

Report for:


Hastings Borough Council

Air Quality Strategy

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Air Quality Strategy

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1. Introduction

ACCON UK Ltd has been commissioned by Hastings Borough Council (HBC) to produce an Air Quality Strategy.

Local Authorities have a duty under the Environment Act 1995 to review and assess the local air quality within their areas, against a set of health-based air quality objectives for a number of specific air pollutants⁽¹⁾.

Hastings Borough Council have fulfilled their obligation to identify areas within the Council area which are likely to exceed the National Air Quality Objective and declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and produced an Air Quality Action Plan (2005) in order reduce pollutant concentrations in the areas of poor air quality.

Since the implementation of the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) Hastings have continued to monitor air quality across the Borough in order to ensure that air pollutant concentrations do not compromise the health of the resident population.

2. LOCAL AIR QUALITY IN HASTINGS

ACCON UK Ltd has been commissioned by Hastings Borough Council to produce an Air Quality Strategy in order to determine improvements that can be made in respect to air quality in the Hastings Borough Council administrative area. This section of the Strategy provides a brief review of the existing air quality situation in the Hastings area.

2.1 Local Air Quality Management

Hastings Borough Council undertakes air quality monitoring across the Borough using automatic and passive diffusion tube sampling methods for Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) reporting purposes.

Hastings Borough Council declared an AQMA along the A259 (Bexhill Road) to the west of Hastings in the Bulverhythe area due to exceedances of the PM₁₀ 50µg/m³ daily mean air quality objective in December 2003. The AQMA road section included residential properties on both sides of the road, and a household waste site, which was operational at the time. As the AQMA is by the coastline, sea salt also contributed to the PM₁₀ concentrations which were measured.

2.2 Hastings Air Quality Action Plan (2005)

The Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) published in 2005, identified that over half of the annual mean PM₁₀ pollutant concentrations in the AQMA originated from regional background sources, but nearly a quarter was a result of re-suspended dust and 9% from direct exhaust emissions from Bexhill Road. Dust suppression measures including wheel washing and increased road sweeping were implemented to reduce the PM₁₀ pollutant concentrations. Following the implementation of these measures, the number of exceedances of the daily PM₁₀ levels (50µg/m³) reduced from 62 per year (2003) to less than 5 per year in 2011. As a result, it was decided to revoke the AQMA, as the AQMA area was no longer resulting in exceedances of the relevant National Air Quality Objective (NAQO).

2.3 Hasting Air Quality Management Area Revocation Report (2017)

In 2017, a report was produced by Ricardo Energy & Environment on behalf of Hastings Borough Council, for the Council to apply for the revocation of the Air Quality Management Area along the A259 (Bexhill Road) in Bulverhythe, Hastings⁽²⁾.

There have been monitored measurements of PM₁₀ and NO₂ which have been taken over a number of years in the area since the declaration of the AQMA. The robust monitoring data and trends demonstrate that there are no longer any breaches of any air quality objectives. One of the main contributors to the PM₁₀ in the area was the Pebsham landfill site, which was only accessible from the A259, which closed in 2008. Although it is not possible to quantify the exact impact of the closure of the landfill site, the closure is likely to have contributed to the reduction in emissions and air pollutant concentrations.

3. AIR QUALITY STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

The Air Quality Strategy is split into short and medium to long term actions which are identified in the Table below.

Short-term objectives for the Air Quality Strategy

Objective	Actions	Monitoring and review	By whom
Meet air quality objectives in The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010	Review annual monitoring data from the monitoring network across Hastings. Produce an Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR)	Monitor and review the Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR)	Environmental Health
Membership of Sussex Air Quality Partnership (SAQP)	Participate in the SAQP. The objectives of the partnership are to pool limited resources to provide a co-ordinated and quality-assured air quality evidence base, the dissemination of information and advice to the public and to provide a means to co-ordinate work to improve air quality (e.g. joint initiatives) Attend quarterly partnership meetings which provides a forum to share policy updates, technical knowledge, good practice and engage collectively with Public Health and transport colleagues	Ensure that the annual membership of (SAQP) is renewed	Environmental Health
Provide an efficient and effective air quality service which responds to public requests and enquiries	Regularly review and update air quality data on the Council website Publish Annual Status Report to ensure public are fully informed ⁽³⁾ Promote the Sussex Air Website and the Alert services on the Councils	Monitor and review all responses to customer requests and enquiries	Environmental Health

	website		
Raise public awareness on air quality issues as to the impacts of air quality and what they can do to help deliver cleaner air for the Borough	<p>Utilise the Councils website (2.3 million hits annually) to raise air quality issues</p> <p>Encourage vulnerable people i.e. the elderly, parents of young children, people with existing health conditions etc. to sign up to the Sussex Air Alert Service through our website⁽⁴⁾</p> <p>Publish Annual Status Report to ensure public are fully aware of air quality issues</p>	<p>Monitor and review air quality information published on the Councils website</p> <p>SAQP to monitor Uptake of Air Alert Service</p>	<p>Environmental Health</p> <p>SAQP</p>
Closer working arrangements with East Sussex County Council Public Health (ESCC PH)	Consider opportunities to work more closely with PH to promote air quality standards and issues	Monitor and review working arrangements and liaison with health bodies	Environmental Health
Protection of the environment and human health through the Local Authority Pollution Prevention and Control (LAPPC) Permitting Regime	<p>Regulate and inspect installations in line with permits and current Defra LAPPC guidance</p> <p>Survey the area periodically in order to identify any unauthorised processes</p>	Monitor and review permitting regime as part of the regulatory inspection programme	Environmental Health
Consider and address air quality issues through Hastings Local Plan – Hastings Planning Strategy	<p>Ensure the continued inclusion of Environmental Protection and air quality objectives in the local Plan</p> <p>Provide guidance to planning regarding relevant development of sites, in order to ensure that people are not exposed to existing sources of air pollution above the AQO and that new development does not result in the existing population being exposed to pollutant concentrations above the Air</p>	Monitor and review proposed development.	<p>Planning Department</p> <p>Environmental Health</p>

	<p>Quality Objectives.</p> <p>Utilise the Air Quality and Emission Mitigation Guidance for Sussex Authorities⁽⁵⁾</p>		
<p>Establish closer working arrangements with the County Council Transport Planning to secure an integrated approach to air quality</p>	<p>Establish communication flow to identify and share information that may impact on air quality</p>	<p>Monitor and review the liaison with Transport Planning</p>	<p>Environmental Health</p>
<p>Identify walking and cycle routes, cycle hire and cycle to work schemes and their potential to help deliver cleaner air for the Borough</p>	<p>Where possible help promote cycle hire and cycle to work schemes and those safe and clearly sign-posted walking and cycling routes which do not involve major roadways to encourage people to not use their car for shorter journeys</p>	<p>Monitor and review the potential for delivering cleaner air for the Borough through the Hastings Walking and Cycling Strategy published by East Sussex County Council and Hastings Borough Council</p>	<p>Environmental Health</p>
<p>Minimisation of the environmental impact from construction / demolition and development sites</p>	<p>Engage with principal contractors of construction / demolition and development activities to minimise the environmental impact on air quality from these activities</p> <p>Investigation of complaints of dust or nuisances from such activities</p> <p>Undertake site visits to liaise with principal contractors</p> <p>During site visits review and discuss environmental mitigation such as dust control measures e.g. no burning of waste on site</p> <p>Ensure site controls and use of “best practicable means” (BPM's) with the principal contractor and sub-contractors as detailed in Construction Environmental</p>	<p>Monitor and review the environmental impact of construction / demolition and development sites through complaints investigations, site visits, CEMP's and development control consultation responses</p>	<p>Environmental Health</p>

	<p>Management Plan (CEMP)</p> <p>Consultation development responses used to include appropriate conditions and informative notes to applicants to minimise any environmental impact from proposed development</p>		
<p>Investigation of public complaints involving the burning of materials or from domestic bonfires to minimise their environmental impact and to help deliver cleaner air for the Borough</p>	<p>Investigate all complaints of burning materials and domestic bonfires in accordance with corporate response times to minimise environmental impact and help deliver cleaner air for the Borough</p> <p>Take formal enforcement action under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to abate and prevent the recurrence of statutory nuisances</p>	<p>Monitor and review performance response times for complaint investigations</p> <p>Monitor and review enforcement action in line with the Environmental Health Service Enforcement Policy</p>	<p>Environmental Health</p>

Medium to long-term objectives for the Air Quality Strategy

Objective	Actions	Monitoring and review	By whom
<p>To continue to meet the air quality objectives in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010</p>	<p>Following the completion of the Priority Bus Lane, the Bexhill-Hastings Link Road and Queensway Gateway Road review and assess the local air quality management network.</p> <p>As a result of the Priority Bus Lane, the Bexhill-Hastings Link Road and Queensway Gateway Road, the traffic volume and composition may have altered. Reviewing the current air quality monitoring network and identifying areas which could see an increase of traffic as a result of these</p>	<p>Monitor and review the local air quality management network.</p>	<p>Environmental Health</p>

	developments can help plan for the future of the air quality monitoring network. This will help identify and determine where any pollutant concentrations trends are increasing or reducing.		
Effective working arrangements with ESCC Highways / Transport Planners	<p>Mutual exchange of information related to air quality arising from traffic</p> <p>Consider ESCC road traffic reports in respect of annual assessments or specific schemes</p> <p>Obtain available traffic data for traffic volume and composition to assist the review of the air quality monitoring network.</p>	Monitor and review engagement with ESCC Highways / Transport Planners	Environmental Health / ESCC Highways & Transport Planners
Effective working arrangements with Public Health to help raise awareness of links between air quality and health effects	Mutual exchange and discussion of information which links air quality to identified health effects	Monitor and review liaison and working arrangements with Public Health	Environmental Health / Public Health
Raise public awareness to the air quality impacts from domestic wood burners and stoves and what the public can do to help maintain and deliver clean air for the Borough	<p>Use the Councils website to raise awareness to the air quality impacts from domestic wood burners and stoves and what the public can do to help maintain and deliver clean air for the Borough</p> <p>Work with SAQP colleagues to identify strategies and information resources relating to the installation and effective use of wood burners and stoves to help maintain and deliver clean air for the Borough</p>	Monitor and review air quality information published on the Councils website	Environmental Health
Raise public awareness on traffic related	Use the Councils website to raise awareness of anti-idling initiatives and what the public	Monitor and review air quality information published on the	Environmental Health

<p>pollution through anti-idling campaigns to help maintain and deliver clean air for the Borough</p>	<p>can do to help maintain and deliver clean air for the Borough</p> <p>Work with SAQP colleagues to identify strategies and information resources relating to anti-idling campaigns</p>	<p>Council's website</p>	
<p>Encourage efficient and smooth driving techniques through driver training for Council employees to reduce traffic related pollution</p>	<p>Training can be provided to Council employees who drive frequently within the Borough. This can teach techniques including driving smoothly to discourage rapid acceleration and deceleration, as well as when it is best to turn a vehicle engine off when stationary</p> <p>Encourage and support all Council employees who drive whilst on Council business to complete appropriate driving technique courses such as AA Assist Training or relevant E- Learning packages.</p>	<p>Monitor and review levels of Council drivers completing training courses</p>	<p>Environmental Health / HR Department</p>
<p>Provision and expansion of the electric vehicle charging point network across the Borough to help maintain and deliver cleaner air for the Borough.</p>	<p>To support the Sustainability Manager and Policy, Partnership & Democratic Services with their role and responsibilities for the provision and expansion of the electric vehicle charging point network across the Borough.</p>	<p>To discuss, monitor and review the provision and expansion of the electric vehicle infrastructure to help maintain and deliver cleaner air for the Borough.</p>	<p>Environmental Health / Sustainability / Policy Partnership & Democratic Services</p>
<p>A green Hackney Carriage & Private Hire fleet to help maintain and deliver cleaner air for the Borough.</p>	<p>To support the Licensing Manager achieve the greenest Hackney Carriage & Private Hire fleet operating within the Borough to help maintain and deliver cleaner air</p>	<p>To monitor and review the provision of vehicles fitted with Euro VI emissions compliant or Hybrid / Electric engines across the Hackney Carriage & Private Hire fleet to help maintain and deliver cleaner air for the Borough.</p>	<p>Environmental Health / Licensing Team</p>

<p>To raise public awareness for the benefits of reducing car miles, journeys and dependency so as to deliver cleaner air for the Borough.</p> <p>To promote increased levels and opportunities for physical activity over car use to reduce traffic pollution.</p>	<p>Use the Councils website to raise awareness of the Councils Active Hastings Team and to promote increased levels and opportunities for physical activity over car use to reduce traffic pollution and deliver cleaner air for the Borough.</p>	<p>Monitor and review the Councils Active Hastings Team related information published on the Councils website</p>	<p>Environmental Health / Active Hastings Team</p>
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4. SUMMARY

In January 2019, a Clean Air Strategy was published by the Government, which includes ambitious, legally-binding international targets it has already adopted to reduce emissions of five of the most damaging air pollutants (fine particulate matter, ammonia, nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide, non-methane volatile organic compounds) by 2020 and 2030⁽⁶⁾.

The strategy recognises that since the middle of the 20th century we have addressed many of the worst impacts of air pollution through regulatory frameworks, investment by industry in cleaner processes and a shift in the fuel mix towards cleaner forms of energy. However, exposure to the pollution still present in our atmosphere is one of the UK's biggest public health challenges, shortening lifespans and damaging quality of life for many people. It also harms the natural environment, affecting our waterways, biodiversity and crop yields.

The strategy further identifies that in the past, the priority was to tackle the biggest individual sources of pollution. As these major sources of emissions have decreased, the relative contribution of smaller and more diffuse sources of air pollution, like smaller industrial sites, product use, open fires in homes and spreading manure on farms, has increased. These smaller and diffuse sources of pollution require new action and review in order to provide appropriate targeting as to where overall cumulative improvements in air quality can be achieved.

The Government's Clean Air Strategy 2019 therefore sets out the comprehensive action that is required from across all parts of Government and society to meet these goals. It identifies that new legislation will be introduced to create a stronger and more coherent framework for action to tackle air pollution. This will be underpinned by new England-wide powers to control major sources of air pollution, in line with the risk they pose to public health and the environment, plus new local powers to take action in areas where air pollution is a problem.

Following revocation of the AQMA, Hastings Borough Council has put in place this local air quality strategy to ensure that air quality remains a high profile issue. Our aim, and following the Government's recently published Strategy, will be to deliver cleaner air quality across the Borough to protect the health of its residents and to comply with the limit values specified in the air quality standards regulations⁽⁷⁾.

5. GLOSSARY

AQAP	Air Quality Action Plan
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
ASR	Annual Status Report
DECC	Department for Energy and Climate Change
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DfT	Department for Transport
ESCC	East Sussex County Council
Exceedance	A period of time when the concentration of a pollutant is greater than the appropriate air quality objective. This applies to specified locations with relevant exposure.
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle
IAQM	Institute of Air Quality Management
LAQM	Local Air Quality Management
$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Micrograms per cubic metre
NO	Nitric Oxide
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NO _x	Nitrogen Oxides (taken to be NO ₂ + NO)
Objectives	A nationally defined set of health-based concentrations for a number of pollutants setting out the extent to which the standards should be achieved by a defined date
PM ₁₀	Small airborne particles, more specifically particulate matter less than 10 micrometres in aerodynamic
Standards	A nationally defined set of concentrations for nine pollutants below which health effects do not occur or are minimal

6. REFERENCES

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