

KIRKLEES DEVELOPMENT TEAM

ADVICE FOR DEVELOPERS

WHY SHOULD I READ THIS?

Air quality was made a material consideration in the planning process by the Environment Act 1995 and subsequent National Air Quality Strategy. Air Quality Objectives (AQOs) have been set for seven air pollutants in the Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000 and subsequent regulations.

If any AQO is likely to be exceeded where there are “relevant receptors” such as houses, schools, hospitals etc. then the Council is under a legal obligation to declare an “Air Quality Management Area” (AQMA) where improvements in air quality must be sought by any available means.

New developments can have an impact on air quality by the generation of additional pollution, either directly by new on-site processes or by having an effect on traffic levels and congestion. Therefore some planning applications will need to consider the effect that the development will have on air quality, or indeed the effect that local air quality will have on the development.

WHAT IS AN AIR QUALITY ASSESSMENT?

Advice on environmental impact assessment is given in Planning Policy Statement 23 “Planning and Pollution Control”. The full extent of an air quality assessment should be discussed with Kirklees’ Scientific Services section of Environmental Services, in pre-application discussions. In general an air quality impact assessment will comprise an assessment of pollution levels in the locality of the proposed development and predictions of pollution levels after the development is in place. It may also include measures to mitigate or minimise the air quality impacts of the development.

DO I NEED AN AIR QUALITY ASSESSMENT?

Developments in many areas of Kirklees will not require an air quality assessment. Some locations in Kirklees actually exceed the annual average AQO for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), but this so far has not been a problem because there are no relevant receptors in those areas. In these locations it is possible that a recommendation for refusal of planning permission, on air quality grounds, would be made for proposed residential developments. The main source of NO₂ in Kirklees is road traffic and some locations in Kirklees, near busy roads are borderline for complying with the NO₂ AQO. New developments in or near these areas could increase NO₂ pollution levels above the AQO objective level. In these circumstances an air quality assessment would be required

The location of these sensitive areas has been published in the Local Transport Plan and in our annual reports to DEFRA.

It is recommended that you contact Environmental Services (Scientific Services) to discuss whether an air quality assessment will be necessary.

WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED TO PROVIDE?

This work requires detailed information, particularly about traffic movements, and it will normally link closely to transport assessments. For larger developments this information will be part of an Environmental Impact Assessment. The general requirements are outlined in the template on the next page

WHEN SHOULD I DO THIS?

You should identify if an air quality assessment is necessary in pre-application discussions with Planning Services and Environmental Services. The assessment itself may take some time to compile and the extent and methodology should be agreed in scoping discussions with Environmental Services. The full assessment should be submitted with your planning application.

WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION?

Further information is available from the following sources:

Web resources

www.airquality.co.uk

www.uwe.ac.uk/aqm/

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/index.htm

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1143916>

Kirklees Council Contacts

Scientific Services (tel: 01484 226477)

Environmental Services

Riverbank Court

Wakefield Road

Aspley

Huddersfield

HD5 9AA

OUTLINE OF EXPECTED CONTENTS OF AN AIR QUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1. Baseline conditions at time of commencement

Background pollutant levels

Existing traffic flows – in AADT, speeds, effects on junctions (which may be some distance from the development)

Relevant sources of pollution affecting the area

Relevant monitoring information for the area, or justified surrogate information

2. Business as usual scenario

Prediction of pollutant levels at estimated time of completion of the development if the development had not taken place and for 2010

3. Changes arising due to the development

In construction phase

Quantified effects on traffic flows –increased (AADT), speeds, effects on junctions

Any additional sources of relevant pollution

4. On completion and in 2010

Quantified effects on traffic flows –increased (AADT), speeds, effects on junctions

Any additional sources of relevant pollution

5. Relevant receptors in the area

Locations where people might be affected by the changes in air quality associated with the development

6. Assessment of the impact

Quantitative assessment of the air quality impacts using an agreed model (e.g. DMRB)

Other assessments air quality impacts e.g. dust in construction phase.

7. Any proposals regarding adverse impacts and their mitigation

Sources of information should be referenced or agreed with Kirklees.