

Local Air Quality Management Review – options for a future regime

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Overview of Presentation

- ▶ Basis for Review
- ▶ Options Development
- ▶ Key Research Messages
- ▶ Potential Quick Wins
- ▶ Future Assessment Options
- ▶ Questions for Discussion

Basis for Review

▶ Follows on from:

- ▷ IHPC Review in 2010
- ▷ PM₁₀ and NO₂ time extension process
- ▷ Localism Act – more decision making at local level
- ▷ Red Tape Challenge – simplify and focus on compliance

▶ Issues for Review:

- ▷ Local authorities have powers to influence air quality - planning, transport development etc
- ▷ Greater decision making at local level
- ▷ Local authorities want clarity on roles and responsibilities and action they can take to improve air quality
- ▷ Government wants those with relevant powers to take action to address key issues

Red Tape Challenge

▶ Red Tape Challenge Aims

- ▶ Shift focus from review and assessment to what is needed to comply with EU obligations
- ▶ Review roles and responsibilities to ensure those with relevant powers take action
- ▶ Review role of transport measures
- ▶ Consolidate and simplify regulations

Key Questions

- ▶ How to prioritise air quality as a local issue?
- ▶ How can LAQM be reorganised to focus on action where it is needed?
- ▶ What measures can local authorities take to improve air quality?
- ▶ What role should local review and assessment have in improving air quality?
- ▶ What role should reporting play in driving improvements?

Options Development

- ▶ Four scenarios for future air quality management:
 - ▷ Gradual evolution – business as usual
 - ▷ Focus on action planning and reporting
 - ▷ Focus on EU obligations
 - ▷ Local air quality a consideration in transport and planning but no formal LAQM duties

Options Development

- ▶ Which approach will most help focus local action on air quality?
- ▶ Which approach will most support clarity on roles and responsibilities?
- ▶ Which approach will best engage the public?
- ▶ Which approach will most support effective use of transport and other powers?

Key Research Messages

- ▶ Strong support to retain concentrations based metrics to link to health drivers, but opportunities to enhance role of emissions data within the process.
- ▶ Clear opportunities to reduce burden, in terms of reduced reporting and through provision of tools and guidance.
- ▶ Clear need for improved support on Action Planning such as tools, guidance and national frameworks.
- ▶ Value of evidence base for policy development and development control should not be overlooked.

Possible Quick Wins..

- ▶ Review Regulations – number of pollutants /dates.
- ▶ Reduce reporting burden
 - ▷ No requirement for USAs and Further Assessments
 - ▷ New format for progress reports to create public facing State of the Environment Reports.
- ▶ Reduce time/resource inputs to action planning, investigate tools and guidance for:
 - ▷ Selection of measures – standardised approaches to action planning based on the pollutant and environmental situation.
 - ▷ Quantification – improved case study examples, sharing of measures assessment data, online database of action plans.
- ▶ Investigate national frameworks eg Low Emission Zones

Future Assessment Approaches?

▶ **Enhance the role of emissions data:**

- ▶ Hybrid approach: emissions as intermediary step to concentrations but not end target, retain health focus.
- ▶ Focus on scale of issue: hotspots/borough wide emissions reduction
- ▶ Role in communicating/explaining measure selection and impact.
- ▶ Alignment with LA climate change targets and national PM2.5 exposure reduction.

▶ **Communication and purpose of national and local assessment:**

- ▶ Improve communication of national compliance assessment.
- ▶ Define local authority data needs for public information, action planning and evidence base for development control.
- ▶ Potential role of INSPIRE data standards/Linked Data to access LA monitoring data and information on air quality action planning.

Questions for Discussion

- ▶ What is the role of local authorities in protecting air quality/public health?
- ▶ Can LAs action be significant enough to help demonstrate compliance with NO₂ Limit Values? What is role of local authorities in national compliance?
- ▶ Should objectives be replaced by limit values? What impact would this have on the approach to air quality assessment? Is the difference between public exposure and public access understood/important?
- ▶ Do Defra communicate the national assessment method and results clearly enough – how could this be used locally?
- ▶ What would be the pros and cons of public scrutiny of state of the environment progress reports?
- ▶ How might air quality emissions reductions approaches be integrated with LAQM and carbon/GHG targets and PM_{2.5} reduction?