that could be carried out will not have financial resource implications. However, depending on what future work may be required there could be financial implications in gathering, collating and analysing data.

Staffing : Producing a scoping report can be done using existing staffing resources. If further work following scoping would be required then it would be necessary to assess the time for staff. A commitment from partners may also be required depending on what further work may be undertaken.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights : Producing a scoping report will not have any negative implications.

Risk Assessment : There is a risk that community concerns over pollutants in the district may be raised.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities : Agreeing to a scoping report will not have an impact on climate change.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Agenda and Minutes from 18th April 2011 Council Meeting (Committee Administration System, WLDC website)

Agenda and Minutes from 23rd May 2011 Annual Council Meeting (Committee Administration System, WLDC website)

BBC Focus Article -<http://sciencefocus.com/qa/do-coal-fired-power-stations-produce-radioactive-waste>

Coal Ash –<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=coal-ash-is-more-radioactive-than-nuclear-waste>

Pulverised Fuel Ash –

<http://www.ukqaa.org.uk/Papers/AshTechA14ARadiologicalStudyOfPFAGoodingEtAl.pdf>

DEFRA Radioactive Fallout –

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/environment/radioact/kf/rakf16.htm>

National Radiological Protection Board –

http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1194947365499

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

Yes No

Key Decision:

Yes No

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Motion that Councillor Underwood-Frost submitted to Council at the 23 May 2011 meeting is referred to elsewhere on the agenda and makes reference to a number of issues and in the background papers list there are some links to website/internet sites that provides some information for Members on the following:
- i) The BBC Focus Magazine article on coal fired power stations and radioactive waste.
 - ii) Some information on coal ash and pulverised fuel ash.
 - iii) Chernobyl and radioactive fallout
 - iv) Air quality in West Lindsey

2 Scoping

- 2.1 It is important that the Committee agree what further work it would wish to have done on this topic and one way of doing this would be to ask for the production of a scoping report. It is suggested the Committee first of all ask officers to work with colleagues from Public Health to consider health data to determine if there are any particular health issues within the district that could be linked to pollutants. This first stage of scoping would help to identify if there is any further work needed to research into specific pollutants.
- 2.2 The Committee may also wish for a literature/record/internet search to take place to determine if there is any up to date information on radiation monitoring in the United Kingdom or if there is any further research information available on the topic.
- 2.3 The records kept by the Public Protection Department of West Lindsey District Council will also be checked to identify the extent of monitoring of air pollutants that has taken place within the district. A number of "Air

quality management reports” have been produced in the past and these can be accessed from the West Lindsey website.

3 Consideration

- 3.1 There is some information already available on air quality in the district and also there is information available relating to the health of the community. Your officers are of the view that some further research could be done into these topics and it is recommended that this is done in a measured way.
- 3.2 Officers are recommending that a scoping report be provided to a future meeting of the committee that identifies a step by step approach to this topic. The first step could be to examine health data and existing air quality data to determine if this leads to a view that further pollution investigation is needed. The Committee is recommended to ask for a further report on the scoping of research into this topic. A scoping report would include information on the likely partners that would be involved in a task and finish group.