

27th July 2022

Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) 2023 -2028 (update)
Engage with key stakeholders prior to public consultation

Swale Borough Council (SBC) are reviewing and updating our Air Quality Action Plan which expires at the end of 2022. As part of the Action Planning process (shown in figure 1) the councils AQAP Steering Group has reviewed the current AQAP measures and decided potential measures to be taken forward as part of the update. As part of this process, we have removed some measures (appendix 1) and replaced them with updated measures shown in table 1. We are now looking to consult key stakeholders as part of the Action Planning Process, prior to SBC Committee and formal public consultation (table 1).

Overview of declaration changes: The current AQAP has five locations identified which exceed the annual air quality standard (AQS) for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). In 2020, an additional sixth AQMA was declared at the site Keycol Hill, which will be included in the update. A separate section will also be added to cover the additional declaration PM₁₀ exceedances at St Paul's Street AQMA and as part of this may include additional PM targeted measures.

The measures below have been assessed and prioritised against the following criteria:

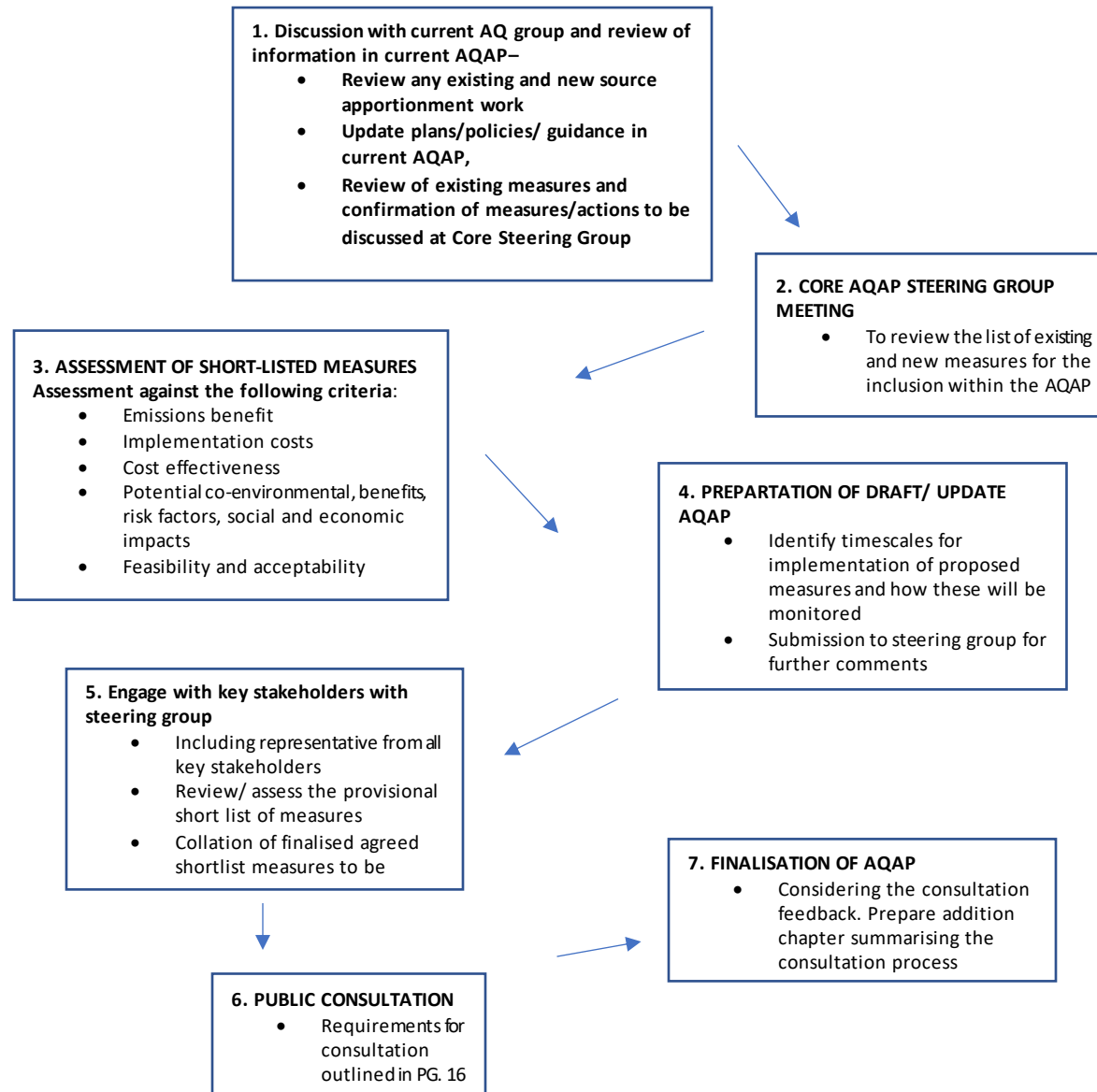
- Emissions benefit and cost effectiveness
- Potential co-environmental, benefits, risk factors, social and economic impacts
- Feasibility and acceptability
- Decisions also supported by source apportionment work undertaken along St Paul's Street in 2021 and the Clean Air Zone Feasibility study undertaken in 2020

The Steering Group is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the delivery of the AQAP to ensure measures are kept on-track and report progress back to Defra. This steering group is made up from the key stakeholder partners; led by Swale Council (Mid Kent Environmental Health) and supported by Kent County Council (KCC) and SBC Council members

As part of this stage, we aim to:

1. To provide all key stakeholders with an overview of the local air quality management and action planning process including the statutory obligations placed on SBC with regards to the Action Plan.
2. To present a summary of the air quality issues within the AQMAs.
3. To present the findings of the assessment of short-listed measures, seek feedback from key stakeholders regarding each of the measures, and where possible, agree the measures that should be included within the draft AQAP.

Figure 1: Action planning process



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We would be grateful for your comments on the updated measures below:

Measure No.	AQAP measures (2023 - 2028)	Stakeholder's comments
1	Complete an LCWIP for the district and work with KCC to improve of Swale's walking and cycling infrastructure	
2	Continue to develop Air Quality standards within new Local Plan and KCC development planning control through planning responses	
3	Work in partnership with Medway Council and KCC to agree mitigation and mechanism to manage transboundary impacts from development on air quality between Newington and Rainham.	
4	Continue to improve and develop the EV infrastructure in line with the Electric Vehicle Strategy 2022-2030	
5	Continue anti-idling enforcement and educational campaign	
6	Car clubs and EV bike hire schemes on development and public spaces in line with SBC EV Strategy and CEE plan.	
7	Explore incentives for business electric vehicle charging/ ownership - replacement for the older car and LGV fleet	
8	Air pollution alerts and information	
9	Promote and encourage change of transport modes	
10	"20 is plenty" zones - to be monitored and reviewed for AQMAs	

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11	Review low emission taxi licencing and explore promotional opportunities for endorsement of low emission vehicles	
12	Public transport improvements to bus infrastructure/service	
13	Explore opportunities to set up a Bus Gate – limiting LGV or HGV using St Paul's Street and cars on East Street	
14	Explore opportunities for EV charge points at AQMA's: Newington (Village Hall), Ospringe (SBC car park), East Street (Tesco car park or nearby schools) St Paul's Street (businesses nearby)	
15	Cut back and regular maintenance of trees on KCC owned land that are creating canyon effects and reducing air quality	
16	Explore and complete feasible AQMA specific traffic management options	

Table 1. Swale Borough Councils Air Quality Action Plan measures for the period of 2023 to 2028 and stakeholders' comments

Appendix 1. Reason for changes to current measures

Current measures 2022		Comments	
Strategic measures	1	HGV “Clear Air Corridor”	Clean Air Zone (CAZ) Feasibility study – Options for this was given thorough consideration. The non - charging CAZ option without enforcement, was not supported by the highway’s authority. A package of priority measures is supported and incorporated in this AQAP update and Swale's Transport Strategy. These measures aim to improve active travel, reduce car use, improve traffic flow, and improve the vehicle fleet along the A2.
	2	Air Quality and Low Emission Strategy	This measure has been removed, as we do not currently have an Air Quality and Low Emission strategy. Other action plans and strategies that this will come under: AQAP 2023 - 2028; Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan (22 April 2020); SBCs EV Strategy
	3	Develop't of Air Quality standards within new Local Plan	We have pulled together measures 3 and 5 (Updated name: Continue to develop Air Quality standards within new Local Plan and KCC development control policies), as both come under 'Policy Guidance and Development Control'
	4	“Clear Air Corridor” signage and information scheme”	Please see comments above
	5	KCC development control policies	Removed - please see above

	6	Swale Freight Management Plan (2016)	This measure has been removed. This will link with and be reported on through SBCs Transport Strategy.
	7	Air pollution alerts and information	<u>No changes made.</u>
	8	Eco Stars	This measure has been discontinued due to Eco-stars not having the Emissions Toolkit to measure the direct improvement on air quality from members implementing improvement measures.
Localised measures	1	Local school and business travel plans	This measure will be removed and renamed for two separate measures: 1. Educational campaigns for schools and 2. Explore incentives for electric vehicle charging/ ownership for businesses - replacement for the older car and LGV fleet
	2	Pinch-point parking alternatives (red-route)	Further research is required and is to be delivered as part of the Local Plan via any new developments.
	3	“20 is plenty” zones	Edited - “20's plenty” zones - to be monitored and reviewed for AQMAs
	4	Quiet delivery zones	This measure has been removed because it has not been completed and shall be reviewed as part of Swales LCWIP.

5	Local LEV car-club	<u>Renamed: Car clubs and EV bike hire schemes on development and public spaces in line with Swales EV Strategy and CEE Action Plan.</u>
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