

The major aims and objectives of the Partnership are:

- To facilitate a co-ordinated approach throughout Kent and Medway to the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) obligations placed on local authorities under the Environment Act 1995.
- To compile, update and maintain an Emissions Inventory of air pollution sources in and around Kent, to assist with the LAQM process.
- To comment on and influence the economic, planning and transport policies within the county so that air quality issues are properly considered and dealt with.
- To gain an understanding of the health implications associated with poor air quality and the extent to which air quality threatens the health of Kent and Medway's communities.
- To work with national agencies, neighbouring authorities and European partners to promote an awareness of air quality issues and to participate in joint initiatives to further the knowledge and understanding of air quality issues.
- Liaise with DEFRA and government bodies to assist with the implementation of the National Air Quality Strategy.

Measure 9: DBC will continue to work together the Kent and Medway Air Quality Partnership on promotional activities to raise the profile of air quality in Dartford

Pollution Control

Prescribed Industrial Processes are regulated by DBC and the Environment Agency under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 Part I A & B and subsequent Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) Regulations 2000. There are 26 permitted Part B Processes in Dartford regulated by DBC and five A1 Processes regulated by the Environment Agency.

With regard to nuisance emissions from unregulated processes, Statutory Nuisance is enforced by Environmental and Public Health Services under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 Part III and this controls smoke, dust, fumes or gas emissions from commercial and domestic premises which are causing a nuisance or are prejudicial to health. Bonfire leaflets have been produced and these are distributed when nuisance smoke problems arise.

Smoke Control Areas

The majority of Dartford Borough is within a Smoke Control Area and therefore emissions from domestic chimneys are controlled. This controls domestic smoke emissions by requiring people to burn only smokeless fuel and is enforced by Environmental Health under the Clean Air Act 1993.

Measure 10: DBC will continue to inspect all of its permitted industrial processes to ensure compliance with the PPC Regulations 2000 and will continue to enforce the Environmental Protection Act 1990 Part III and Clean Air Act 1993 to prevent nuisance emissions from unregulated processes.

Energy Management

○ Dartford Borough Council Energy Use

DBC has a Green Housekeeping Policy, which includes measures to reduce energy consumption in all its buildings. The Dartford Energy Group was established in 2002 to identify energy use within the Council. An inventory of energy use and CO₂ emissions has been undertaken to establish a baseline and set appropriate indicators. Investigations will continue into the measures available to assist with energy efficiency and the reduction of CO₂ emissions. Once the Council has assessed its own contribution to emissions, other organisations within the community will be targeted.

○ Domestic energy use

The Kent Energy Centre was set up in 2000 to provide energy efficiency advice to all sectors within the County. DBC are working in partnership with the Kent Energy Centre to promote increased energy efficiency in residential properties in the Borough. An annual Home Energy Survey is sent to residents; with advisory leaflets on help available e.g. grant schemes. The energy savings can be calculated on a 12 monthly basis and includes the likely costs of improvement works to residents.

Dartford Borough Council Housing Department provides advice direct to residents and information on grant schemes including discounts on loft insulation and cash back on condenser boiler installation. DBC also have a planned maintenance programme for Council housing stock to increase energy efficiency. This scheme is aimed at replacing windows, roof insulation and cavity wall insulation.

The Kent Energy Centre is co-ordinating the implementation of the Kent Health & Affordable Warmth Strategy (2001) on behalf of all Kent local authorities including DBC, which aims to tackle fuel poverty and promote energy efficiency measures. There is a Comprehensive Energy Savings Programme which includes projects such as distribution of energy efficient light bulbs, as well as promoting uptake of grants for improving energy efficiency and insulation. All these measures will lead to improvements in domestic energy efficiency throughout the Borough.

○ Building Control

Building Control can contribute to the development of policies for air quality improvement through the promotion of emission-reducing technologies in new developments and buildings. The Council's Building Control Service has policies in place to improve energy efficiency in buildings, as described below.

The Building Control Service has a statutory responsibility to ensure that new building works within the Borough meet minimum technical standards in relation to health, safety, welfare and energy conservation, as prescribed under the Building Regulations 1991. The Legislation sets out substantive requirements and technical guidance to achieve minimum standards. This technical guidance is contained in Approved Documents giving general guidance as well as practical guidance about some of the ways of meeting the requirements of the Regulations. Approved Document L, "Conservation of Fuel and Power" requires reasonable provision to be made for the conservation of fuel and power in buildings by:

- limiting the heat loss through the fabric of the building;
- controlling the operation of the space heating and hot water systems;
- limiting the heat loss from hot water vessels and hot water service pipe work;
- limiting the heat loss from hot water pipes and hot air ducts used for space heating; and
- installing in buildings artificial lighting systems, which are designed and constructed, to use no more fuel and power than is reasonable in the circumstances and making reasonable provision for controlling such systems.

Part L of the Building Regulations identifies the legal minimum a development needs to meet in terms of energy efficiency in the UK. However, in Kent developers should additionally look to meet more stringent demands to satisfy the aims of the Kent and Medway Structure Plan (Policy SP1 and NR1) and the overarching aim of reducing CO₂ emissions, improving energy efficiency and increasing the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources. Many of these options have direct synergies with the improvement of local air quality

The Planning Department request Ecohomes rating in new houses being built and encourage energy efficient development.

Measure 11: DBC will continue to work together with the Kent Energy Centre to promote and implement energy efficiency measures in Dartford

A summary of the proposed general Borough-wide measures to improve air quality is provided in Table 5.

Table 4 Summary of direct measures proposed for the AQMAs

Action	Description	Organisation responsible	Date to be achieved by	Cost/ Funding	Air quality improvement in AQMAs	Other potential impacts	Rank (based on cost-effectiveness)
1	Encourage modal shift through cycleway/footpath improvements	KCC	2007/8 - 2009/10	Low LTP	Low	Health benefits through exercise; reduced congestion; improved journey times	8
2	Traffic Management improvements—Dartford Town Centre UTMC	KCC	2008/9	To be confirmed LTP/ Developer	Moderate (Dartford Town and Approach Roads AQMA)	Improvements in journey times; potential for public transport improvements	2
3	Junction Improvements: St Clements A226/B255	KCC	2006/7 - 2009/10	High LTP/ Developer	High (A226 London Road AQMA)	Improvements in journey times; potential for public transport improvements	1
4	Improve emissions Standards for Council Fleet and Public Service Vehicles	DBC/ Transport operators	Ongoing	To be confirmed	Low - Moderate (dependent on level of uptake)	Socio-economic implications of increased costs to transport operators, contractors and DBC	5
5	Bus Service Improvements and Priority	KCC	2010/11	High LTP bid/ developers	Low - Moderate (dependent on level of modal shift)	Increase bus patronage; reduced congestion; safer roads; potential reduction in noise	4
6	Improvements to public transport interchanges	KCC	2006/7 - 2010/11	Moderate LTP	Low - Moderate (dependent on level of modal shift)	Increase public transport patronage; reduced congestion; safer roads; potential reduction in noise	3
7	Installation of Real Time Passenger Information	KCC	2007/8	Low LTP/ Dartford Crossing Revenue	Low	Increase bus patronage; improved public information provision; reduced congestion.	7
8	Improvements to Bean Interchange	Highways Agency	To be confirmed	High	Low - moderate (dependant on scheme proposed)	Reduction in noise and congestion; safer roads.	6

The costs are provided as: 'Low' (up to £1 million); 'Moderate' (between £1 million – £5 million); and, 'High' (greater than £5 million). -
The air quality improvements are provided as: 'Low' (<0.2µg/m³); 'Moderate' (between 0.2 – 1 µg/m³); and, 'High' (greater than 1 µg/m³). -

Table 5 Summary of Proposed General Borough-wide Measures to Improve Air Quality

Proposed measure	Description	Organisation responsible	Indicator	Date to be achieved by
1	DBC will develop a Council's Staff Travel Plan and encourage uptake of sustainable modes of transport	DBC	% modal shift to car share/public transport/walking/cycling	December 2008
2	DBC will continue to work together with KCC to encourage the uptake of Employer and School Travel Plans within the Borough.	DBC	No. of travel plans in place	Ongoing
3	DBC will continue to work with KCC to improve the facilities for cycling and walking within Dartford and encourage greater uptake.	DBC	%modal shift to cycling/walking No. miles new cycle lanes/routes	Ongoing
4	DBC Environmental Health Department will continue to work closely with the Planning Department to ensure that air quality is taken into account in the planning process when located in or close to the AQMA or in areas marginally below air quality objectives.	DBC	No. planning applications with air quality conditions/assessments	Ongoing
5	DBC will continue to work together with developers to improve sustainable transport links serving new developments.	DBC	No. planning applications where improvements secured	Ongoing
6	DBC will develop, through the Kent & Medway Air Quality Partnership, supplementary planning guidance to assist with air quality assessments of development proposals.	DBC/ K&MAQP	Completion of a Supplementary Planning Document	December 2008
7	DBC will continue their commitment to local air quality monitoring within the Borough to ensure a high standard of data is achieved to assess against air quality objectives.	DBC	No. monitoring sites; % data capture	Ongoing
8	DBC will make details of the Action Plan measures and annual progress reports available on the Website to ensure broad access to the consultation and implementation process.	DBC	Availability of recently published reports on the Website	Ongoing
9	DBC will continue to work together the Kent and Medway Air Quality Partnership on promotional activities to raise the profile of air quality in Dartford.	DBC/K&MAQ P	No. promotional activities undertaken with the Partnership	Ongoing
10	DBC will continue to inspect all of its permitted industrial processes to ensure compliance with the PPC Regulations 2000 and will continue to enforce the Environmental Protection Act 1990 Part III and Clean Air Act 1993 to prevent nuisance emissions from unregulated processes.	DBC	% Permitted processes meeting inspection and upgrade targets	Ongoing
11	DBC will continue to work together with the Kent Energy Centre to promote and implement energy efficiency measures in Dartford.	DBC	% improvement in energy efficiency SAP rating	Ongoing

7 IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

DBC will work jointly on the action plan measures with the relevant partners including Kent County Council, the Highways Agency, transport operators, schools and local businesses. To secure the necessary air quality improvements there must be involvement by all local stakeholders and DBC will actively work to encourage community participation in the process.

The implementation and effectiveness of the Action Plan will be carefully monitored through monitoring of NO₂ and PM₁₀ at relevant locations within the AQMAs. In addition, traffic flow changes on the key roads will also be assessed through the review and assessment process, and the uptake of local measures such as Travel Plans will be monitored. Indicators have been provided for the general measures to be undertaken by the Council to monitor progress annually.

The Action Plan will be integrated and aligned as far as possible with the LTP, through future progress reporting, to provide additional support to the proposed measures and allow the principal measures to be monitored. This will enable the success of proposed action plan measures to be assessed and additional measures proposed within the LTP bidding process as appropriate. Annual trajectories have been set within the 2nd LTP for the principal measures to enable progress to be monitored.

There will be regular review and assessment of the action plan proposals to evaluate progress and this will be reported annually through LAQM and 2nd Local Transport Plan progress reports.

8 DEFRA ACTION PLANNING REQUIREMENTS COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

WORK AREA	CONSIDERED/INCLUDED	LOCATION ACTION COMMENTS	IN PLAN/
Adherence to Guidelines and Consideration of Policies			
Statutory Consultees consulted?	Yes	Page 25	
Consulted with other Local Authorities and internal departments?	Yes	Page 25	
Statement of Pollutant causing AQMA?	Yes	Pages 8-9	
Principle sources of pollutants identified?	Yes	Pages 8-10	
Have other local authorities' plans and policies been considered?	Yes	Pages 15-23	
Options timetable included?	Yes	Pages 42-43	
Have options been costed?	Yes	Page 24 and 42	
Have the impacts been assessed?	Qualitatively	Page 42	
Checklist of Measures			
Have options been considered?	Yes	Pages 42-43	
How many options considered?	8 direct measures & 11 general measures	Pages 42-43	
Transport impacts assessed?	Qualitatively	Page 42	
Have air quality impacts been assessed modelled or measured?	Qualitatively	Page 42	
Have socio-economic impacts been assessed?	Qualitatively	Page 42	
Have other environmental impacts been assessed?			
Have costs been considered?	Yes	Page 24 and 42	
Appropriateness and Proportionality			
Do measures seem appropriate to the problem?	Yes, transport actions proposed for road traffic emissions source		
Have the measures been assessed?	Qualitatively	Page 42	
Are the measures likely to succeed?	If implemented, will contribute to reducing pollutant emissions in the AQMAs and borough		
Have wider impacts been assessed?	Qualitatively	Page 42	
Was the costing method appropriate?	Costs largely derived through LTP funding proposals and existing budgets		
Is it likely that the AQMA objective will be met?	No, exceedences expected beyond 2010	Pages 11-13	
Do the chosen options comply with Government Policies?	Yes		
Implementation			
Are measures realistic?	Yes, based on existing plans and strategies		
Have responsibilities been assigned to the relevant party?	Yes	Pages 42-43	
Does the assigned party have the necessary powers?	Yes		
Is the financing secure and identify who pays?	Yes	Pages 42-43	

9 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Abbreviation	Full name
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
AQS	Air Quality Strategy
BAT	Best Available Technology
CTRL	Channel Tunnel Rail Link
DBC	Dartford Borough Council
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DETR	Department for Transport and Regions
DOE	Department of the Environment
HGV	Heavy goods vehicles
KCC	Kent County Council
K&MAQN	Kent & Medway Air Quality Network
K&MAQP	Kent & Medway Air Quality Partnership
LA21	Local Agenda 21
LAQM	Local air quality management
LDD	Local Development Documents
LDF	Local Development Framework
LEZ	Low Emission Zone
LTP	Local Transport Plan
NAQS	National Air Quality Strategy
NO ₂	Nitrogen dioxide
NO _x	Oxides of nitrogen
NSCA	National Society for Clean Air
PM ₁₀	Fine particle matter less than 10µm diameter
RTPI	Real time passenger information
µg/m ³	Micrograms per cubic metre
UTMC	Urban Traffic Management Control
VMS	Variable Message Signage

10 REFERENCES

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Dartford Borough Council (2002) Dartford Local Plan 2nd Review (Deposit Version)

Dartford Borough Council (2003) Corporate Plan 2007 - 2008

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DETR (2000) The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland – Working together for Clean Air, The Stationery Office

DETR (2000) The Air Quality Regulations 2000, The Stationery Office

DOE (1997) The United Kingdom Nation Air Quality Strategy, The Stationery Office

Kent County Council (2006) Local Transport Plan for Kent 2006-11

Kent County Council and Medway Council (2006) Kent and Medway Structure Plan

Kent County Council (2003) Kent Environment Strategy

Kent County Council (2006) Kent Environment Strategy Progress Report 2005

Kent Thameside Local Strategic Partnership (2003) A Community Strategy

NSCA (2000) Air Quality Action Plans

NSCA (2001) Air Quality: Planning for Action