

LOCAL AUTHORITY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR ON AIR QUALITY

Local Area Agreements (LAAs)

- New LAAs to inform the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), which will replace the Comprehensive Performance Assessment.
- CAA will put the emphasis on 'places', being forward looking and focussed on improving performance in areas where this is a priority, reducing reporting burdens and placing less emphasis on past performance.
- Authorities will report against a set of around 200 performance indicators, with up to 35 (plus 17 statutory ones) selected as improvement targets.
- LAAs are led on by top-tier authorities, who will work with their districts, their partners and Government Offices when drafting and agreeing LAAs.
- Guidance on the new LAA negotiation process published by CLG on 18 September - www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/negotiatingnewlaas
- LAA Dry-run negotiations: Final Report: Headline Messages, published by CLG on 18 September - www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/laadryrunreport

Air quality performance indicator

The proposed air quality indicator, as consulted on in July/August, is:

% reduction in NO_x and primary PM₁₀ emissions through authority's estate and operations

The final set of indicators will be known around the time of the CSR07 announcement. The latest draft of the indicator is below. AEA are currently developing a toolkit for calculating emissions from emission factors, linked to a toolkit for calculating the CO₂ emissions for the CO₂ indicators. More details will follow, and Communities and Local Government plan a consultation on the detail behind the set of indicators later this year.

Improvement targets are not intended to duplicate statutory requirements. On air quality, we already have the statutory local air quality management system. The performance indicator enables local authorities, and partners, to lead by example and make reductions in NO_x and PM₁₀ concentrations by reducing emissions. There is an equivalent indicator for CO₂ emissions (from authorities' own estates and operations), as well as a CO₂ indicator targeting community action. The latter is likely to target areas that are already dealt with through local air quality management.

Emissions tool is available on the Defra website as part of the CLG consultation on technical definitions of the indicators - www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/local/indicator.htm