

**DARTFORD BC ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT 2009**

SUMMARY OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED MEASURES: TABLE 1	RESPONSIBILITY	TARGET DATE (TIME SCALE)	RELATIVE AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT	PROGRESS
Ranking 1 (Low) – 3 (High)				
<b>A282 Tunnel Approach Road measures:</b> Lobbying Central Government for national actions a) to c) on the A282	DBC, KCC	2002 (short term)	Dependant on outcome	DBC continues to lobby the Government for action to reduce congestion at the Dartford toll crossing
a) Improved existing rail freight infrastructure	Central government	Yet to be agreed (long term)	Removal 50% HGVs – up to 27% NO <sub>2</sub>	No feedback to DBC
b) New rail freight infrastructure			as above	No feedback to DBC
c) New Lower Thames Crossing			Removal 25% flow – up to 15% NO <sub>2</sub>	The Department for Transport (DfT) commissioned a study into ways to address capacity constraints at the Dartford-Thurrock River Crossing. This study identified that there is an existing problem, in terms of capacity and operational performance. Options for improvement include: Making Better Use of the crossing redesign of the toll plaza and three major options for a new crossing. Dartford Borough Council opposes the option for this additional crossing to be at the site of the existing crossing.
Speed restriction and enforcement	HA, Kent Police	Yet to be agreed (short/ medium term)	50mph – up to 14%NO <sub>2</sub>	Speed restrictions were brought in for northbound traffic approaching toll plaza in December 2005 – Monitoring in the area has not shown this to have had any benefit on the air quality.
Use of variable message signs	HA, Kent Police, KCC		1	Discussed with HA but no action.

Assessment of the impact of the toll system	HA, DRC		Dependant on outcome	Toll pricing was changed November 2008 prices were raised for daytime crossings and scrapped for night time crossings. There has been no observed improvement in congestion following this. A study has been commissioned by SEEDA into vehicle emissions arising from queuing at the crossing to identify possible options for managing pollutant and carbon reduction.
Improved screening	HA		Restricted benefits -up to 38% NO <sub>2</sub>	An Environmental study commissioned by the Highways Agency commenced in August 2008 to investigate if any measures can be implemented to improve the air quality adjacent to the A282 including extra planting and screening. The outcome of this study is awaited.
<b>Borough wide measures:</b>				
<i>Planning policy:</i>				
Local Plan Review adoption of policies on improving air quality	DBC	2004 (medium/long term)	1 - 2	Air Quality is included within the Local Development Framework core strategy.
<i>Transport Planning:</i>				
Public transport infrastructure improvements: Fastrack	KCC, DBC	2004 (medium) £15 million (Phase1)	1 - 2	Fastrack began operation in 2006 and is planned to ultimately connect nearly all of the major existing and new developments in Dartford. Passenger surveys were carried out in October 2006 which showed that 19% of our passengers had previously used a car for the trip now being made on Fastrack. These surveys were repeated in 2007 and 17% said they would previously have used a car.

SUMMARY OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED MEASURES : TABLE 2	RESPONSIBILITY	TARGET DATE (TIME SCALE)	RELATIVE AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT	PROGRESS
Ranking 1 (Low) – 3 (High)				
<i>Green transport initiatives:</i>				
Development and implementation of a Council Travel Plan	DBC	2002 draft (short - medium term)	1	A programme of staff travel surveys has been carried out and initiatives have been implemented to identify the travel habits of staff to form a database of potential car sharers. Dartford Borough Council is currently part of the Kent Car Share Scheme
Ad hoc advice to businesses on travel plans	DBC	2002 -3 (short term)	1-2	No progress
Encourage KCC to develop and implement a Borough Transport Strategy	DBC	2002 draft (medium term)	1-2	Kent County Council has produced a Local Transport Plan for Kent 2006- 2011. Air quality along with Accessibility Congestion and Road Safety are the four shared priorities of this plan. Policies have been drawn up to help deliver these shared priorities. Policy ECH 1 for Air Quality states that 'KCC will work with partners to seek a reduction in pollution caused by traffic on the local road network'
Encouraging cleaner vehicles and quality partnerships with operators	DBC	2002 (medium term)	2	Being carried out (e.g. cleaner fuel technology for Fast Track) LPG vehicles in use with council landscape contractors.
<i>Pollution controls for domestic emissions:</i>				
Enforcement of statutory nuisance legislation	DBC	Ongoing	1	Being carried out
Home energy efficiency measures	DBC/KCC	Ongoing	1	The Sustainable Home Energy Strategy and Action Plan is currently being revised. The existing Action Plan lists over 50 actions to be undertaken to reduce home energy usage measures include:

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home Energy Conservation Act survey.</li> <li>• Promotion of British Gas Tax rebate scheme to encourage homeowners to install insulation.</li> <li>• Promotion of Government Grant Warm Front.</li> <li>• In August 2006 1000 homes were targeted with information about renewable energy.</li> <li>• A successful application made to National Energy Action.</li> <li>• Negotiations with British Gas relating to energy efficiency measures in Council Housing Stock.</li> </ul>
Enforcement of Smoke Control Area	DBC	Ongoing	1	Being carried out
Bonfire leaflets and advice	DBC	Ongoing	1	Being carried out
<i>Pollution controls for industrial emissions:</i>				
Planning conditions and development controls	DBC	Ongoing	2	Being carried out
Licensing and enforcement of IPC and LAQM (IPPC) regulated processes	DBC/EA	Ongoing	2	Being carried out
Enforcement of statutory nuisance legislation	DBC	Ongoing	1	Being carried out
<i>Local Air Quality Management:</i>				
Review of air quality monitoring needs	DBC	Ongoing	1	Being carried out
Commitment to future air quality monitoring	DBC		1	In place.

SUMMARY OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED MEASURES : TABLE 3	RESPONSIBILITY	TARGET DATE (TIME SCALE)	RELATIVE AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT	PROGRESS
<p>Ranking 1 (Low) – 3 (High)</p> <p><i>Local Air Quality Management:</i></p>				
Commitment to partnership working (action plan working group and KAQP)	DBC, KCC, HA, EA, LA's	Ongoing	1	Being carried out. Development of Kent wide planning guidance for Air Quality currently being formulated.
Development and implementation of a local air quality strategy for Dartford	DBC	2002 draft (short term)	1-2	Not in place as yet progress has been made in the development of a strategy.
Potential for regulatory vehicle emissions testing investigated	DBC	2002 (short term)	1	Not practicable
<i>Energy management:</i>				
Energy efficiency schemes domestic and commercial	DBC/KCC	Ongoing	1	Dartford Borough Council was one of 65 Local Authorities to take part in Phase 6 of the Carbon Trust Local Authority Carbon Management Programme between May 2008 and March 2009. The Carbon Management Plan proposes a 35% target reduction in CO2 emissions to be achieved by 2012.
Energy awareness	DBC/KCC	Ongoing	1	Ongoing
Building Control measures	DBC	Ongoing	1	Ongoing
<i>Environmental promotion:</i>				
Improved awareness and dissemination of air quality information, including development of the DBC web site	DBC	2002 -3 (short term)	1	Kent Air Website provides information on Air Quality and Monitoring Data.
Ad hoc talks to schools on LA21	DBC	Ongoing	1	The ethos of LA21 has been drawn into the community strategy. Talks to schools take place on various environmental subjects

Vehicle emissions testing- promotion of free testing locally.	DBC	2002 (short term)	1	No DBC vehicle emission testing but some prior promotion of vehicle testing.
Liaise with Health Authority on provision of information and advice on health effects	DBC, Health authority	2002 (short term)	1	A subgroup of the Kent & Medway Air Quality Partnership has been set up to concentrate on health effects.

DBC –Dartford Borough Council; KCC – Kent County Council; EA – Environment Agency; HA – Highways Agency; LA – local authorities; DRC – Dartford River Crossing Concessionaire