

Part IV Environment Act 1995

Local Air Quality Management - Air Quality Action Plan Progress Report



**Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
April 2007**

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Barnsley MBC Air Quality Action Plan Progress Report 2007

This report summarises the progress in implementation of the Barnsley MBC Air Quality Action Plan, and follows on from previous action plan annual progress reports (APRs) submitted during October 2004, April 2005 and April 2006.

The Action Plan was drafted as a result of the declaration of the Barnsley MBC Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in 2001 due to forecast exceedence of the annual average objective for nitrogen dioxide, one hundred metres either side of the central reservation of the M1 motorway through the Barnsley Borough.

Air Quality issues in Barnsley are rapidly evolving. Following declaration of further transport related AQMAs in the borough in 2005, action plan measures for these AQMAs have subsequently been integrated into the second South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan (LTP).

Additional AQMAs are being considered for declaration. The Council has also agreed a Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) target with the Government relating to congestion, road safety and air quality.

In order to reflect the additional air quality work being undertaken in the borough and increasing awareness of air quality issues, a revised action plan will be drafted in the next twelve months. The revised plan will feed into continuing LTP implementation of measures and ensure that the latest air quality work undertaken by the borough will be documented in one report. The revised action plan will replace the existing action plan, but will contain those measures from the original plan, which are still being implemented.

This report is restricted to reporting on implementation of the Action Plan, and should be read in conjunction with previous APRs, along with the final copy of the Plan.

Reporting of implementation of the Plan follows guidance contained within Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, Local Air Quality Management, Progress Report Guidance (LAQM.PRG (03)).

Progress is reported in the table below:

Measure No.	Action plan measure/target	Original timescale	Progress with measure	Outcome to date	Comments
1	Production of revised policy on air pollution within Local Development Framework	Summer 2004	Revised policy was published in Summer 2004	n/a	Issues include development within the AQMA, and development which would cause declaration of an Air Quality Management Area. This measure will not be reported in future annual progress reports.
2	Contributing to the work of the South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Group (Air Quality and Environment)	Ongoing	The success of the Integrated Transport Group (Air Quality and Environment) is now linked to progress with measure 3. This group is the countywide group which works towards the alignment of the Action Plan with the Local Transport Plan.	Continuing work undertaken by the four South Yorkshire Local Authorities since the last APR, has enabled air quality measures to be prioritised within the LTP (see measure 3)	Group ensures that air quality is adequately considered within Local Transport Plans and associated Annual Progress Reports
3	Alignment of Action Plan with the Local Transport Plan	Ongoing	Integration of air quality within the second South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan (LTP2). Production of air quality mandatory indicator, along with trajectory indicator (Indicator LTP8) Funding and undertaking of a study, collating and prioritising countywide air quality measures to be implemented in the lifetime of the LTP2	AQAPs now integrated into the LTP as required by DEFRA and DfT guidance. South Yorkshire LTP published in March 2006. Countywide air quality indicator devised. Progress to be reported in successive LTP progress reports Study completed in December 2006. Programme for implementation for measures being devised.	Measures recommended by the study on a countywide and local basis include; Countywide Bus Partnership Introduction of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), such as "Scoot" in the borough Park and Ride schemes Consideration will be given to these measures.
4	Liaison with the Highways Agency to encourage their consideration of measures to reduce emissions	April 2005	Following the SYWMBUS * study; there are proposals for widening of the M1 motorway through the Borough and elsewhere. The Highways Agency are keen to minimise the air quality impact of this proposal and are now intending to draft an Action Plan containing actions to	Joint working with the Highways Agency on a NO ₂ diffusion survey. To inform the extension to 4 lanes along the M1 in the borough, the Highways Agency will be undertaking micro simulation traffic and air quality modelling. This work will inform Agency	The forthcoming Highways Agency environmental impact assessment for the proposed M1 extension will feed into a health impact assessment currently being undertaken by the 4 South Yorkshire local authorities

			ensure that the air quality objectives are met. * South and West Yorkshire Motorway Best Use Study	AQAP* measures to reduce pollution adjacent to the motorway AQAP – Air Quality Action Plan	
5	Development of the Dodworth by-pass	Completion 2006/07	Phased completion June – September 2006	By-pass completed September 2006	Adjacent NO ₂ Diffusion tube data shows reduction in NO ₂ concentrations following opening of the by-pass. Monitoring will continue with an eventual view to provide evidence for the revocation of the Barnsley 2B AQMA
6	Encouraging developers and employers to develop sustainable transport links	Ongoing	Local Authority developing procedures to role out travel plans in the Public and Private sectors.	Since the last progress report (April 2006), 73% of schools now have travel plans within the Borough (71 out of 97 of the borough's schools). This has resulted in 5.5% reduction in car trips at these schools.	Barnsley MBC also continues to address the issue of business travel plans via the planning process.
7	Vehicle Emission Publicity Awareness Campaign	Completed December 2003	n/a	n/a	See Measure 3. A similar campaign is being considered following prioritisation of LTP and air quality measures. To be reported in future APRs and review and assessments.
8	Roadside vehicle emission testing	Completed December 2003	n/a	n/a	See Measure 3. A similar campaign is being considered following prioritisation of LTP and air quality measures. The campaign will also compare vehicle emissions with fleet composition – this will enable more targeted measures to be developed
9	Provision of the Smoky Diesel Hotline Service	Last APR stated that re-launch of service by April 2007	Barnsley MBC continues to provide the Smoky Diesel Hotline Service	This service has not been re-launched during the last 12 months	This service will be re-launched in the next twelve months

10	NO ₂ diffusion tube monitoring within Air Quality Management Area	April 2004	Bias adjusted diffusion tube data for 2006 continues to show exceedence of the annual average objective for NO ₂ at locations within the AQMA	Results indicate that at locations within the AQMA, the forecast objective continues to be exceeded, justifying declaration of the AQMA	Monitoring continues, and will aid interpretation of longer term concentrations of nitrogen dioxide within the AQMA. Monitoring data will continue to be reported in future review and assessment reports. See measure 5 for reference to monitoring of NO ₂ concentrations following opening of the Dodworth by-pass
11	Continuous NO ₂ monitoring within Air Quality Management Area	April 2004	Results published in Barnsley MBC Updating and Screening Assessment, April 2006 and the Barnsley MBC Detailed Assessment, April 2007		
12	Updating of air pollution modelling capability	Ongoing	The Barnsley MBC Airviro modelling system has recently been updated to enable future modelling to undertaken as part of a Local Public Service Agreement in Barnsley relating to congestion and air quality on locally administered roads	n/a	Barnsley MBC Transportation Services now use new technology to provide more accurate traffic count data. These data can be applied to air quality assessment and modelling, and may also allow a better estimation and evaluation of the impact of congestion. Much of this new technology is based upon automatic number plate recognition (ANPR)
13	Production of written monitoring strategy	December 2005	This work will be completed within the designated timescale	A consultation draft of the Barnsley MBC Air Quality Strategy was written in 2006. This document contains a draft monitoring strategy	The strategy will ensure more targeted monitoring
14	Control of Part B and A2 processes, consultees for Part A1 processes	Ongoing	Barnsley MBC continues to undertake its LAPC and IPPC commitments	n/a	The results of this work continue to be reported in the DEFRA annual returns
15	Enforcement of Clean Air Act 1993 (industrial smoke)	Ongoing	Barnsley MBC continues to enforce the Clean Air Act 1993, with respect to industrial smoke.	n/a	n/a
16	Publicity Campaign – domestic smoke control	December 2005	To be implemented by December 2005	No outcome	Scrutiny of the number of smoking chimney complaints received recently by this Service indicates that such a campaign is currently not justified. This Service will however continue to be proactive in policing the Borough, and will investigate complaints as required

					by our Service Plan. This measure will not be reported in future annual progress reports
17	Investigation of nuisance complaints	Ongoing	Barnsley MBC continues to investigate air pollution nuisance complaints, and enforce where appropriate	n/a	n/a
18	Encouragement of composting of waste	Ongoing	Barnsley MBC continues to encourage the composting of waste, as an alternative to uncontrolled burning	Pilot scheme to divert garden waste from landfill to farm, ongoing since April 2004	As part of an alternate weekly refuse collection pilot, green garden waste and cardboard is collected from 26,000 properties. This scheme commenced April 2005 and pending the results of a comprehensive evaluation it is hoped to expand the scheme to further properties. This measure will not be reported in future annual progress reports
19	Feasibility of Home Insulation Schemes	Ongoing	BMBC continues to work in partnership with the South Yorkshire Energy Advice Centre (SYEAC) and Npower to provide advice and some financial assistance to Private Barnsley residents. The Decent Homes programme is providing Social Housing with enhanced energy efficient heating and insulation measures. In addition, SYEAC works with the Warm Front Team as part of this Government initiative	Work of SYEAC continues	This measure will not be reported in future annual progress reports
20	Consideration of air quality for new developments where appropriate	Ongoing	Liaison with Development Control planners has enabled procedures to be developed for air quality to be considered, when appropriate	Such developments continued to be assessed where appropriate.	n/a
21	Production of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – requirements for air quality assessment	April 2008	Subsequent to publication of NSCA guidance on Development Control and Air Quality. No progress to date	No further progress since last Annual Progress Report. The appraisal report. Air quality work over the last year	Barnsley MBC note the publication of updated NSCA guidance in September 2006, regarding development control and air quality

				<p>has been targeted at developing and prioritising measures contained within the LTP. Consequently, resources have not allowed the production of SPG.</p> <p>Barnsley MBC note the appraisal for the 2006 APR regarding the production of such SPG and this work will be given priority over the next 12 months. A revised timescale has been set</p>	
22	Production of SPG – acceptable development within an AQMA	April 2008	Subsequent to publication of NSCA guidance on Development Control and Air Quality. No progress to date	<p>No further progress since last Annual Progress Report. The appraisal report.</p> <p>Air quality work over the last year has been targeted at developing and prioritising measures contained within the LTP. Consequently, resources have not allowed the production of SPG.</p> <p>Barnsley MBC note the appraisal for the 2006 APR regarding the production of such SPG and this work will be given priority over the next 12 months. A revised timescale has been set</p>	Barnsley MBC note the publication of updated NSCA guidance in September 2006, regarding development control and air quality
23	Assessment of air quality impact of major traffic schemes	Ongoing	This work is ongoing	<p>Major schemes in the Borough which have been assessed for their air quality impact over the last 12 months include:</p> <p>The Burton Road Quality Bus Scheme – the air quality impact assessment for this scheme shows that this should have a net beneficial effect on air quality in the Barnsley AQMA No. 3.</p>	Liaison with Transportation Planners has enabled such schemes to be identified for assessment.

				A628/A616 Restraint Measures. The Council are concerned about potential air quality implications for this Highways Agency trunk road scheme, and are objecting to the scheme on air quality grounds	
24	Provision of air quality website	December 2004	The website has been operational since Summer 2005	Barnsley's air quality data are also displayed on the e@SYCONNECTS TV portal. This service is targeted at those residents who do have internet access, and is currently available via Sky digital satellite and Telewest and ntl digital cable in South Yorkshire. Future work will involve development of local air quality bulletins which can be sent to mobile phones	The website will be further developed in the next 12 months
25	Investigation of use of alternative fuels	April 2006	New measure proposed within the post consultation Air Quality Action Plan. Supported Capital Expenditure Bid submitted to DEFRA for proposal for consultants to report into the feasibility of this measure	Report completed in March 2007. Recommended measures to go forward for consideration to be implemented in the LTP process	Measures for consideration for implementation include (amongst others): The accelerated removal of older vehicles, and illegal vehicles from the vehicle stock
26	Investigation of conversion of older vehicle types to cleaner alternatives	April 2006	New measure proposed within the post consultation Air Quality Action Plan. Supported Capital Expenditure Bid submitted to DEFRA for proposal for consultants to report into the feasibility of this measure	Report completed in March 2007. Recommended measures to go forward for consideration to be implemented in the LTP process	The introduction of Park and Ride Schemes The variation of charges associated with public car parks depending on vehicle excise duty bands for each vehicle