

Crediton Air Quality Management Area Action Plan – Progress Report (September 2007)

Key:

Measure completed	Terms/acronyms: <i>DCC</i> – Devon County Council, <i>LTP2</i> – Devon Council Council Second Local Transport Plan (2006-11), <i>LSG</i> – Devon Council Council Highways Local Service Group, <i>MDDC</i> – Mid Devon District Council, <i>LEA</i> – Local Education Authority (DCC), <i>QECC</i> – Queen Elizabeth’s Community College, <i>s106</i> – section 106 legal planning agreement <i>VOSA</i> – Vehicle Operator and Services Agency, <i>Devon PCT</i> – Primary Care Trust (part of NHS) and <i>Defra</i> – Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
Progress made and measure on course to be completed within timescale/cost	
Measure at risk/unlikely to be completed	
Measure not yet due to commence	

Ref.	Action Plan Measure	Target Completion Date	Estimated Cost	Air Quality Impact	Lead Organisation	Progress Report/Status
1	Lords Meadow Link Road	2010-11	£4m - £9m	Very High	DCC (LTP2)	<p>Year 07/08 DCC spend of £140,000 agreed for topographical survey, soil survey, flood risk assessment, preliminary design and preliminary consultation.</p> <p>s106 funding from Tesco approved (£1.2 – £2m depending on final scheme cost)</p>
2	Traffic Management High Street	2007	£50k	High	DCC (LTP2)	<p>Bus pull in at St Lawrence Green has been deferred in the programme due to concerns relating to the balance of the benefits to the air quality against the impact on The Green. Design work is therefore progressing on the bus pull in nearer the war memorial, which we anticipate will be constructed in this financial year. The changes to the parking arrangements on the High Street, should be advertised during the autumn, again for implementation in this financial year.</p>

3	Resurface Exeter Road	2007	£20k (?)	Low	DCC (LSG)	Resurfacing of Exeter Road, unfortunately due to re-prioritising of schemes following the annual surveys of the Principal Road network, this section of road no longer features as a priority.
4 and 14	Feasibility Study – Adoption of Powers to Enforce Switch-Off of Stationary Vehicle Engines	2007	None to complete study	Very Low	MDDC	<p>Feasibility study completed including an examination of outcomes/costs realised by Local Authorities that have adopted these powers.</p> <p>Estimated costs to MDDC are £100 per day to enforce - currently not feasible but needs to be reviewed if decriminalisation of parking a future option or significant s106 funding available.</p>
5	Extended Town Bus Service	2009	£350k (for 3-year period)	Medium	DCC (Transport Co-ordination Service)	s106 funding from Tesco approved (£350k). Extended service to be in place upon opening of Tesco store.
6	Introduction of enhanced Taxi emission standards	2007	<p>None in connection with the Action Plan</p> <p>Future costs for taxi operators to be calculated</p>	Low	MDDC (Licensing)	<p>MDDC has recently reviewed its policy on conditions relating to Hackney and Private Hire Vehicles and a new policy came into force on 1 April 2007. Within this policy provision has been made for the introduction of enhanced emissions standards.</p> <p>To quote the relevant section of the policy “An age limit is not imposed on vehicles that are licensed by this Council but we will be seeking to gradually raise the emissions standards. Updated information will be sent to licensees and applicants as this process unfolds.”</p>
7	‘Devon-wide’ scheme for concessionary bus fares (100% concession for bus users in eligible groups)	2007 (ongoing scheme)	£500k est. per annum (dependant on take-up)	Low	MDDC (Health and Community Services) and the Devon-wide Partnership	Successful uptake of existing scheme. Scheme safeguarded in its current format until end-Mar 08, to be replaced by national scheme thereafter. Details are still emerging of the national scheme, however a 100% concession will continue to be offered and the scheme is likely to be managed at a local-level.

8	Introduction of enhanced School bus emission standards	2008	None in connection with the Action Plan For future costs for bus operators see Progress Report column	Low	DCC (Transport Co-ordination Service and LTP2)	<p>DCC have been consulted regarding procurement of school busses and the potential for including emission standards as a condition in tender documents. An initial response was received indicating costs and suggesting these were prohibitive to achieving this in the short to mid term. Further questions relating to these issues have been submitted to DCC school transport section.</p> <p>DCC provides 18 school bus routes (over 16 seats), operated under contract by contractors' vehicles, to Queen Elizabeth College, Crediton; DCC contract conditions specify vehicle quality standards in respect of a number of features but not age limits. Many contract buses are therefore pre-Euro 1 standard. Six smaller vehicles also operate – taxis and small minibuses - which have been excluded from this exercise.</p> <p>Currently, many school buses are pre-1990; costs were obtained from operators for a requirement for the 18 Crediton contract buses to be at least to the standards of (i) Euro 2 (post-1996), and (ii) Euro 3 (post-2001). As newer vehicles would be required to operate to these standards, this has identified significant increases in cost to operate to these standards. To achieve the reductions shown in Appendix 1 for Euro 2 or Euro 3 standards would therefore cost an extra £180k and £280k respectively per year.</p> <p>As the school buses serve both the lower and upper school sites, they each have to operate along the High Street before and after school. However, while it may appear that this number could be reduced if each school site has a separate route network, in fact, as each route enters the High Street from one end, and as each bus has to travel "light" to/ from the depot after dropping off and before picking up, it is unlikely to reduce the number of movements along the High Street significantly.</p>
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9 and 10	Crediton School Green Travel Plans + Walking to School Campaign	2007	None in connection with the Action Plan	Low	DCC (LEA – School Travel Plan Information Officer)	<p>All schools now have a Green Travel Plan.</p> <p>Landscore Primary School completed their travel plan summer 2006. A walking bus is in operation from St Saviour's car park. They have applied for a grant from government to set up another walking bus.</p> <p>Hayward's Primary School has a walking bus operating one day a week from St Boniface car park and have applied for a government grant to extend the scheme to other days of the week.</p> <p>Landscore and Hayward's are both encouraging cycling and have set up cycle training for pupils.</p> <p>Queen Elizabeth Community College is currently updating their travel plan and are promoting walking in particular.</p>
11	Single Site QECC	2010	Not known	Low	DCC/QECC	Grant funding bid to DCC unsuccessful in 2006.

12	Roadside vehicle emission testing	Commence 2007	£20k	Low	MDDC/VOSA and partnership with other Devon Local Authorities	<p>VOSA carried out emissions testing of vehicles on behalf of MDDC on 8th December 2006 at the lay-by on the A377 at Half Moon Village. 71 vehicles of all categories were tested for emissions and checked for basic roadworthiness; lights, tyres etc. No vehicles failed the emissions test and only one vehicle was found to be unroadworthy.</p> <p>In a joint (partnership) bid between Mid Devon, Torbay, Plymouth, South Hams and Teignbridge, Defra have awarded a grant of £20k to be used for a comprehensive roadside emissions initiative across Devon later this year. This project will enable Mid Devon to carry out 4 days of testing at locations within our Air Quality Management Areas, hiring sophisticated new equipment which tests vehicle emissions as they drive past - without any requirement to stop the vehicle! This means we can test large numbers of vehicles (up to 4000 per day) without causing any disruption to traffic flows. The equipment is also linked to number plate recording technology enabling us to track down the owners of any vehicles found to be grossly polluting.</p>
13	Feasibility Study – Adoption of Powers to carry out vehicle roadside emissions testing and issuing of fixed penalty notices for vehicles failing to meet MOT emissions standards	2007	Not currently known – part of feasibility study	Low	MDDC (Health and Community Services)	Study to commence September 2007 for estimated completion December 2007
15	Secure Cycle Parking Facility	2008	£20k	Low	MDDC and DCC (LTP2)	Cost could soon be met from existing/agreed s106 Action Plan funding. Further work design/location work required but could be completed as part of a development proposal
16, 17 and 18	Crediton Car Parking Strategy and related actions	2007	£10k	Low	MDDC (Operations) DCC (LSG)	Scoping meeting with DCC, Parsons Brinckerhoff (DCC consultants) and MDDC planned for September 2007

19 and 21	Smoke Control Area	2008	£50k + set-up costs	Low	MDDC (Health and Community)	Feasibility study completed. Set-up costs anticipated at £25k (one-off) and annual running costs for enforcement etc estimated at £50k. A smoke control area therefore fails on cost/benefit analysis. Partial benefits of smoke control area could be realised via measure 31 however.
20	Milk Link boiler	2008	None in connection with the Action Plan. Cost to be met by Milk Link	Moderate	Environment Agency/Milk Link	Funding for conversion of boilers to natural gas approved internally within Milk Link group. The work not yet started but should be done in the 2008-2009 financial year. A PPC permit requirement for Milk Link, enforceable by Environment Agency.
22	Crediton Walking for Health (Walk & Talk)	2006-2008 (on-going project)	None in connection with the Action Plan. PCT funded	Low	Devon PCT	Funding approved by PCT for programme of walks to end of Sept 2007 and a large number of successful walks completed during period 2006 and 2007. Future of scheme uncertain owing to creation of Devon PCT and reorganisation.
23	Health Inequalities Study	2008	Not yet known	Low	Devon PCT/MDDC Community Plan	Progress via Local Strategic Partnership as part of MDDC Community Plan (currently being updated with more SMART targets - full update required after current PCT reorganisation complete).
24	Public Air Quality Information website	2007	£15k	Low	MDDC (Health and Community Services)	Website designed, commissioned and now live. Improvements to site format and interaction currently being implemented following review of first 6-months customer feedback. Site receiving approximately 2000 external visits per month – number is gradually increasing month on month. See http://www.middevon.airqualitydata.com

25	Voluntary Vehicle Emissions Testing	2008	£10k	Low	MDDC (Health and Community Services)	Feasibility study completed and cost obtained. Subject to Defra Air Quality Grant bid in April 2008
26	Car Share Devon and Devon Car Free Day	2007 (and ongoing)	None in connection with the Action Plan. DCC funded.	Low	DCC (Travelwise) and Bus Operators (Car Free Day)	Increased promotion of Car Share Devon scheme secured via MDDC website (home) and air quality data.com and via DCC website. Widespread DCC promotion of latest Devon Car Free Day (21 September 2007) including a wide take up by local media.
27 and 28	Council owned vehicle fleet	2008	£45k	Low	MDDC (Operations)	Feasibility studies commenced in Feb 2007- now on hold due to staffing restrictions. Nonetheless, we continue to work to improved fuel efficiency, engine emission standards and emission control of Council owned vehicles. Particular attention will be given to HDV/LDV vehicles to ensure better than the legal minimum emission standards and high fuel efficiencies are achieved – especially at procurement stage for replacement vehicles. A number of MDDC LDV fleet are now dual-fuel and run mostly on LPG with resultant emission improvements and fuel cost savings. Further review in early 2008 required.
29	MDDC Air Quality and Planning Policy	2007	£1k	Moderate	MDDC (Forward Planning and Health and Community Services)	Air Quality policies (general and Crediton specific) inserted into the forward planning Core Strategy. Core Strategy Examination by Planning Inspector completed in April 2007 and document approved for adoption. A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared outlining when and how an Air Quality Assessment should be carried out for new development proposals and a mechanism for calculating s106 contributions to Air Quality Action Plan measures. This document is currently under going external consultation with a view of obtaining formal committee approval for adoption in October 2007.

30	MDDC Green Travel Plan	2008	None in connection with the Action Plan but other MDDC costs anticipated	Low	MDDC (various)	Following staffing changes in March 2007 progress with this measure has been uncertain. Negotiations between Unison and MDDC Management regarding staff car parking may provide a mechanism to progress a Green Travel Plan.
31	MDDC Energy Efficiency Promotion/Grants	Ongoing	£40k 2007 and £90k 2008	Low	MDDC (Private Sector Housing)	Warm Front and Heat Devon schemes secured for 2007-08 with £40,000 funding (not Crediton specific). Additional discretionary grant funding for fuel poverty/heating system improvements of £50,000 per annum secured from April 2008 in addition – focus will be on Air Quality Management Areas (Crediton and Cullompton)

Report compiled by MDDC Health and Community Services September 2007