

Local Authority:	Bracknell Forest
Reference:	AP1-290
Date of issue	28/07/14

Action Plan Appraisal Report

This Appraisal Report covers the Air Quality Action Plan report submitted by Bracknell Forest Borough Council. The Action 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. It is a final Action Plan, and covers the two AQMAs declared by the council in 2011, and amended with new boundaries in 2013.

The overall plan is clear, concise and generally follows the guidance outlined in LAQM PG(09). The plan provides comprehensive background to the review and assessment work undertaken by the Council. This includes the findings of the source apportionment exercise undertaken in the further assessment and required reductions in pollutant concentrations for the AQMA. The plan also provides an overview of other relevant policies that are likely to have a bearing on local air quality, which are drawn from LTP3. The majority delivery of the plan will be through this LTP in the Bracknell Forest district. Eighteen measures been included in the draft action plan, with the major focus being on Physical traffic management.

- Seven of the eighteen measures fall under the heading of physical traffic management for speed and flow.

Additionally there are measures in the following categories

- Commercial Delivery Strategies (1 measure)
- Public Transport Initiatives for Buses (2 measures)
- Development of Cycling and Walking (2 measures)
- Partnerships and Travel Plans (2 measures)
- Fleet Management, Clean Fuels/Additives, Green Procurement and Abatement Measures (2 measures)
- Land Use Planning (1 measure)
- Other (1 measure)

The Council is invited to take consideration of the further commentary in the finalisation of its action plan.

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Commentary

1. Bracknell Forest Borough Council has adopted a strategic approach to the update of their action plan with strong links made to other council policy which is welcomed. Further, the AQAP is closely tied to the Local Transport Plan 3.
2. The AQAP clearly outlines the air quality improvement that will be required in order to meet the National Air Quality Standards throughout each AQMA. Additionally the trends of air quality measurements at receptors in each AQMA is clearly shown. This is to be commended. The highest reduction required in NO₂ was in Downshire Way where 18 µg m⁻³ reduction is required to meet the objective.
3. Source apportionment information has been included which outlines that moving and queuing traffic was the dominant source within the AQMAs, after background levels. This is reflected in the balance of measures within the plan, which is appropriate.
4. The report recognises that improvements in air quality benefit a wider area, rather than only being relevant in the AQMA. This wider perspective is welcomed.
5. The measures presented seem appropriate to the level of pollution and the sources of emissions within the AQMAs. The Council might consider a more detailed assessment of the likely benefits of each of the measures, to enable them to understand to what extent the reduction in pollutant emissions may be achieved (or not). It is noted that this type of information is expected at a later stage for some measures (particularly physical traffic management), when detailed design of actions takes place.
6. It could be useful for the Council to include indicators for more of the key measures which would allow them to record the intended effects of each measure and monitor progress over time. For example in the draft plan Council provided information on the target for each measure (e.g. "This will reduce the need for on street loading/unloading of goods to the units along the North Eastern part of the highway"), and this has now been modified to a more robust

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indicators/ target ("This measure aims to reduce the need for on street loading/unloading of goods to the north Eastern part of the highway by 50 %"). This type of approach is welcomed and could usefully be expanded to other measures in the AQAP as it provides due focus on development of measures by the Council and its partners.

7. Finally it is noted that implementation dates are provided for all measures, which is welcomed. With more detailed assessment of impacts (of measure) the information on timing might be used to make an estimate about when the air quality in each AQMA would be improved to the point where the AQMAs could be eliminated.
8. The creation of an officer group for the plan is noted, and welcomed as a seemingly common factor for driving forward implementation, and gathering the range of expertise to consider changes or updates to the plan over time (in response to a greater understanding of measures and their impacts).
9. Overall, much work has gone into the production of this final action plan. The Council may wish to develop the actions in the plan and undertake future reporting on progress while considering the points above.

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 – or by emailing the form to reportappraisal@ttr-ltd.com.

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:	

Comments on appraisal/Further information: