 **ENTERPRISE & ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE**

**Briefing Note**

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| **From:** | **Nigel Kerr, Head of Protective Services** |
| **To:** | **All Councillors** |
| **Bcc:** | **Ken Gourlay, Executive Director, Enterprise & Environment**  **Other Specified Officers/interested parties –**  **Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee;**  **Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Expert Air Quality Advisory Group &**  **Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Expert Communications Advisory Group** |
| **Subject:** | Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Independent Air Quality Monitoring Review Group 2020 Annual Report |
| **Date:** | 1st June 2022 |
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| **Purpose**  The Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Independent Air Quality Monitoring Review Group 2020 Annual Report has been published. This report has been delayed because of COVID and the setting up of three Expert Advisory Groups for: (1) Air Quality, (2) Communications and (3) Noise, Vibration and Light. This briefing note provides a summary of the report.  **Background**  The Mossmorran & Braefoot Bay Independent Air Quality Monitoring Review Group (Review Group) advises Fife Council regarding the air quality monitoring and potential health impacts arising from operations at the Mossmorran plants and the Braefoot Bay Marine terminal facilities. Shell UK Limited (Shell) and ExxonMobil Chemical Limited (ExxonMobil) operate these facilities, which are named the Shell Fife Natural Gas Liquids (FNGL) Plant and the ExxonMobil Fife Ethylene Plant (FEP) in this report. The Group reviews air quality data collected from a number of sources, including air monitoring data from Fife Council, SEPA, INEOS, and emissions monitoring by ExxonMobil and Shell as required by their permit. The Review Group also considers the potential impact that any major plant changes could have on air quality and liaises with representatives from community councils and the local health service.  Some people in the communities around the Mossmorran area are concerned about flaring from the two plants. Flaring is undertaken to protect the plant safety during planned and unplanned maintenance work and varying events occur throughout the year. Both companies make efforts to minimise the flaring required.  A number of flaring events occurred during 2020. During early 2020, the ExxonMobil plant restarted after a period of shutdown in 2019, requiring a period of flaring. Other planned activities such as maintenance also resulted in flaring. Unplanned flaring events occurred due to power losses from a storm in August, and plant process upsets. It is hoped that such flaring events will be suitably addressed in the future through the introduction of new flare tip and Enclosed Ground Flare (EGF) technologies.  **Successes**  A report to Environment and Protective Services Sub-Committee on 17th September 2020 allowed for the setting up of Expert Advisory Groups (EAGs) – these will replace the Independent Air Quality Monitoring Review Group. Three groups will be set up initially: EAG on air quality; EAG on noise, vibration and light; and an EAG on communications. These groups will sit as sub-groups under the main Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Community and Safety Committee and will be tasked by the main umbrella group to carry out specific projects or tasks; these pieces of work will then be presented back to this Committee. The representation on these groups will be delegated to the Community and Safety Committee and incorporated within the governance documents.  Air monitoring by SEPA around the Mossmorran Complex, along with other sources of air quality data from Fife Council and INEOS did not indicate any adverse effects on air pollutants concentrations during flaring events or at any other time in 2020. The primary air pollution source for the community is road traffic emissions - albeit these are within prescribed limits as evidenced by results from the Fife Council air quality monitoring programme.  SEPA’s monitoring sites were chosen to reflect the location of residential communities, and included a downwind site, expected to represent the most impacted direction from the Mossmorran Complex. None of the SEPA monitoring data indicated that air pollutants measured reached levels that exceeded air quality standards, with the Daily Air Quality Index (DAQI), which provide an indicator of health risk, remaining low throughout the year.  **Issues**  The COVID outbreak and the setting up of three Expert Advisory Groups has delayed the production of this 2020 report, however, it is anticipated that this new structure will offer more detailed scrutiny of official reports (includes annual independent air quality reports) and promote improvement in communications with local communities.  **Conclusion**  Overall, the Review Group concluded that, based on the available data reviewed in 2020, emissions from the Shell and ExxonMobil plants at Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay continue to pose no significant risk from air pollution to the health of members of the local community. No data gaps that would change the conclusions regarding air quality and health impacts locally have been identified.  The group recommends that Fife Council’s air quality network and SEPA’s local monitoring activities continue to be examined with respect to any events at the Mossmorran Complex. In response to community concerns around air quality, there should be consideration as to what further actions may be taken, including engagement activities, communications material, and further monitoring or data provision if deemed appropriate by the Expert Advisory Group.  The full Mossmorran and Braefoot Bay Independent Air Quality Monitoring Review Group 2020 Annual Report, information about the Review Group and general information about air quality in Fife can also be found online at [www.fife.gov.uk/airquality](http://www.fife.gov.uk/airquality). |