

Wyre Forest District Council

Air quality Strategy 2005

28.11.05 Version 1.2

Draft

Summary

The Air Quality Strategy forms an integral part of Wyre Forest District Council's 5 year corporate plan, and sits within the Community wellbeing and Managing the Local Environment service themes.

The air quality strategy provides means to prevent and reduce any potential air pollution exceedances within the Wyre Forest District. National air quality objectives are set out in the Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland published in January 2000.

As part of Wyre Forest District Council 2nd round of assessments, the stage 4 update and screening assessment (USA) concluded in 2003 that air quality pollutant concentrations in the atmosphere were projected to meet 2005 objectives set out by central government, with the exception of specific two locations :-

- Welch Gate at Bewdley
- Horsefair in Kidderminster

The strategy's core objectives is designed to put into place provisions to maintain air quality below existing health based standards. The air quality strategy aims to integrate different Council departments to produce a multi-disciplinary forum for the routine consideration of current and potential air quality issues.

The air quality strategy is a dynamic document which will be periodically reviewed and updated. Changes in legislation, The Councils Corporate Plan or changes in the air pollution will be the main triggers for the need to re-appraise.

Introduction

1.0 Background

The Government and devolved administrations are committed to meeting people's right to clean air. Clean air is essential for healthy living and a good quality of life.

People therefore have a right to expect that the air they breathe will not harm them. It is a fact that UK air quality is continuing to improve and that we have come a long way since the 'London Smogs' of the 1950's.

We have achieved cleaner air through regulating industry and progressively tightening emissions standards for vehicles and where necessary designating smoke control areas to control pollution from domestic solid fuel appliances. Air quality in the UK is now generally very good, but there are still occasions and certain locations where there are unacceptably high levels of pollution that can harm human health and the environment. Local pollution, such as vehicle fumes, can aggravate asthma and cause premature deaths in those who are seriously ill.

The Government has implemented a UK Air Quality Strategy which sets out a number of health based pollution standards to which local authorities must routinely review and assess for their area (see timetable 1.1 below). This timetable/framework is the vehicle which empowers all relevant stakeholders, who are capable of improving air quality.

1.1 Recommended Timescale for Submission of Reviews and assessments and Progress Reports.¹

i) LAQM Activity	Completion Date	Which Authorities
Update and Screening Assessment (USA)	End of May 2003	All
Detailed Assessment	End of April 2004	Authorities Which have identified that detailed assessment is required by their 2003 USA
Progress Report	End of April 2004	Authorities Which have identified that detailed assessment was not required by their 2003 USA
Progress Report USA	End of April 2005	All
Detailed Assessment	End of April 2006	All
Detailed Assessment	End of April 2007	Authorities Which identified that detailed assessment is required by their 2006 USA
Progress Report	End of April 2007	Authorities Which have identified that detailed

¹ Page 1-18 Policy Guidance LAQM. PG(03) DEFRA

		assessment was not required by their 2006 USA
Progress Report	End of April 2008	All
USA	End of April 2009	All
Detailed Assessment	End of April 2010	Authorities Which have identified that detailed assessment is required by their 2009 USA
Progress Report	End of April 2010	Authorities Which have identified that detailed assessment was not required by their 2009 USA

The strategy also sets out health-based standards for eight main air pollutants and objectives for their achievement throughout the UK by 2010 (See table 1.2 below)

It identifies the action that needs to be taken at national and local level, and provides a framework that allows relevant stakeholders, such as industry, businesses and local government to identify the contribution they can make to ensure that its objectives are met.

1.2 Objectives included in the Air Quality Regulations (England) (Wales) 2000²

a. Pollutant	b. Air Quality Objective		Date to be achieved
	Concentration	Measured As	
i. Benzene	16.25 µg/m ³	Running annual mean	31.12.2003
	5µg/m ³	ii. Annual mean	
1,3 Butadiene	2.25µg/m ³	Running annual mean	31.12.2003
Carbon Monoxide	10mg/m ³	Maximum daily running 8-hour mean	31.12.2003
Lead	0.5µg/m ³	Annual mean	31.12.2004
	0.25µg/m ³	Annual mean	31.12.2008
Nitrogen Dioxide	200µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	24 hour mean	31.12.2004
	40µg/m ³	Annual mean	31.12.2004
Particles (PM ₁₀) (gravimetric) ³	50µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	24 hour mean	31.12.2004
	40µg/m ³	Annual mean	31.12.2004
Sulphur Dioxide	350µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 24 times a year	1- hour mean	31.12.2004

² Page 1-7 Policy Guidance LAQM. PG(3) DEFRA.

	125 µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 3 times a year	24-hour mean	31.12.2004
	266µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	15-minute mean	31.12.2005

Improvement in local air quality within Wyre Forest is dependent upon a number of stakeholders; in fact every resident of Wyre Forest can positively contribute to improving air quality by some degree. The aim of this local air quality strategy is to map out, as far as practicable, the actions required to improve air quality and set out objectives and actions within strategic business and public sectors to implement and investigate further improvements to air quality within the district.

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1. Aims

The strategy aims to fulfil the following main objectives.

- 1.1 Reduce air pollution within the district of Wyre Forest in order to protect the health and well being of the population.
- 1.2 To work with businesses, commerce and the residents of the Wyre Forest district to encourage sustainable improvements to ambient air quality.
- 1.3 To identify actions at all levels to encourage local authority divisions, other organisations, businesses and the general public to minimise their impact on air quality as far as practicable.
- 1.4 Improve the local environment and its impact on health and the quality of life through supporting and implementing actions generated from air quality related strategies, working groups such as Wyre Forest Matters (the Local Strategic Partnership) Better Environment Group and Hereford & Worcestershire Pollution Working Group.
- 1.5 To ensure Government set targets on air quality are monitored and reported against the required statutory time scales.
- 1.6 To ensure that wherever possible action taken by Wyre Forest District Council does not have a detrimental effect on air quality or climate change.

2. Objectives

The following objectives shall be put into place within the Divisional Business Plans.

2.1 Planning and Land Use

- 2.1.1 Ensure that planning applications are assessed for the effects of air pollution on future occupiers of that development, and the effects of the development on air quality
- 2.1.2 Implement procedures to liaise with neighbouring local authorities where developments within the District could adversely effect air quality within their area
- 2.1.3 Require air quality monitoring and modelling from developers for proposed development where appropriate
- 2.1.4 Apply the Local Plan transport initiatives. These themes are :-

Bus Infrastructure

Where appropriate S106 Obligations will be sought for contributions towards improved bus services, bus priority measures and upgrading of bus infrastructure.

Cycling Infrastructure

Developers will be encouraged to include cycle facilities in their proposals when submitting applications for planning permission.

Provision for Pedestrians

Where appropriate S106 Obligations will be sought for developers to enhance pedestrian access to development and its surrounding environment.

Implementation of Travel Plans

All major new developments that would create specific transport related problems must be accompanied by travel plans as part of the proposals for consideration.

Promote use of public transport, BQPs and other forms of sustainable transport.

Continued involvement in the Wyre Forest Bus Quality Partnership, Freight Quality Working Group and Wyre Forest Cycle Forum. Work with WCC to implement LTP2 policies, in particular to improve linkages with the rail station and the town centre.

Encourage use of cycling and walking.

Continued involvement in the WFCE.
Work with WCC to implement cycle routes outlined in the Wyre Forest Cycle Strategy.

2.2 Transport

- 2.2.1 Work together with the Worcestershire County Council to co-ordinate a sustainable transport policy across the District. Implement policies to reduce traffic demand on roads in the District
- 2.2.2 Continue to Promote the use of public transport, Bus Quality Partnerships and the use of Park and Ride schemes
- 2.2.3 Continue to Encourage the use of cycling and walking routes
- 2.2.4 Reduce the use of fuel by Wyre Forest District Council vehicles and implement initiatives to reduce vehicle emissions where possible (implementing recommendations from Carbon Trust's 'Transport Energy' fleet healthcheck when this has taken place)
- 2.2.5 Work with Worcestershire County Council to develop travel plans and transport strategies

- 2.2.6 Support Council initiatives to replace existing fleet vehicles with greener alternatives when they need replacing. – working through Procurement Working Group and 'Transport Energy' fleet healthcheck
- 2.2.7 Review taxi licensing schemes to give incentives for the use of smaller, more efficient or less polluting vehicles
- 2.2.8 Support initiatives to remove from the road gross polluting vehicles and those without a MOT

2.3 Energy Efficiency

- 2.3.1 Review energy use in Council owned property and investigate initiatives such as those promoted by the Carbon Trust.
- 2.3.2 Provide advice to residents about energy efficiency.
- 2.3.3 Promote energy efficiency and green energy initiatives to residents and businesses within the District.

2.4 Local and National Public Sector Organisations

- 2.4.1 Formally review and assess air quality within the District against statutory air quality objectives, as required by law
- 2.4.2 Continue our commitment to air quality monitoring to ensure a high standard of data is achieved to assess air quality objectives
- 2.4.3 Support efforts at local, regional and national level to improve air quality
- 2.4.4 Support appropriate strategies and initiatives within the District on any matter that directly or indirectly has the effect of reducing air pollution or improving air quality

2.5 Industry

- 2.5.1 Enforce legislation (such as the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999) to control and, where possible, reduce air pollution from industry
- 2.5.2 Support appropriate business initiatives to reduce their air pollution
- 2.5.3 Encourage the adoption of environmental management systems that include working policies which take air quality and pollution into account
- 2.5.4 Support business initiatives to adopt EMAS or ISO 14001

2.5.5 Work with business to provide advice and, where appropriate, assistance to adopt sustainable practices and reduce air pollution – enlisting to free Government Consultancy available from the Carbon Trust and Envirowise programmes.

2.6 Domestic Sector

2.6.1 Enforce legislation (e.g. smoke nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990) to control and reduce air pollution from dwellings

2.6.2 Maintain and control all designated smoke control areas within the district under the Clean Air Act 1993.

2.7 Information and Services

2.7.1 Consult the public, industry and other organisations on Air Quality Reviews, AQMA Action Plans and Air Quality Strategies

2.7.2 Publish information about local air quality on the Council website

2.7.3 Respond to all requests for information on air quality within the District

2.7.4 Maintain the register of authorised processes within the District

2.7.5 Consult on air quality through established local groups concerned with environmental, health, transport and business issues

2.7.6 Support initiatives to obtain feedback from the public and industry about air quality

2.7.7 Respond to relevant consultations which could influence air quality in the District

2.7.8 Implement all new guidance and legislation concerned with the reduction of pollution or improvement in air quality

2.7.9 Promote local, regional and national campaigns to raise awareness about poor air quality

3. Conclusions

3.1 As previously mentioned the strategy document is dynamic, and will change in accordance with government policy and legislation at local and European level.

3.2 The strategy will be review in accordance with the changes mentioned in 3.1 annually or as policy change dictates.

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Action Plan Matrix

2.1 Planning and Land Use

Objective	Link Officer	Local Action	Partner Agencies
Ensure that planning applications are assessed for the effects of air pollution on future occupiers of that development, and the effects of the development on air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wyre Forest Pollution Control Section 	Consideration against Local Planning Policy & Relevant Government Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wyre Forest Planning Control Section.
Implement procedures to liaise with neighbouring local authorities where developments within the District could adversely effect air quality within their area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wyre Forest Pollution Control Section • Wyre Forest Planning Control Section. 	Local Government Forums. Chief Officers Groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hereford & Worcester County Pollution Group. • County Council Highways Partnership • Environment Agency • Local PCT
Require air quality monitoring and modelling from developers for proposed development where appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wyre Forest Pollution Control Section 	Assessment / consultation of impacts of relevant planning applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Consultant • County Council Highways Partnership
Ensure that alternative methods of transport (e.g. modification of bus routes) are integrated into new developments where appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wyre Forest Pollution Control Section 	Contribute to development of Local Transport Plan 2 at County at Level	Worcestershire County Council

2.2 Transport

Objective	Link Officer	Local Action	Partner Agencies
Work together with Worcestershire County Council Highways Partnership to co-ordinate transport policy across the District. Implement policies to reduce traffic demand on roads in the District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WFDC Pollution Control Section • WFDC Forward Planning Section • WFDC Health & Sustainability Team 	Contribute to development of Local Transport Plan 2 at County Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worcester County Council • Highways Agency • Public/Private Transport Companies
Promote the use of public transport, Bus Quality Partnerships and other forms of sustainable transport (e.g rail?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WFDC Forward Planning Section • WFDC Health & Sustainability Team 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worcester County Council • Highways Agency • Public/Private Transport Companies
Encourage the use of cycling and walking routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WFDC Forward Planning Section • WFDC Health & Sustainability Team 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worcester County Council • Highways Agency • Public/Private Transport Companies
Reduce the use of fuel by Wyre Forest District Council vehicles and implement initiatives to reduce vehicle emissions where possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLACS • WFDC Health & Sustainability Team 	Deliver outcomes of Transport Energy Fleet Health Check	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLACS • WFDC Health & Sustainability Team

Work with Worcestershire County Council and local schools to develop school travel plans and transport strategies	WFDC	Development of School Travel Plans and Safer routes to school in order to achieve a 2% reduction in cars travelling to school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worcestershire County Council • Local school governors
Review staff transport arrangements and develop a staff commuter plan or car sharing where appropriate – already taking place	WFDC Sustainable Development Team	Formulate and implement a staff travel plan for Wyre Forest District Council	Locally agreed
Review staff car loan schemes to encourage use of smaller, more efficient or less polluting vehicles – already taking place via travel plan	WFDC Sustainable Development Team	To be reviewed in conjunction with the Council's staff travel plan	Locally agreed
Review taxi licensing schemes to give incentives for the use of smaller, more efficient or less polluting vehicles	Licensing section	Review the Council's taxi licensing scheme to give incentives for the use of smaller, more efficient or less polluting vehicles.	Taxi cab forum
Support initiatives to remove from the road gross polluting vehicles and those without an MOT	Pollution Control Section	Report Smokey vehicles to the Vehicle Inspectorate through their website	Vehicle inspectorate Police WFDC

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2.3 Energy Efficiency – no need to include, as in Affordable Warmth and Home Energy Conservation Act work, and in upcoming climate change strategy

Objective	Link Officer	Local Action	Partner Agencies
Promote and investigate initiatives to improve energy efficiency in Wyre Forest Community Housing Trust.	WFDC Sustainable Development Team		
Provide advice to residents about energy efficiency	WFDC Sustainable Development Team		
Promote energy efficiency and green energy initiatives to residents and businesses within the District	WFDC Sustainable Development Team		

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2.4 Local and National Public Sector Organisations

Objective	Link Officer	Local Action	Partner Agencies
Formally review and assess air quality within the District against statutory air quality objectives, as required by law	Pollution Control Section	County Pollution Group Liaison County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Consultants • DEFRA
Continue our commitment to air quality monitoring to ensure a high standard of data is achieved to assess air quality objectives		Good QA & QC procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airmonitors • Gradco
Support efforts at local, regional and national level to improve air quality		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Pollution Group Liaison • Midlands Joint Advisory Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend Local Authority Air Quality Co-Ordinators Meetings. • DEFRA Policy Consultation
Support appropriate strategies and initiatives within the District on any matter that directly or indirectly has the effect of reducing air pollution or improving air quality			

2.5 Industry

Objective	Link Officer	Local Action	Partner Agencies
Enforce legislation (such as the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999) to control and, where possible, reduce air pollution from industry	Pollution Control Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permit inspections • Complaint investigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency • DEFRA
Support appropriate business initiatives to reduce their air pollution	WFDC Sustainable Development Team	Encourage energy efficiency	Carbon trust
Encourage the adoption of environmental statements that include working policies which take air quality and pollution into account	(as above on page 8)		
Support business initiatives to adopt EMAS or ISO 14001	Pollution Control Section	IPPC Permit of Controlled Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency • DEFRA
Work with business to provide advice and, where appropriate, assistance to adopt sustainable practices and reduce air pollution			

2.6 Domestic Sector

Objective	Link Officer	Local Action	Partner Agencies
Enforce legislation (e.g. smoke nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990) to control and reduce air pollution from dwellings	Pollution Control Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complaint Investigation• Inspections	

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2.7 Information and Services

Objective	Link Officer	Local Action	Partner Agencies
Consult the public, industry and other organisations on Air Quality Reviews, AQMA Action Plans and Air Quality Strategies	Pollution Control Section	Air Quality Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Council • PCT • DEFRA
Publish information about local air quality on the Council website	Pollution Control Section		
Respond to all requests for information on air quality within the District	Pollution Control Section		
Maintain the register of authorised processes within the District	Pollution Control Section		
Consult on air quality through established local groups concerned with environmental, health, transport and business issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution Control Section • WFDC Sustainable Development Team 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Council • PCT • DEFRA
Support initiatives to obtain feedback from the public and industry about air quality	Pollution Control section	Public Meetings	County Council Highways
Respond to relevant consultations which could influence air quality in the District		Public Meetings, E-mail, Website	

Implement all new guidance and legislation concerned with the reduction of pollution or improvement in air quality	Pollution Control Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Pollution Group • Midland Joint advisory Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEFRA • Environment Agency
Promote local, regional and national campaigns to raise awareness about poor air quality		Local initiatives such as 'car free days'	NSCA

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