

**LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT - UPDATE**

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

1 Department for Transport issued LTP final assessments in December 2006. Under the reporting requirements for 2007, LTP authorities are to provide an update on measures to deliver cleaner air in Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) by July 2007. Local authorities with emerging AQMAs (including those that have identified the need to declare) are to provide a short description of the AQMAs and how they will be taking forward their air quality action plan. Defra will post frequently asked questions on Local Transport Related AQMAs on the Action Plan website <http://www.bv-actionplan.co.uk> very shortly.

Department for Transport have set up a Project Board to help them identify LTP reporting requirements for 2008 and beyond; they are consulting local authorities, Government Offices for the regions, and government departments. Defra will work with DfT colleagues to finalise what progress reporting will be appropriate. DfT plan to publish guidance later this year.

**LAQM Statistics**

2 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	180 (180)	134 (125)
Scotland	12(11)	3 (3)
Wales	5 (4)	4 (2)
Northern Ireland	19(22)*	6 (5)

\* 3 AQMAs have now been revoked in NI

3. 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.

4. 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 encouraged authorities whose draft action plan primarily related to local road transport to integrate them into the second round of LTPs. A number of London local authorities are beginning to revise their Air Quality Action Plans

### **Third round of reviews and assessments**

5. Local authorities began their third round of reviews and assessments in 2006. Updating and Screening Assessments (USAs) were required by 30 April 2006. 322 English authorities (91%), 31 Scottish authorities (97%), 19 Welsh authorities (86%) and 26 NI authorities (100%) have to date submitted a USA.

### **Evaluation of Review & Assessment and Action Planning**

6. Contractors have produced draft reports for Defra and the devolved administrations. Evaluation reports will be published in the next couple of months and copies will be made available on the Defra website.

### **Air Quality Grant**

7. Defra have written to all English local authorities inviting applications for grant under the 2007/08 £2.4 m programme. The grants support local authority expenditure on monitoring equipment, emission inventories, dispersion modelling and action plans or other projects which will improve local air quality. Details and application forms are on Defra website <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/local/agggrant/index.htm>

### **Update of LAQM Guidance**

8. Defra will shortly be taking forward an update of the Technical Policy guidance, working closely with local authorities and consultants. Defra proposes to issue revised guidance in December 2007.

Defra/DAs  
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