

# Controlling Emissions from Construction Sites

Gary Mahoney  
SMBC

## **An Apology**

I will certainly be raising more questions  
than I give answers

## The Problem

- Transitory
- Traditionally seen as nuisance issue
- Controls (if any) have been based on this

## The problem

- Work by Gary Fuller showed material tracked from construction sites contributed to local PM<sub>10</sub>
- Work by Andrew Whittles showed impact of non road vehicles on construction sites on air quality

## Tackling the problem

- As part of the Low Emissions Strategy work being undertaken in the City region Sefton have led on developing a code of practice to control construction emissions
- Discussions started at Merseyside and Cheshire Pollution Officers Group
- During discussion it became apparent that member authorities did not have a comprehensive best practice guide aimed at controlling dust and emissions from these sites.

## Tackling the problem

- A number of Authorities did have basic guidance documents in relation to the control specifically of dust .
- An example Best Practice guide produced by the GLA and London Councils was circulated to all members for comment and further discussion.

# Adaptation of the Code

- Discussion on how to proceed followed and some members raised concerns that a document similar in detail to the London guide may not be appropriate for some of the smaller more rural member authorities.
- Issues were also raised regarding the London guide as it specifies restrictions in the use of certain types of plant and vehicle and in certain circumstances specifies the actual level of emission control technology required i.e. euro 4 / euro5. Again this level of control may not be appropriate for Merseyside authorities

## Adaptation of the Code

- It was agreed that a draft Merseyside good practice guide would be produced taking into account member comments and existing guides and circulated for discussion?



## The Code

- Based on the London code
- Adapted to local circumstances
- Developed through the 'Pollution officers Group to secure buy in'
- Regional basis to reduce concerns about discouraging development
- Other authorities supportive
- But not necessarily their priority

## Issues

- Will focus on dusty activities and will not seriously tackle NRMM
- Enforcement
  - Current climate – lack of staff
  - Particularly with regard to NMR

## Key Question

- Group feels the adapted code is practical and enforceable.

**BUT**

- Have provisions been made applicable to the local situation or watered down

**MY VIEW**

- It's the start of a process

## Wider Issues

- What is the impact of pollution from construction sites on wider air quality?
- How long should construction activity be going on for before it is considered in air quality assessments, if at all?
- How much activity in what size of area would be likely to affect air quality
- How should NMR be dealt with?

## Information requirements

- Do we have good information on emissions
- Do we have good information on effectiveness of measures
- Need to develop a common understanding / approach - but how can this be done in times of 'localism' and pulling back from 'guidance' - role for IAQM / EPUK / IAPSC / LESP ?

## A low Emissions Approach

- Consider as part of an overall Low Emissions Strategy for any development.
  - Developers could be asked to provide estimate of emissions for construction phase (including NMR) and include in overall Les for development. Emissions reduction could be during construction or increased emissions reductions from operational phase could offset some construction emissions