
Air Quality Policy

Document Control

Document Ref:		Date Created:	
Version:	1.3	Date Modified:	13.01.2011
Revision due			
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Owning Service	Environmental Health and Licensing – Pollution Team		
Equality Impact Assessment: (EIA)	Date undertaken:	15 th March 2011	
	Issues (if any):	None identified	



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1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 West Berkshire Council is the enforcing authority for a wide range of primary legislation functions related to air quality and its management.
- 1.2 West Berkshire Council carries out this duty by employing suitable, qualified and trained staff, who are authorised in writing to enforce the requirements of the various pieces of legislation and working with internal and external colleagues to effect changes where necessary.
- 1.3 West Berkshire Council recognise's the value of having a documented policy which sets out how air quality, within its area, will be protected and improved.

2.0 Policy Statement

- 2.1 West Berkshire Council will make effective arrangements to promote air quality and where appropriate enforce primary legislation to achieve this. This includes all associated regulations and codes of practice, with the aim of ensuring that, within its area, individuals and communities public health is protected and enhanced.

3.0 Approach

- 3.1 Promoting air quality is a key feature of Environmental Health & Licensing's (EH&L) aims and objectives. There will be ongoing pro-active work carried out to prevent incidents of public health concern.
- 3.2 Air quality legislation is designed to be a safety net for people and communities who should be protected from a reduction in air quality based on legislative standards. Officers use their professional skills to monitor the districts air quality and act on any identified problems.
- 3.3 Much of the scientific research is carried out in conjunction with external consultants, who analyse data gathered from monitoring sites and provide reports comparing local data with recognised national standards.
- 3.4 Officers use these reports to communicate with the local population about West Berkshire's air quality and inform elected members of action that can be taken to help protect and improve local conditions.
- 3.5 Officers will work in conjunction with Transport Policy officers to achieve the aims of Policy K6 within Local Transport Plan 3.

Policy LTP K6

AIR QUALITY

The Council will fulfil its responsibilities for Local Air Quality Management and focus on the following:

- i. Highlighting ways in which air quality can be protected through the development management process**
- ii. Identifying areas where the Air Quality limit values are being or are likely to be exceeded**
- iii. Establishing a framework for air quality improvements**
- iv. Investigating the feasibility of using mobile alerts to highlight periods of higher pollution levels**

3.6 In summary West Berkshire Council will:

- 3.6.1 Monitor air quality across the whole West Berkshire district.
- 3.6.2 Collate and interpret the data from the monitoring sites and publish information in a timely fashion.
- 3.6.3 Liaise with colleagues in Transport and Planning Policy to champion air quality.
- 3.6.4 Engage in the Development Control process to ensure PPS23: Pollution Control is applied appropriately.
- 3.6.5 Contribute to the production of reports to be submitted to DEFRA under the relevant legislative requirements.
- 3.6.6 Make consistent decisions in accordance with West Berkshire Council Policy.
- 3.6.7 Refer to recognised guidance issued by Governmental and Non-Governmental agency's.
- 3.6.8 Liaise with the Berkshire Environmental Health Managers group.
- 3.6.9 Ensure the continued development of its officers (both Environmental Health Officers and Technical Officers) and encourage officers to keep up to date on public health issues.

4.0 Practical Working Arrangements

- 4.1 Proactive work will be addressed through annual service planning based Government requirements and identified need/risk and will be project based.
- 4.2 Reactive intervention will be carried out following the receipt of a service request.
- 4.3 Unless in exceptional circumstances, all interventions will involve a graduated approach leading to formal action if such an approach has failed.

5.0 Roles and Responsibilities

- 5.1 Responsibility for implementation of the policy rests with the Environmental Health and Licensing Manager (EHLM).

- 5.2 The Principal EHO for Pollution is responsible for the planning, organisation and subsequent monitoring of all aspects of the policy as well as other Standards or Policy.

6.0 Quality Of The Service

- 6.1 West Berkshire Council is committed to ensuring that the highest practicable standard of service is achieved and that good customer care practice is integrated into all aspects of service delivery.
- 6.2 In meeting its duties under legislation West Berkshire Council will strive for excellence in the quality of service provided. All staff will adopt a professional approach and performance monitoring will be carried out to the standard identified within the adopted Internal Monitoring Standard's to ensure compliance with agreed targets.
- 6.3 It is the responsibility of West Berkshire Council to ensure that all officers are suitably qualified, experienced and authorised to carry out enforcement under the Act and any legislation made under the Act.
- 6.4 West Berkshire Council will ensure that all authorised officers have access to appropriate professional training and other resources required in order to maintain a high level of professionalism and competence.

7.0 Monitoring the Service

- 7.1 Having set the standards that West Berkshire Council wishes the service to achieve, it is essential that the detailed arrangements in the policy are put into practice and that the outcome is regularly monitored and reviewed.
- 7.2 Policy K6 of the Local Transport Plan 3 outlines the delivery and monitoring of its aims with the following requirements:
- 7.2.1 The development and delivery of Air Quality Action Plans
 - 7.2.2 The determination of planning applications
 - 7.2.3 Maintaining an air quality monitoring programme of both diffusion tubes and continuous monitoring at appropriate locations
 - 7.2.4 Ensuring transparent publication of air quality reports, monitoring data, policy and other information
 - 7.2.5 Annually reviewing the air quality monitoring programme
 - 7.2.6 Reviewing the air quality results of the monitoring with compliance to the limit values
 - 7.2.7 Requesting feedback on information available
- 7.3 The EHLM will in addition to the above make arrangements to monitor the following:
- 7.3.1 Compliance with agreed targets for programmed inspections.
 - 7.3.2 Compliance with agreed targets for Service Requests.
 - 7.3.3 The number of Service Requests received year to year.
 - 7.3.4 The number of training courses and candidates organised year to year for public health.

- 7.3.5 Any other agreed monitoring arrangements concerned with the Pollution Team Plan, the overall Environmental Health and Licensing Plan, and broader Council objectives relevant to the Pollution Team's activities.

8.0 Policy Review

- 8.1 This policy will be reviewed annually by the EHLM.
- 8.2 This Policy will be publically available.