


DEFRA LOCAL AUTHORITY AIR QUALITY GRANT 2012/13 PROGRESS REPORTING

Under the air quality grant terms and conditions, local authorities awarded grant are required to provide a progress report on the supported project(s) around November the year after the grant has been paid to the authority. Reports should be provided on an annual basis for the duration of the project, including a report produced upon completion of the project. The form set out below should be used to report progress in all cases. Please return completed form/s to the email address; air.quality@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

1. Local authority name, key contact details and project title/code.

Please provide the lead local authority name, contact details for the lead project contact and the title and reference number of the project.


South Oxford District Council


Low Emission Strategy Project

2. Provide a brief description of the project.

Please provide a brief description of the project and its aims. Please include details of project partners and division of work. Refer to Section 2 of the Project Plan if no changes to initial plans have occurred (300 words or less).

Project aim and objective:

The key aims of the LES will be to reduce emissions of NO_x from road transport and improving concentrations of NO₂, through the development of an integrated model approach that can be transferred to other local authorities. This work will also draw upon lessons learnt from Oxford City Council during their LEZ feasibility process. The objectives of the project include:

i) The production of an overarching LES, incorporating all policy areas capable of influencing NO_x emission reductions from transport and potential NO₂ concentration reductions within the AQMAs. The LES will be informed by:

ii) Undertaking a LEZ feasibility assessment, including quantifying the impact on emissions and a cost benefit analysis & health impact evaluation. Various enforcement approaches will be considered along with different restrictions on fleet movements.

iii) The production of a LES/LEZ implementation plan, covering 2013 to 2015

The project is scheduled to be undertaken over 18 months to allow for the duration of analysis, policy development and adoption cycles.

This project will directly feed into the Councils Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) which is currently being updated. Road traffic is the dominant source of NO₂ concentrations. The AQAP acknowledges this and outlines plans to design and deliver a Low Emission Strategy (LES) for the Henley-on-Thames and Wallingford urban areas, focussing on targeted emission reduction in this sector.

Annual mean NO₂ concentrations in these areas are up to 62 µg m⁻³. The completed project will not only aim to provide information on emission impact of proposed options but also to build an evidence base to consider these options to enable local decision makers to implement the most cost effective options to improve the air quality and attain the NO₂ Limit Value by 2015.

Project Status	Y/N?
Is the project complete?	N

3. Please indicate which study area(s) / emissions source(s) are relevant to this project.

Study Area(s)	Y/N?	Emission Source	Y/N?	Pollutant	Y/N?
Low Emission Zones	y	Cars	y	NO ₂	y
Emissions Abatement Technology	y	HGVs	y	PM ₁₀	
Remote Sensing	y	Buses	y	Other	
Communication	y	Trains			
Monitoring	n	Biomass			
Modelling	y	Other			
Behavioural Change	y				
Fleet Improvement	y				
Traffic Management	y				
Other					

4. Progress to Date

Please provide a brief description of the work carried out to date (500 words or less), with reference to key milestones. This should include whether or not the project is proceeding in accordance with the estimated timescales in Sections 3 & 4 of the Project Plan. Where delays have occurred, an indication of revised project timescales should be provided.

To date tasks 1-4 from work package 1 have been completed.

1-Starting project meeting between South Oxfordshire DC / Oxfordshire CC and Consultant (SODC to lead)

2-Identification of the relevant stakeholders to form steering group. External consultation stakeholders to be identified. (SODC to lead , consultation with Oxfordshire CC)

3-Collation and analysis of relevant policy via stakeholder consultation meeting. (Consultant).

4-Review and recommendations for work package 2. (Consultant lead with SODC and OCC)

The key themes identified from this work package to be taken forward and developed are:

Low emission planning

- Strategic approach to development allocation – look at allocations, assess potential trip generation, total emissions generation and potential impact on AQMA
- Developer guidance – already in AQAP, but to review

Low emission procurement and licencing

- Set standards for transport services
- Consider transport impact of wider services
- Support local low emission business – e.g. low emission taxis, low emission deliveries, etc
- Emission standards for taxis

Electric vehicle strategy

- Electrify own fleet
- Charging points (AQAP)
 - Council car parks
 - Partnership approach for others – businesses, supply companies,
 - Planning
- Reduced parking charges for EV's (AQAP)
- Working with local suppliers/promotion events
- Target EV numbers? – 10% by 2020

Bus emissions strategy

- Euro 4 min for all AQMA – agree at county level
 - Effectively a bus LEZ
- Eco-driving for all bus operators – agree at county level
- Bus only river crossing in Wallingford? (LTP funding) or Bus/HGV LEZ

Freight emissions strategy

- Freight LEZ for Wallingford and Henley
- Low emission loading bays – potentially alternative route to Freight LEZ
- Freight clear ways/remove parking and link to load bay strategy – to improve vehicle flows in congested areas
 - Wattlington/Heanly/Wallingford
- Consolidation
- Ecostars/driver training
- Interactive freight map/app (use google maps)

Promoting low emission behaviours

- Anti-idling campaign - some emissions work on this
- Transport, AQ and Health campaigns
 - Work with health bodies
 - Work with local groups
- Low emission vehicles and driving
- Link into Oxfordshire air thoughts website
- Community days
 - Walking/cycling
 - Green vehicles
- Free bus travel within Wallingford and Henley? – (like Heathrow bus area)
- Target 10% switch in key areas of Wallingford and Henley?

Delays have meant that the project is likely to be completed in November of 2015 instead of September

5. **Project Outputs**

Please provide a summary of any initial or final observations / conclusions that can be drawn from the project, and in particular, details of any observed or estimated reductions in emissions and / or pollutant concentrations (500 words or less).

A complete list of project outputs (both completed and expected) should also be provided including the date of publication and location / source from which the outputs can be obtained. Electronic copies of any completed outputs should be submitted alongside this form.

Aside from the outcomes of the work package 1 listed above, the initial observations have been very positive. There are good opportunities along with stakeholder will, to make the low emission changes identified.

Good working relationships and education of stakeholders has been developed and will enable better delivery of both the tasks within this project but has also formed a platform for good future working on aspects beyond the scope of this project.

The final expected outputs of this project are

- The production of an overarching LES, incorporating all policy areas capable of influencing NOx emission reductions from transport and potential NO2 concentration reductions within the AQMAs.
- Undertaking a LEZ feasibility assessment, including quantifying the impact on emissions and a cost benefit analysis & health impact evaluation. Various enforcement approaches will be considered along with different restrictions on fleet movements.
- The production of a LES/LEZ implementation plan, covering 2013 to 2015

6. Problems faced

Please provide a brief description of any problems faced or anticipated that may or have affected project outcomes or the timescales for delivery (500 words or less).

There were difficulties in identifying the right people to attend the stakeholder group. Alongside an initial delay in holding the first stakeholder meeting due to summer holidays and availability, these issues have potentially delayed the project by 3 months.

7. Knowledge Transfer

Where possible, please provide an evaluation of the project against the plans for knowledge transfer detailed in Section 5 of the Project Plan (500 words or less)

Knowledge transfer in terms of other authorities has so far been a target for the end of the project once outcomes to relay have been achieved. Updates of the project progress and findings however are being fed back throughout the project to the Oxford Air Quality Group and the Thames Valley Environmental Protection Group.

8. Project Evaluation

Where possible, please provide an evaluation of the project against the success criteria detailed in Section 7 of the Project Plan (500 words or less)

The project tasks that have been completed so far have been successful

9. Financial Performance.

Please provide details of the anticipated project spend at this stage of the project, the actual project spend, and the reasons for any difference between these figures.

No changes in project spend have occurred to date.

Signature of Officer at the local authority



Name of local authority

South Oxford District Council

Date

16/10/2013

1000