
Local Authority:	Suffolk Coastal District Council
Reference:	AP2-302
Date of issue	February 2018

Action Plan Appraisal Report

This Appraisal Report covers the Air Quality Action Plan submitted by Suffolk Coastal District Council for the Stratford St Andrew AQMA. The Plan sets out information on air quality obtained by the Council as part of the Local Air Quality Management process required under the Environment Act 1995 and subsequent Regulations.

The Plan states that it will be reviewed annually, with progress reports also issued annually, both to the Council and to Defra through the ASR system.

The core actions suggested by the Council and set out in the report have considered local source apportionment and emissions reductions have been modelled. These are:

1. Re-locate the 30 mph speed limit sign to 200 metres outside of the village.
2. Review and consider planning applications on the basis of air quality impact
3. Longer term measures include the inclusion of speed activated signs, speed cameras and the possible construction of a bypass around St Andrew's village. In addition, reducing the emissions from the possible expansion of the Sizewell site is also considered.

Commentary

Summary: The plan is well presented and proportionate to the small area covered by the AQMA. Acknowledgement is given that the main measure may or may not achieve the required result and that further action may be required. The comments received on the draft Action Plan have been taken into account where possible in the final version of the plan.

Supporting data: The draft plan summarises in a good succinct manner the nitrogen dioxide concentrations that have been recorded in Stratford St Andrew and the local issues. To support the development of measures, source apportionment has been presented. The comments on the draft Action Plan stated that, for traffic contributions, an estimate of the split between private hire and private vehicles would have been useful for diesel car emissions. However, SCDC has confirmed that this information is not available.

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Level of ambition: The Council are limited in what they can realistically achieve given the location of the problem and therefore what has been suggested is a reasonable way forward at the current time. However, it is noted that the target pollution reduction in the AQMA is only $2\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and yet it appears that a higher reduction may be required for the annual mean nitrogen dioxide objective to be met, as in 2015 NO_2 concentrations of 43 and $44\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ were recorded at the STA1 and STA8 sites respectively. In 2016, the Council have confirmed that the maximum concentration recorded was $2\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. If the re-location of the 30mph speed limit sign does not have the desired effect, the Council are encouraged to take steps as soon as possible to implement further actions.

Analysis: The comments on the draft Action Plan identified that it would have been useful to see the outputs from the drive cycle study. This has now been included.

Monitoring progress: Key indicators are provided for each of the measures. This includes a “reduction in NO_2 concentrations and a reduction in vehicle speed”. The comments on the draft action plan state that speed data will be collected post implementation and this is welcomed.

Additional impacts: No information is provided on the co-impacts of the measures presented, i.e. their impact on other environmental or social issues other than air quality. This could help make the case for the Core and supporting measures. These could be on a qualitative basis and demonstrate how the Plan contributes towards broader social and environmental goals for the local authority area.

This commentary is not designed to deal with every aspect of the Action Plan. It highlights a number of issues that should help the local authority in maintaining the objectives of its Action Plan, namely the improvement of air quality within the AQMA.

Issues specifically related to this appraisal can be followed up by returning the attached comment form to Defra, Welsh Assembly Government, Scottish Government or DOE, as appropriate

For any other queries please contact the Local Air Quality Management Helpdesk:
Telephone: 0800 0327 953
Email: LAQMHelpdesk@uk.bureauveritas.com

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Appraisal Response Comment Form

Contact Name:	
Contact Telephone number:	
Contact email address:	