

## Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

### AQF 9/06

#### LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT - UPDATE

##### Integration of Air Quality Action Plans into Local Transport Plans (LTPs)

1. Local Authorities submitted their final LTP 2 plans by end of March 2006. Defra has assessed the air quality aspects of the plans and sent comments to the Government Offices. Defra will continue to work with DfT colleagues on reporting arrangements under LTP2.

##### Beacon Scheme

3. Application for Round 8 of the Beacon Scheme is now closed. Defra received 8 applications from local authorities on the theme 'Delivering Cleaner Air'. The applications are being assessed to select those that will go on to the next stage.

##### LAQM Statistics

4. The table shows the number of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) declared and Air Quality Action Plans submitted to Defra/devolved administrations. Figures in ( ) were last reported figures.

	Number of AQMAs declared	Number of Action Plans received
England	175(174)	112 (110)
Scotland	10(4)	3 (2)
Wales	5 (4)	4 (2)
Northern Ireland	22(22)	2 (2)

5. Majority of AQMAs designated are for nitrogen dioxide and particulates (PM<sub>10</sub>) objectives. Road traffic emissions are the main source in 95% of the AQMAs. Only a handful have been designated as a result of industrial sources. The first AQMA for benzene (2010 objective) was designated in England, in 2005. 50% of AQMAs in Northern Ireland have been designated for domestic emissions.

6. The majority of the Action Plans received focus on measures dealing with road traffic, such as local traffic management schemes, setting up clear zones, local emissions zones (particularly in London) or working with the Highways Agency to tackle pollution on the motorways/trunk roads. Defra has been encouraging LAs whose draft action plan to integrate them into the second round of LTPs (where local transport is the primary source of exceedences), rather than produce a stand-alone plan.

##### Third round of reviews and assessments

7. Local authorities began their third round of reviews and assessments in April. Updating and Screening Assessments (USAs) were required by 30 April 2006. The aim

is to identify those matters that have changed since the second round of review and assessment was completed. 235 English authorities (73%), 19 Scottish authorities (59%), 15 Welsh authorities (68%) and 9 NI authorities (35%) have to date submitted a USA.

### **Air Quality Grant 2006/07**

8. Defra's 2006/07 £2.3m provision of air quality grant has been awarded to support 88 English local authorities with expenditure on monitoring, emission inventory, dispersion modelling and action plans. The programme was significantly oversubscribed – over £9m of bids were received - and it has been necessary to prioritise bids to local authorities with AQMAs, Action Plans and Neighbourhood Renewal Area status.

9. The Department of Environment in Northern Ireland has an annual provision of approximately £1m for air quality grant to support 26 local authorities. The grant scheme covers similar expenditure to the Defra scheme and in addition provides an element for staff costs associated with air quality management duties. Applications for 2006/07 so far amount to £500k.

Defra/DAs  
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