



Harrogate
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)



Adopted June 2021

Contents

| | |
|--|----------|
| 1 Introduction | 2 |
| 2 Policy Context | 3 |
| 3 When are Air Quality Assessment and Dust Assessment Reports required? | 4 |
| 4 Mitigation | 6 |
| 5 Assessment | 8 |
| 6 Contacts | 9 |

1 Introduction

Introduction

- 1.1 The Harrogate District Local Plan 2014-2035 was adopted in 2020. This document seeks to provide additional background, help and guidance in relation to Policy NE1: Air Quality.
- 1.2 In the Harrogate District, transport related emissions are the largest source of poor air quality. However, emissions of dust into the air through activities such as demolition, earth moving and construction, which although they may only occur for a limited period, can also have effects on human health, damage vegetation and affect the diversity of ecosystems.
- 1.3 The Council's latest Air Quality Annual Status Report advises air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts. It is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer. Additionally, air pollution particularly affects the most vulnerable in society: children and older people, and those with heart and lung conditions. There is also often a strong correlation with equalities issues, because areas with poor air quality are also often the less affluent areas ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾
- 1.4 The latest Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) is available to view on the Council's website, please see www.harrogate.gov.uk
- 1.5 It is recognised that heating systems also contribute to air quality. Climate Change Policy CC4 Sustainable Design requires all development to be designed to reduce both the extent and impacts of climate change. There may be other policies which are relevant to the proposed development. The Harrogate District Local Plan 2014-2035 can be viewed online at www.harrogate.gov.uk/localplan

1 Environmental equity, air quality, socioeconomic status and respiratory health, 2010

2 Air quality and social deprivation in the UK: an environmental inequalities analysis, 2006

Policy Context 2

Policy Context

- 2.1** The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) places a general presumption in favour of sustainable development ⁽³⁾.
- 2.2** Chapter 15 focuses on conserving and enhancing the natural environment; air quality is a material consideration in the planning process.
- 2.3** Further guidance is set out in the National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) under Air Quality dated 1 November 2019. The NPPF and NPPG can be viewed online at www.gov.uk
- 2.4** The adopted Local Plan is the starting point for determining any planning application.

Policy NE1: Air Quality

Applicants must submit an air quality assessment and/or a dust assessment report and identify mitigation measures to ensure no significant adverse effects where development may:

- A. Affect the air quality management areas (AQMAs) at Bond End, Knaresborough; High and Low Skellgate, Ripon; Woodlands Junction at Hookstone Chase, Harrogate; and York Place, Knaresborough; or at any other AQMAs designated over the course of the plan period;
- B. Create emissions of dust during demolition, earth moving and construction, or through site operations associated with mineral extraction, waste disposal or agriculture;
- C. Impact on the air quality of a special area of conservation (SAC), special protection area (SPA), or site of special scientific interest (SSSI), or on a non-statutory site where there is a relevant sensitivity; or
- D. Create significant amounts of traffic, as determined through a transport assessment and/or air quality modelling specific to the proposal.

Mitigation measures should ensure consistency with the Council's Air Quality Action Plan and the Habitats Regulation Assessment where impacts are related to the diversity of ecosystems; and where impacts are traffic related, the current North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan.

Table 2.1

- 2.5** Further advice is set out in the Policy Justification, along with a suggestion of what evidence may be required from applicants to accompany planning applications which includes:
- Transport assessment / transport statement
 - Travel plan
 - Air quality assessment
 - Dust assessment report
- 2.6** The information required and mitigation measures required to support an application will depend on the nature of the development, its location and whether it would add to a cumulative impact of traffic which would impact on air quality.
- 2.7** In line with national guidance prior to the submission of an application, applicants are encouraged to make a pre-application enquiry, further details on how to submit a pre-application enquiry are on the Council's website www.harrogate.gov.uk/planning
- 2.8** The service aims to take some of the uncertainty out of the process and offers constructive and without prejudice advice on the likelihood of your proposal receiving planning permission.

3 When are Air Quality Assessment and Dust Assessment Reports required?

When are Air Quality Assessment and Dust Reports required?

- 3.1** Policy NE1 sets out when an air quality assessment or dust assessment report may be required, the wording of the policy and the various criteria are considered below.
- 3.2** Where required air quality assessment and dust assessment reports must be compiled by a suitably competent person. The reports must identify mitigation measures to ensure no significant effects where development may:

A. Affect the air quality management areas (AQMA's)

- 3.3** There are currently four AQMA's at Bond End, Knaresborough; High and Low Skellgate, Ripon; Woodlands Junction at Hookstone Chase, Harrogate; and York Place, Knaresborough. Other AQMA's may be designated over the plan period. The current AQMA's can be viewed in the Annual Status Report (ASR) on the Council's website www.harrogate.gov.uk
- 3.4** Local authorities in the UK have statutory duties for managing air quality under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995. As set out in the justification for Policy NE1, the Council is required to carry out regular reviews and assessments of air quality against standards and objectives prescribed in The Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000 and the Air Quality (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002. The concentrations of pollutants allowed within the regulations are set at levels that are considered to be acceptable in terms of what is currently scientifically known about the effects of each pollutant on health and the environment.
- 3.5** Local Air Quality Management: Technical Guidance (TG16) produced by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) sets out a streamlined approach to the review and assessment process. This prescribes the submission of a single annual status report (ASR), which the Council must submit each year. The report should identify new non-compliant areas and report progress made with existing AQMA's. The latest ASR is available to view on the Air Quality pages of the Council's website www.harrogate.gov.uk.
- 3.6** Any application within or adjacent to a AQMA will need to consider the impact the development would have on the air quality of the area, setting out mitigation measures where required to ensure no significant effects.

B. Create emissions of dust during demolition, earth moving and construction, or through site operations associated with mineral extraction, waste disposal or agriculture

- 3.7** The impact of emissions of dust into the air during demolition, earth moving and construction, and site operations associated with minerals, waste and agriculture can also have impacts on habitats that are sensitive to dust. A dust assessment report may, therefore, also be required to identify dust impact risk and mitigation required to ensure no significant effects. Further advice and guidance is available from the Institute of Air Quality Management, please see their website iaqm.co.uk
- 3.8** Consideration of emissions during or post development must be carefully considered when making a planning application. It is recommended that pre-application advice is sought prior to the submission of an application to assess whether the proposals would generate emissions and any mitigation measures required.

When are Air Quality Assessment and Dust Assessment Reports required? 3

C. Impact on the air quality of a special area of conservation (SAC), special protection area (SPA), or site of special scientific interest (SSSI), or on a non-statutory site where there is a relevant sensitivity

- 3.9** Air quality also impacts on the natural environment and wildlife, and is particularly important in relation to designated sites, such as sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) and special areas of conservation (SACs) but may also impact on non-designated sites where the specific ecological features are sensitive to air pollution.
- 3.10** Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are shown on the Local Plan District Wide Map which can be viewed on the Council's website www.harrogate.gov.uk/localplan
- 3.11** Further information is set out in the Habitats Regulation Assessment which can also be viewed on the Council's website www.harrogate.gov.uk with additional information and guidance on assessment and mitigation available within Natural England's publications via www.gov.uk Applicants are encouraged to engage in pre-application discussion prior to the submission of an application.
- 3.12** An air quality assessment and / or dust assessment report will be required, where development is within 200m of a protected site, or where the development is likely to significantly increase traffic movements on a road within 200m of a protected site.
- 3.13** Other non-statutory sites may be identified through the pre-application enquiry process.

D. Create significant amounts of traffic, as determined through a transport assessment and/or air quality modelling specific to the proposal

- 3.14** As air quality issues are primarily transport related, integration between land use policies, the Local Transport Plan and the Air Quality Action Plan is important. The Air Quality Action Plan can be viewed on the Council's website www.harrogate.gov.uk, whereas the Local Transport Plan can be viewed on North Yorkshire County Council's website www.northyorks.gov.uk
- 3.15** This integration will ensure that the impact on air quality of development proposals across a wider area, which may impact on the AQMA areas, is considered, especially as high levels of transport related pollutants can have a significant detrimental effect on people's health and quality of life, and on the environment generally.
- 3.16** Planning applications proposing development that would give rise to significant amounts of traffic, as determined through a transport assessment and/or air quality modelling specific to the proposals, or which are considered to potentially impact upon local air quality emissions, will be required to submit an air quality assessment. This could should be identified under a pre-application enquiry or through discussion with the Local Highway Authority at North Yorkshire County Council. Applicants are encouraged to engage with pre-application discussion.
- 3.17** Where a transport assessment, transport statement and / or travel plan is identified as being required for an application the applicant should also consider the impact the development would have on air quality and may be required to submit an air quality assessment report.
- 3.18** The cumulative impact of traffic in an area and the type of traffic are also important considerations. The developer will be required to identify mitigation measures to address transport related air quality issues as part of a transport assessment and/or travel plan.

4 Mitigation

Mitigation

4.1 Mitigation measures are considered below.

Mitigation measures should ensure consistency with the Council's Air Quality Action Plan and the Habitats Regulation Assessment where impacts are related to the diversity of ecosystems; and where impacts are traffic related, the current North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan.

4.2 As set out above the Council's Air Quality Action Plan and Habitats Regulation Assessment can be viewed on the Council's website www.harrogate.gov.uk with the Local Transport Plan available to view on North Yorkshire County Council's website www.northyorks.gov.uk

4.3 The use of ultra-low emission vehicles, such as electric, plug-in hybrid and hydrogen powered cars and vans, will help to cut greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution on the district's roads. The government is supporting the greater use of these vehicles through, for example, the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) and the Plugged-in-Places programme, and it is expected that usage will increase significantly over the life of the Local Plan. To help realise this ambition, the government intend to set out a framework for the development of a recharging network for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. In order to encourage the wider use of these ultra-low emission vehicles locally, the Council will support the provision of vehicle charging points as part of development proposals. The satisfactory location and design of such infrastructure will be an important consideration.

4.4 In conjunction with the Transport and Infrastructure Policies in the Local Plan action to protect and improve air quality in the District will be undertaken by requiring all planning applications (except householder applications) creating additional traffic to provide mitigation in the form of electric vehicle (EV) charging points, unless there are exceptional circumstances where this is not practicable or feasible, it is recommended that these are be provided as follows:

- One electric vehicle charging point for each residential unit with dedicated parking space.
- One electric vehicle charging point for every ten un-allocated residential parking spaces (including hotels) as a minimum.
 - Mode 3 charging point with a type 2 outlet socket
 - The cable and circuitry ratings for the charging points shall be of adequate size to ensure a minimum continuous current demand of 16 Amps and a maximum demand of 32 Amps

4.5 Where the application will give rise to significant amounts of traffic, the submitted report must provide information on the increase in pollution arising and identify mitigation measures to address the increases.

4.6 This mitigation may include, but will not be restricted to;

- design or layout of the proposals,
- green infrastructure,
- sustainable and healthy transport measures, and
- measures such as travel plans to reduce traffic movements etc.

In line with Transport and Infrastructure policies in the Local Plan and the guidance from North Yorkshire County Council.

Mitigation 4

- 4.7** Where air quality is likely to be an issue, pre-application discussion with the Council's Environmental Protection Team will be required. It is also recommended where air quality is likely to be impacted by traffic generation that the pre-application engagement is undertaken with the Local Highway Authority at North Yorkshire County Council.

5 Assessment

Assessment

- 5.1** The Council will assess the acceptability of a scheme on the supporting information submitted and where mitigation measures are identified, the measures proposed. Any air quality assessment and / or dust assessment report must be undertaken by a suitably competent person.
- 5.2** Applications and the associated reports will be assessed in consultation with the Environmental Protection Team and North Yorkshire County Council Highway Authority.
- 5.3** Failure to submit an air quality assessment and / or dust assessment report where identified as being required by Policy NE1 could result in the application being delayed while the Council request further information, amendments or conditions to the application, or may result in the application being refused planning permission.
- 5.4** It is recommended that pre-application advice is sought prior to the submission of an application; full details are available on the Council's website at www.harrogate.gov.uk/planning

Contacts 6

Contact details for Harrogate Borough Council and North Yorkshire County Council

| Harrogate Borough Council | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| | Planning Policy | Development Management | Environmental Protection |
| Telephone | 01423 500600 | | |
| Write | Harrogate Borough Council Civic Centre, PO Box 787, Harrogate, HG1 9RW | | |
| Website | www.harrogate.gov.uk | | |
| Email | planningpolicy@harrogate.gov.uk | dmst@harrogate.gov.uk | environmentalprotection@harrogate.gov.uk |

Table 6.1

| North Yorkshire County Council | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Highway Authority | |
| Telephone | 01609 780780 |
| Write | North Yorkshire Council Council County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD |
| Website | www.northyorks.gov.uk |
| Email | via website |

Table 6.2

