

Dacorum Borough Council's Air Quality Action Plan 2015 – 2018: Progress to date (February 2017)

Package of Measures 1: Reducing emissions via strategic measures

Measure	Title	
1	Improve links with the Local Transport Plan	
Key Intervention		
Measures to ensure the current poor air quality in the three AQMAs is improved where possible and to avoid future problems are implemented via the Local Transport Plan		
Definition	Measure / Indicator	Progress to date (February 2017)
Future versions of the LTP to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference to the three AQMAs and measures included in the Air Quality Action Plan. Integration of plan with the LTP. Develop action plan options that will be implemented via the Local Transport Plan 	Integration of AQAP into LTP. December 2016. (Long-term action)	Action Plans to be incorporated into LTP4 (2031 – 2050) which is scheduled for publication early 2018.
Responsibility		
Hertfordshire County Council and Dacorum Borough Council		

Measure	Title	
2	Improve links with the Local Planning and Development Framework	
Key Intervention		
Local planning considerations aim to mitigate the cumulative negative air quality impacts of new development		
Definition	Measure / Indicator	Progress to date (February 2017)
Require developers to undertake an air quality assessment in circumstances where a new development could have a negative impact on air quality, and provide an air pollution mitigation plan where necessary.	No. of planning applications assessed and regulated through air quality assessments. Report annually.	This information will be provided annually via the Air Quality Annual Status Report to Defra.
Require developers to submit Construction Management Plans to control dust and emissions from construction and demolition. Through onsite pollutant monitoring, ensure that large developments are adhering to the CMP requirements.	No. of Construction Management Plans and monitoring requirements included for relevant developments. Report annually.	This information will be provided annually via the Air Quality Annual Status Report to Defra.
Continue to use planning conditions and legal obligations to require developers to adopt measures which will reduce transport emissions, such as requesting travel and business plans, capping parking spaces, providing cycle	No. of sites with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel Plans Reduced parking Cycle parking facilities 	This information will be provided annually via the Air Quality Annual Status Report to Defra.

parking facilities and installing electric vehicle recharging infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EV charging points Report annually.	
Produce Supplementary Planning Document / Technical Guidance for Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.	Guidance published and followed. December 2015.	Herts & Beds Air Quality Forum working together. NHDC have produced an Air Quality Guidance Document (attached), which is available for all Herts and Beds LAs to use. HCC Public Health keen to see this widely utilised. A template memorandum (attached) has also been produced for Air Quality Officers to use to communicate to their colleagues in Development Control. Initial discussions with Development Control re: introduction of a Herts & Beds Air Quality guidance document.
Responsibility		
Dacorum Borough Council: Regulatory Services, Strategic Planning and Regeneration, Development Control.		

Measure	Title	
3	Improve links with Public Health	
Key Intervention		
Strengthen the link between Public Health and air quality		
Definition	Measure / Indicator	Progress to date (February 2017)
Seek opportunities to strengthen the link between Public Health and air quality through joint working and policy development with Public Health in Hertfordshire.	Policies, relationships and processes in place to ensure air quality is considered wherever relevant. Creation of Hertfordshire Air Quality Strategy. December 2015.	The Air Quality Strategic Plan for Hertfordshire (attached) was published in June 2015. Dacorum invited to the Public Health Air Quality Planning Group, which discusses the delivery of the strategy.
Seek Public Health funding opportunities for potential air quality-related projects in Hertfordshire, such as the reintroduction of 'AirAlert', the creation of a Hertfordshire Air Quality Strategy and County-wide PM _{2.5} monitoring.	No. of successful funding bids. Bid/s to be identified by December 2015.	Dacorum was awarded £20,000 from HCC Public Health for Particulate Matter monitoring. Bought 'Fidas 200' (technical specification attached). Commissioned August 2015 in Northchurch. Monitoring results to be reported to HCC. Air Alert –competitive quotation phase.
Responsibility		
Hertfordshire County Council, Dacorum Borough Council (and other Local Authorities across County).		

Package of Measures 2: Optimising traffic flow through the AQMAs

Measure	Title	
4	Junction investigations	
Key Intervention		
To obtain information to enable junction layouts and traffic signal phasing to be altered to improve traffic flow within AQMAs.		
Definition	Measure / Indicator	Progress to date (February 2017)
Investigate efficiency of the current junction layouts (including the operation of traffic signals if relevant) at the following junctions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durrants Hill Road/Lawn Lane • Durrants Hill Road/London Road • Orchard Street/London Road • Two Waters Way/London Road 	Undertake junction investigations. April 2016.	Lawn Lane junction and crossing opportunities included in shortlist for future scheme investigation. Two Waters junction will be included in the highways aspects of the emerging Two Waters Masterplan.
Responsibility		
Hertfordshire County Council - Highways		

Measure	Title	
5	ANPR traffic study	
Key Intervention		
Obtain detailed traffic movement data in order to improve air quality within the London Road, Apsley AQMA		
Definition	Measure / Indicator	Progress to date (February 2017)
Determine the origin, destination and residence time of local traffic travelling through the London Road, Apsley AQMA through the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology.	Undertake ANPR traffic study April 2016.	No progress to report to date.
Responsibility		
Hertfordshire County Council – Highways and Dacorum Borough Council		

Measure	Title	
6	Congestion study	
Key Intervention		
Obtain available congestion study data in order to target future measures to improve air quality within the AQMAs.		
Definition	Measure / Indicator	Progress to date (February 2017)
Investigate whether a congestion study has already been	Undertaken investigation specific to	No progress to report to date.

done for the London Road, Apsley area.	London Road, Apsley area. December 2015.	
Check the Hertfordshire County Council Congestion Action Plan for any schemes in the area of the AQMAs.	Undertake review of Hertfordshire's Congestion Action Plan. December 2015.	Congestion issues in Two Waters Road currently being discussed as part of the SW Herts Growth & Transport Plan (GTP) and will form part of the work following the emerging Two Waters Masterplan.
Responsibility		
Hertfordshire County Council – Policy Team		

Measure	Title	
7	Road signage and satellite navigation alterations	
Key Intervention		
Determine the significance of the current road signage and satellite navigation routes on AQMA through-traffic		
Definition	Measure / Indicator	Progress to date (February 2017)
Investigate the current road signage within the vicinity of the three AQMAs, to identify opportunities for improvement, with the aim of preventing unnecessary through-traffic passing through the three AQMAs.	Undertake road signage investigation. April 2016.	No progress to report to date. There is an opportunity to cover this in the GTP.
Investigate the possibility of altering satellite navigation routes to avoid AQMAs where possible.	Undertake investigation into satellite navigation rerouting. April 2016.	No progress to report to date. There is an opportunity to cover this in the GTP.
Responsibility		
Hertfordshire County Council – Highways and Dacorum Borough Council		

Measure	Title	
8	Potential relocation of bus stops	
Key Intervention		
Determine significance of stationary buses on congestion within the AQMAs.		
Definition	Measure / Indicator	Progress to date (February 2017)
Establish the bus routes utilising this bus stops and the frequencies of buses along those routes and explore the possibly of relocating the bus stops or the creation of a layby	Undertake bus stop investigation. December 2015.	Funding bids to pursue this action have been unsuccessful to date. Local opposition.
Responsibility		
Hertfordshire County Council – Passenger Transport		

Measure	Title	
9	Determine significance of school traffic	
Key Intervention		
Determine the significance of school traffic within the High Street, Northchurch AQMA to target future measures		
Definition	Measure / Indicator	Progress to date (February 2017)
Look at air quality monitoring data from the automatic monitoring station to see if there are any significant changes to NO ₂ concentrations between term time and school holidays.	Undertake review of automatic monitoring station data. December 2015.	Hourly NO ₂ concentrations were obtained from the analyser and average hourly concentrations calculated for term time, school holidays and weekends. The graphs produced indicated a significant morning and afternoon peak in average hourly NO ₂ concentrations during term time, which was more pronounced than school holidays and weekends. This would indicate that school traffic has a significant effect on hourly NO ₂ concentrations at High Street, Northchurch.
Responsibility		
Dacorum Borough Council – Regulatory Services		

Measure	Title	
10	Potential relocation of on-street parking	
Key Intervention		
Determine significance of on-street parking on congestion within the High Street, Northchurch AQMA		
Definition	Measure / Indicator	Progress to date (February 2017)
Investigate the provision of on-street parking to determine its contribution to congestion within the AQMA and explore possibilities for relocation outside of the AQMA.	Undertake on-street parking investigation. April 2016.	Funding bids to pursue this action have been unsuccessful to date. Strong local opposition. Expensive to trial. Need to relocate parking – no obvious alternatives.
Responsibility		
Hertfordshire County Council – Highways and Dacorum Borough Council		

Package of Measures 3: Reducing transport emissions

Measure	Title	
11	Promote the use of electric vehicles (EV)	
Key Intervention		
Encourage the uptake and use of electric vehicles		
Definition	Measure / Indicator	Progress to date (February 2017)
Communicate the benefits of EVs to residents and businesses. Publicise central government grants and tax incentives available.	No. of EV enquiries. Report annually.	This information is to be provided annually via the Air Quality Annual Status Report to Defra.
Explore the possibility of providing local incentives, such as the waiving of car park charges or priority parking for electric (plug in and hybrid) vehicles throughout the borough.	Undertake sufficient research to conclude whether incentives are viable. April 2016.	No progress to report to date.
Promote the presence and availability of existing EV charge points within the borough.	Percentage increase in usage of existing Source East charge points. Report annually.	Dacorum BC awarded £9,000 following successful bid application for Air Quality Grant funding to install EV highway signage to promote existence of current charge points. Money received February 2017. This information is to be provided annually via the Air Quality Annual Status Report to Defra.
Explore funding opportunities for additional EV charge points within the borough. Aim to secure central government funding for replacing a proportion of the existing Council fleet with EV and install EV charge points at Council-owned buildings.	No. of successful funding applications. Report annually.	E-Car Club for Dacorum BC staff and residents (3 x EVs and 1 x EV charge point outside Civic Centre). This information is to be provided annually via the Air Quality Annual Status Report to Defra.
Promote and encourage the uptake of electric (plug in and hybrid) vehicles by staff via the Council's lease car and loan schemes.	No. of staff leasing or purchasing electric (plug in and hybrid) vehicles. Report annually.	This information is to be provided annually via the Air Quality Annual Status Report to Defra.
Encourage the installation of EV charging points in new developments.	No. of new developments with EV charge points. Report annually.	This information is to be provided annually via the Air Quality Annual Status Report to Defra.
Promotion of the Maylands EV car club.	No. of new EV car club members and percentage increase in usage.	This information is to be provided annually via the Air Quality Annual Status

	Ongoing. Report annually.	Report to Defra.
Investigate possibility of E-Car Club for Council Staff and residents in Dacorum.	Undertake sufficient research to conclude if viable.	E-Car Club for Dacorum BC staff and residents. Scheme approved by CMT. Current uncertainties around the funding from HCC.
Responsibility		
Hertfordshire County Council and Dacorum Borough Council		

Measure	Title	
12	Promote car share schemes	
Key Intervention		
Increase awareness and uptake of existing car share schemes		
Definition	Measure / Indicator	Progress to date (February 2017)
Promote existing car share schemes 'Herts Liftshare' and 'Maylands Car Share Scheme'.	Increase in no. of registered members. Report annually.	This information is to be provided annually via the Air Quality Annual Status Report to Defra.
Explore the possibility of providing dedicated parking bays/priority parking throughout the borough for car share members.	Undertake sufficient research to conclude whether dedicated parking bays / priority parking for car share members is viable. December 2016.	No progress to report to date.
Explore the possibility of reintroducing the Dacorum Borough Council car share scheme.	Undertake sufficient research to determine whether reintroduction would be welcomed by staff. December 2015.	No progress to report to date.
Responsibility		
Hertfordshire County Council and Dacorum Borough Council.		

Measure	Title	
13	Green incentives for taxi drivers	
Key Intervention		
Encourage Taxi companies / drivers to use less polluting vehicles		
Definition	Measure / Indicator	Progress to date (February 2017)
Explore the possibility of offering a subsidy to taxi companies and drivers who licence newer or cleaner (e.g. electric) vehicles.	Discuss with DBC Licensing to determine viability and possible implementation. December 2016.	Initial discussions with DBC Licensing department and also other Local Authority Licensing departments. Successfully implemented elsewhere, however some

		reservations and queries from Ross Hill regards altering fees and charges. Fees and charges not considerable so wont be able to offer a big enough incentive etc. Further discussions required.
Responsibility		
Dacorum Borough Council – Regulatory Services and Legal Governance		

Measure	Title	
14	Reducing emissions from good vehicles within the AQMAs	
Key Intervention		
Target reduced emissions from LGVs and HGVs operating with the three AQMAs		
Definition	Measure / Indicator	Progress to date (February 2017)
Liaise with local freight companies to establish the potential for developing a local freight quality agreement.	Initiate meeting with local freight companies and report outcomes. December 2017.	No progress to report to date.
Liaise with businesses within the London Road, Apsley and High Street, Northchurch AQMAs to establish the potential for limiting delivery times to outside of peak traffic times.	Initiate meeting with local businesses and report outcomes. December 2017.	No progress to report to date.
Investigate ways to reduce the volume of freight traffic passing through the AQMAs.	Undertake investigation. December 2015.	No progress to report to date.
Responsibility		
Dacorum Borough Council – Regulatory Services		

Measure	Title	
15	Reducing emissions from Council fleet	
Key Intervention		
Target reduced emissions from Council fleet vehicles		
Definition	Measure / Indicator	Progress to date (February 2017)
Continue to target reductions in emissions from the Council's transport fleet.	Environmental management system performance indicator for annual fuel usage reduction. Report annually and ongoing.	This is recorded by Finance monthly and emailed to our Environmental Sustainability Officer and uploaded onto CORVU. Findings to be incorporated within the Council's Air Quality Annual Status Report to Defra.

Continue to consider fuel consumption figures and CO ₂ emissions during the procurement process.	No. of vehicles purchased / leased. December 2015.	This is now a legal requirement; all new vehicles purchased have to meet Euro Emission Standards Euro 6 (2014) standards.
Utilise business mileage data and trends to identify opportunities for fuel usage reduction across Council services.	Establish opportunities for fuel usage reductions and report outcomes. April 2015 and ongoing.	SERCO now do salaries and will not release mileage information, so no way of continuing this.
Explore the possibility of amending current business mileage rates to remove financial benefits in relation to engine size.	Discuss with relevant Council departments to assess viability. December 2017.	SERCO now do salaries and will not release mileage information, so no way of continuing this.
Support the adoption and implementation of a corporate travel plan for the Council.	Creation and adoption of a corporate travel plan. December 2016.	Sustainable Travel Plan produced for The Forum by Aecom. This needs to be converted into a practical plan for Dacorum Borough Council. Environmental Sustainability Officer provisionally nominated to co-ordinate. 3 x pool bicycles to be available to Council staff as of March 2017.
Replace proportion of existing Council fleet with EV and install EV charge points at Council-owned buildings. Subject to successful funding application.	Successful bid outcome. December 2015.	E-Car Club for Dacorum Borough Council staff and residents (3 x EVs) will involve the installation of an EV charge point outside the Civic Centre.
Promote and encourage the uptake of electric (plug in and hybrid) vehicles by staff via the Council's lease car and loan schemes.	No. of staff leasing or purchasing electric (plug in and hybrid) vehicles. Report annually.	EVs and hybrids are part of the lease car offering to employees. Figures to be incorporated within the Council's Air Quality Annual Status Report to Defra
Responsibility		
Dacorum Borough Council – Regulatory Services, Finance, Procurement and Fleet Manager.		

Measure	Title	
16	Encouraging smarter driving	
Key Intervention		
Raise awareness of the benefits of smarter driving techniques		
Definition	Measure / Indicator	Progress to date (February 2017)
Undertake awareness raising to encourage residents and	Incorporating messages into relevant	No progress to report to date.

businesses to adopt smarter driving methods.	communication channels and campaigns. December 2016.	
Explore the possibility of providing/obtaining smarter driving training for Council employees	Undertake sufficient research to determine whether the possibility of providing / obtaining training is viable. December 2016.	No progress to report to date.
Responsibility		
Dacorum Borough Council – Regulatory Services		

Package of Measures 4: Promoting sustainable transport options

Measure	Title	
17	Promote travel planning	
Key Intervention		
Encourage a shift to more sustainable forms of travel, or reducing the need for travel.		
Definition	Measure / Indicator	Progress to date (February 2017)
Continue to work with local businesses, schools, developers and individuals by promoting sustainable travel through travel planning.	No. of travel plans produced / year. Report annually.	Annual reporting to be incorporated within the Council's Air Quality Annual Status Report to Defra.
Investigate whether all schools within the vicinity of the three AQMAs have travel plans, and get any old travel plans refreshed.	No. of new or refreshed travel plans produced / year. December 2017.	HCC Schools Team to co-ordinate. Annual reporting to be incorporated within the Council's Air Quality Annual Status Report to Defra.
Support the creation of a corporate travel plan for the Council.	Creation of a corporate travel plan for the Council. December 2016.	Sustainable Travel Plan produced for The Forum by Aecom. Needs to be converted into a practical plan for Dacorum Borough Council. Environmental Sustainability Officer provisionally nominated to co-ordinate.
Responsibility		
Hertfordshire County Council – Schools Team and Dacorum Borough Council.		

Measure	Title	
18	Promote walking and cycling	
Key Intervention		
Encourage a shift to more sustainable, healthier forms of travel.		
Definition	Measure / Indicator	Progress to date (February 2017)

Support and promote local walking groups.	No. of new members.	Information not obtained to date.
Support the Council's Cycling Strategy.	Meet targets contained with the strategy.	No specific involvement from Regulatory Services to date.
Support and promote the Council's 'Cycle to Work' and 'Cycle Loan' schemes.	No. of applicants. Report annually.	Internal promotion undertaken by Environmental Sustainability Officer and Communications. Figures to be reported within the Council's Air Quality Annual Status Report to Defra.
Support and promote various national and local events such as 'Cycle to Work Day', Hertfordshire's 'Year of Cycling' and 'The Big Herts Cycle Challenge'	No. of participants. Report annually.	Internal promotion undertaken by Environmental Sustainability Officer and Communications. Figures to be reported within the Council's Air Quality Annual Status Report to Defra.
Encourage Council employees to walk/cycle to work.	No. of promotional campaigns. No. of employees walking/cycling to work. Report annually.	Internal promotion undertaken by Environmental Sustainability Officer and Communications. Figures to be reported within the Council's Air Quality Annual Status Report to Defra.

Responsibility

Dacorum Borough Council – Regulatory Services

In addition to the above, in November 2016, Dacorum submitted a bid application to Defra for Air Quality funding – requesting £175,000 to fund towpath upgrade (remaining unsurfaced stretch between Kings Langley and Hemel Hempstead – confirmed unsuccessful).

Measure	Title	
19	Promote the use of public transport	
Key Intervention		
Encourage a shift to more sustainable forms of transport.		
Definition	Measure / Indicator	Progress to date (February 2017)
Support Hertfordshire's Bus Strategy.	Meet targets contained with the strategy.	No contribution from Regulatory Services to report to date.
Promote available public transport discounts.	Increased bus patronage. April 2015.	No progress to report to date.
Support and promote existing bus routes (e.g. ML1 and ML2).	Increased bus patronage. April 2015.	No progress to report to date. ML1 is operational with a revised route. ML2 has not run since around 2015.
Investigate gaps in bus service (routes and timetabling)	Identify gaps and opportunities for improvement. December 2016.	No progress to report to date.

Responsibility
Hertfordshire County Council and Dacorum Borough Council

Measure	Title	
20	Promote TravelSmart projects	
Key Intervention		
To increase awareness of travel choices and encourage changes in behaviour that will contribute to improving local air quality.		
Definition	Measure / Indicator	Progress to date (February 2017)
Publicise the results of the Hemel Hempstead TravelSmart project.	Ensure the findings of the Hemel Hempstead TravelSmart project are widely publicised through the relevant communication channels (including the Council's Air Quality webpage). April 2015.	Results of Hemel Hempstead TravelSmart project were not as positive as previous projects (e.g. Watford and St Albans). However, the Active Travel Map produced for the TravelSmart project was the first walking/cycling map ever produced for Hemel Hempstead.
Explore opportunities for further TravelSmart projects within the borough.	Identify further areas and potential sources of funding. December 2016.	Sustrans have tried to get funding for work in schools. Funding is an issue. If funding allows, Sustrans would like to run another TravelSmart project in a few years. Sustrans were also working on another relatively small project called 'Active Explore' to reward people who travel by foot and cycle to certain locations in the Hemel area.
Responsibility		
Dacorum Borough Council – Regulatory Services.		