



# **HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN**

November 2004

## Index

1	Executive Summary .....	3
2	Introduction .....	4
3	Action Plan Options .....	6
4	The Consultation Process.....	10
5	Conclusion .....	11

# 1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 Under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 there is a requirement for all Local Authorities to assess their local air quality and to predict future conditions against the National Air Quality Objectives.
- 1.2 The local review of air quality takes place over several phases. This Action Plan has been compiled as a result of the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area in Lutterworth Town Centre in July 2001.
- 1.3 The Action Plan should be read in conjunction with the Stage 4 Review and Assessment. Both documents have been compiled in accordance with the requirements of the DEFRA guidance TG (03) and policy guidance LAQM.PG (03).
- 1.4 The various identified options are being appraised and a comprehensive package of measures will be developed and implemented by the various organisations with the responsibility for carrying out the improvements.
- 1.5 Any comments with regards to this Action Plan should be made in writing to:

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Adam & Eve Street  
Market Harborough  
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LE16 7AG

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## 2 Introduction

- 2.1 Under the Environment Act 1995, Harborough District Council has a duty to assess the existing local air quality and to predict future conditions against the National Air Quality Objectives.
- 2.2 The assessment of local air quality takes place over several stages and as a result of the Review and Assessment, completed in November 2000, an Air Quality Management Area was declared in Lutterworth Town Centre. A more detailed Stage 4 Review and Assessment was carried out and completed in March 2004. This report confirmed that it is unlikely that the National Air Quality Objectives for Nitrogen Dioxide are to be met. In addition, it was felt that the original Air Quality Management Area was an under estimation of the area in which the national objectives would not be met. In view of this it is proposed to extend the existing Air Quality Management Area to incorporate all the sensitive locations where it is felt that the air quality objective will not be met. The consultation of the Stage 4 document is currently being carried out.
- 2.3 The predicted levels of Nitrogen Dioxide within the extended Air Quality Management Area for 2005 have been estimated to be in the region of  $50.79\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . In order that the National Air Quality Objective of  $40\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  annual average will be met, the levels of nitrogen dioxide will have to be reduced by  $10.79\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  or 21.24%.
- 2.4 As part of the Stage 4 review and Assessment, a source apportionment exercise was carried out to identify the various contributions to the relevant pollutant. For Nitrogen Dioxide, the relevant sources could be road traffic, local background levels and industrial processes. This information can then be used to target the most appropriate action to reduce the pollutant levels.
- 2.5 As a result of carrying out this exercise, it was concluded that the highest percentage of Nitrogen Dioxide in 2005 would come from background

sources of which Harborough District Council will have little influence over. Of the remaining Nitrogen Dioxide levels, the primary source in Lutterworth will be from road traffic. In view of this any options considered in the Action Plan will address all forms of traffic, however it will aim to concentrate on the most polluting. No point sources or industrial process have been identified that would have a significant effect on the levels of Nitrogen Dioxide in the local area. Consequently no options related to emissions from point sources and industrial processes have been identified in the list of potential improvement measures.

2.6 In drawing up the Action Plan a number of existing policies/strategies have been identified which have identified air quality and/or transport as issues to be addressed. These include:

- Leicestershire County Local Transport Plan
- Leicestershire Community Strategy
- Harborough District Council Community Strategy
- Harborough District Council – “The Improving Council” – Corporate Plan 2004-2007
- Harborough District Council – Local Plans

2.7 In the Action Plan a number of options have been considered for the short, medium and long term period. Part of the consultation process will be to evaluate each of the options having regard to not only the possible improvements to the local air quality, but also the social and economic effect on the local population.

2.8 The aim of the consultation process will be to draw up a prioritised package of options that are likely to have the most significant effect to improve the air quality in Lutterworth Town Centre having regard to the social, economical and financial costs/benefits.

2.9 The range of options chosen may not result in the national objectives being reached by the target year of 2005, however annual progress report should demonstrate that any actions undertaken are working towards reaching these objectives.

### 3 Action Plan Options

3.1 A number of options have been identified that would have an influence on the local air quality. At this stage only approximate costs and timescales have been allocated to each option. In addition the options have not been prioritised in any order of preference or effectiveness. This work will be carried out as part of the Action Plan.

<b>Alteration to the Road Network</b>				
Option	Organisation Responsible	Environmental, Social and Economic Effects	Cost	Timescale
Western Relief Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LCC Traffic planners,</li> <li>Traffic management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversion of traffic from the town centre</li> <li>Reduced congestion</li> <li>Improved town centre environment</li> <li>Improved general health</li> </ul>	HIGH	LONG
Weight Restrictions on High Street/ Market Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LCC Traffic planners,</li> <li>Traffic management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction of HGV's in town</li> <li>Improved town centre environment</li> <li>Reduced congestion</li> <li>Improved general health</li> </ul>	MEDIUM	LONG
Traffic Calming measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LCC Traffic planners,</li> <li>Traffic management,</li> <li>Highway Engineers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved town centre environment</li> <li>Possible increase in emissions</li> <li>Reduction in vehicle speed</li> <li>Increased public safety</li> </ul>	HIGH	LONG
Improvements to the M1/M6/A14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highways Agency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced motorway congestion</li> <li>Reduced through traffic in Lutterworth</li> <li>Improvement to background air quality</li> </ul>	HIGH	LONG

<b>Reduction of Emissions</b>				
<b>Options</b>	<b>Organisation Responsible</b>	<b>Implications</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Car Free Days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HDC Corporate,</li> <li>Env. Health</li> <li>Local businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced congestion</li> <li>Increased awareness</li> <li>Improved health</li> </ul>	LOW / MEDIUM	Short
Support Green Transport Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HDC Env Health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced congestion</li> <li>Increased awareness</li> <li>Improved health</li> <li>Raised publicity</li> </ul>	LOW	SHORT
Promotion of car sharing scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HDC Corporate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced congestion</li> <li>Reduced cost to employees</li> </ul>	LOW	SHORT
Improved efficiency/ fuel type of HDC/contractor fleet vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HDC Corporate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced emissions</li> <li>Reduced costs to employers and contractors</li> <li>Increased general health</li> </ul>	LOW / MEDIUM	MEDIUM
Provision of Low Emission Zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LCC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced emissions</li> <li>Enhanced local environment</li> <li>Increase general health</li> <li>Reduced congestion</li> </ul>	MEDIUM / HIGH	MEDIUM
Promotion of alternative fuel uses		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise public awareness</li> <li>Reduced emissions</li> </ul>	LOW	SHORT / MEDIUM

<b>Statutory Powers</b>				
<b>Options</b>	<b>Organisation Responsible</b>	<b>Implications</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
Lobby Govt for alternative fuel promotions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HDC Corporate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise public awareness</li> <li>Reduced emissions</li> </ul>	LOW	SHORT
Lobby Leicestershire County Council to include provision of Western Relief Road development in the next LTP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HDC Corporate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced congestion</li> <li>Enhanced town centre environment</li> <li>Increased general health</li> </ul>	LOW	SHORT
Publicise the role of the LA in Air Quality Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Env Health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise public awareness</li> </ul>	LOW	SHORT
Use of planning controls to reduce impact of new development on AQMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HDC Planning</li> <li>Env Health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce emissions</li> <li>Reduced congestion</li> <li>Increased awareness of Air Quality issues</li> </ul>	LOW	SHORT
Introduction of speed restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transport planning,</li> <li>Transport management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved safety for road users and pedestrians</li> <li>Reduced congestion</li> <li>Could increase pollution</li> </ul>	MEDIUM	LONG
Provision of on street parking restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transport planning,</li> <li>Transport management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved safety</li> <li>Reduced congestion</li> <li>Possible impact on local businesses</li> </ul>	MEDIUM	LONG
Restriction of business delivery times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transport planning,</li> <li>Transport management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction of congestion</li> <li>Possible problems for local businesses</li> <li>Reduction of number of vehicles during peak times</li> </ul>	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
Road Side emission testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Env Health.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved maintenance of vehicles</li> <li>Reduction of emissions</li> <li>Time consuming for LA staff</li> <li>Increased public awareness</li> </ul>	HIGH	MEDIUM



<b>Alternative Forms of Transport</b>				
<b>Options</b>	<b>Organisation Responsible</b>	<b>Implications</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
School and business travel plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education Authority,</li> <li>• Env Health,</li> <li>• Traffic planners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of congestion</li> <li>• Raise public awareness</li> <li>• Promotion of alternative forms of transport</li> <li>• Safety implications</li> <li>• Improved health</li> </ul>	LOW	MEDIUM
Promotion of cycle plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic Planning,</li> <li>• Highways engineers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of congestion</li> <li>• Improved health</li> <li>• Raise public awareness</li> </ul>	LOW	MEDIUM
Development of cycle routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic Planning,</li> <li>• Highways engineers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced congestion</li> <li>• Improved health</li> <li>• Increase safety</li> </ul>	HIGH	LONG
Promotion of Safe Route to School scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education Authority,</li> <li>• Traffic Planners,</li> <li>• Env Health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced congestion</li> <li>• Improved health of children</li> <li>• Increased safety</li> </ul>	LOW	MEDIUM
Promotion of use of public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic Planners,</li> <li>• Public transport providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced congestion</li> <li>• Increased public awareness</li> </ul>	LOW	MEDIUM
Improved public transport provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic Planners,</li> <li>• Public Transport providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced congestion</li> </ul>	HIGH	MEDIUM

## 4 The Consultation Process.

4.1 This Action Plan should be read in conjunction with the Stage 4 Review and Assessment. The consultation process for both documents shall take place at the same time.

4.2 The following organisations/interested parties have been notified as part of the consultation process

- Secretary of State
- Environment Agency
- Highways Agency
- Leicestershire Primary Care Trust
- Leicestershire County Council
- Members of the Leicestershire and Rutland Air Quality Forum
- Neighbouring local authorities
- Parish Councils
- Lutterworth Town Council
- Internal Departments at Harborough District Council
- East Leicestershire Rural Transport Partnership
- Welland Transport Partnership
- Members of the Public

4.3 The Stage 4 Review and Assessment and other reports connected with the review and assessment process can be viewed at the Council offices and the Lutterworth Area Service Shop, addresses below:

Harborough District Council Environmental Services Adam & Eve Street Market Harborough Leicestershire	Lutterworth Area Service Shop 19/21 Market Street Lutterworth Leicestershire
01858 821130	01455 550550

4.4 Alternatively the documents can be viewed on Harborough District Council's web site [www.harborough.gov.uk](http://www.harborough.gov.uk)

4.5 Following the initial consultation process, all organisations having responsibility for any of the options identified in the Action Plan will be invited to join a working party to discuss the various options in more detail and to come up with a prioritised list of measures to be carried out.

4.6 Members of the public and other interested parties will be kept informed of any progress in this matter.

## **5 Conclusion**

5.1 This is the first Action Plan for air quality improvements within the Lutterworth Air Quality Management Area and surrounding locations. Following the publication a package of measures will be drawn up which as progressed should lead to improvements in the local air quality. The responsibility of some of the agreed measures will be the responsibility of other organisations; however Harborough District Council will work with these organisations to influence the implementation of the Action Plan.

5.2 The annual Progress Report will monitor the effectiveness of the various measures to confirm that any actions taken are working towards achieving the National Air Quality Objectives.