

Crediton Air Quality Management Area Action Plan – Progress Report (June 2009)

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	2011-13	£7.3m	Very High	DCC (LTP2)	DCC Executive (24/02/09) considered a revised western route (see DCC website). Approval given for this route as the basis of a planning application and authority granted to acquire land. Further public consultation will be undertaken before a planning application is submitted. s106 funding from Tesco approved (£1.2 – £2m depending on final scheme cost)
2	Traffic Management High Street	2009 (parking changes) 2010-11 (other components)	£50k	High	DCC (LTP2)	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 on the bus pull in nearer the war memorial has indicated exception costs and therefore this aspect is unlikely to progress. Further update on central High St traffic management measures required following DCC report at Crediton AQ Steering Group 13/05/09

3	Resurface Exeter Road	2010	£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	Feasibility study completed including an examination of outcomes/costs realised by Local Authorities that have adopted these powers. Estimated costs to MDDC are £100 per day to enforce - currently not feasible
5	Extended Town Bus Service	2009-14	£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	2009	None in connection with the Action Plan Future costs for taxi operators to be calculated	Low	MDDC (Licensing)	MDDC has 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. 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.” MDDC Licensing is currently reviewing draft proposals to implement an initial enhanced emissions standard (based upon Euro engine standards) for new licences and replacement vehicles to be implemented in 2009.

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	<p>Devon-wide scheme now replaced by National Bus Pass scheme, however a 100% concession continues to be offered and the scheme is managed at a local-level by the Devon Concessionary Bus Travel Partnership. Holders of a National Bus Pass are also entitled to a reduced cost Senior Rail Card. Uptake and patronage of the scheme remains high with almost 13,000 current pass holders within Mid Devon. In total, there are approximately 22,000 eligible persons (29% of total population of approximately 76,500) residing in Mid Devon (Family Health Services Authority/LAA data 2008). Therefore, the uptake rate overall is approximately 60%.</p> <p>Assuming equal uptake and demographic profile across the district, this would equate to approximately 3420 pass holders out of a total eligible population of approximately 5700 within the Crediton catchment (based on 2006 DCC 'Devon Town' aggregated parish figures for Bow, Brushford, Chawleigh, Cheriton Bishop, Clannaborough, Coldridge Colebrooke, Copplestone, Crediton, Crediton Hamlets Down St Mary, Eggesford, Hittisleigh, Kennerleigh Lapford, Morchard Bishop, Newton St Cyres, Nymet Rowland, Sandford, Shobrooke, Stockleigh English Stockleigh Pomeroy, Upton Hellions, Wembworthy Woolfardisworthy and Zeal Monachorum)</p> <p>In reality, uptake and patronage rates are likely to be higher than average in the Crediton parish and other larger village centres where a greater proportion of eligible demographic groups reside and where an higher level of public transport services are available.</p>
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8	Review of introduction of enhanced School bus emission standards	2009	<p>None in connection with the Action Plan</p> <p>For future costs for bus operators see Progress Report column</p>	Low	DCC (Transport Co-ordination Service and LTP2)	<p>DCC have been consulted regarding procurement of school buses 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. DCC have indicated that they are prepared to conduct a further review during 2009.</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 scheme is in operation. The school participated in both the DCC ‘no car day’ in September 2008 and its own Landscore ‘no car day’ in October 2008. The school has also been awarded Gold Travelwise School Award by DCC.</p> <p>Hayward’s Primary School has a walking bus operating one day a week from St Boniface car park and has been awarded a Silver Travelwise School Award by DCC. It has introduced its ‘Walking the Wizard’ way initiative and participates in the DCC ‘Devon Walking To School’ rewards scheme.</p> <p>Landscore and Hayward’s are both encouraging cycling and have set up cycle training for pupils.</p> <p>Queen Elizabeth Community College has updated their travel plan and are promoting walking in particular.</p>
11	Single Site QECC	2020 (est.)	Not known	Low	DCC/QECC	Grant funding bid to DCC unsuccessful in 2006.
12	Roadside vehicle emission testing	2008	£20k	Low	MDDC and partnership with other Devon Local Authorities	<p>In a joint partnership project (comprehensive roadside emissions initiative) between Mid Devon, Torbay, Plymouth, South Hams and Teignbridge, has been completed. This project will enabled 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. Tests in Crediton were completed in February and July 2008 and in total 6833 valid tests were completed. The average emissions failure rate (based upon MoT standards) was 8.7% of all vehicles.</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)	A study of implementation and running costs indicates that on the basis of less than 1 in 10 vehicles failing to meet MoT standards (see measure 12 above) income from fixed penalty notices will be significantly less than costs. Without additional funding implementation will not progress.
15	Secure Cycle Parking Facilities	2010	£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)	Car parking survey completed by PB on behalf of DCC in October 2008. The report concluded that there was sufficient parking capacity (on-street and off-street) within Crediton and that capacity at peak/bus times is likely to improve following the introduction of CPE in the summer of 2008. The introduction of on-street pay and display parking was recommended to further improve enforcement and increase turnover of vehicles.
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	2009	None in connection with the Action Plan. Cost to be met by Milk Link	Moderate	Environment Agency/Milk Link	Milk Link have recently undertaken boiler conversion works to enable a switch from heavy fuel oil to natural gas. Works were completed during May 2009.

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 and a large number of successful walks completed during period 2006 to date. Fortnightly short and moderate walks and monthly longer walks within the current programme starting from Crediton Post Office and Lords Meadow Leisure Centre.
23	Health Inequalities Study	2010	Not yet known	Low	MDDC/Mid Devon Local Strategic Partnership	Progress on this measure will now be incorporated into a revised Mid Devon Sustainable Community Strategy due towards the end of 2009. This strategy will replace the current Community Plan. The overall implementation of the Crediton AQ Action Plan is part of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) – see MDDC pages under 'A World Class Environment' and links to 'Improve Public Space' LAA2 theme.
24	Public Air Quality Information website	2007	£15k	Low	MDDC (Health and Community Services)	Improvements to website format and interaction were implemented during 2008. The site was ranked in the top 20 of LA air quality websites by Air Quality Bulletin in 2008. Site is now receiving approximately 2300 external visits per 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 which was unsuccessful. A revised bid is currently being drafted for submission in May 2009.
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 (22 September 2008) including a wide take up by local media.

27 and 28	Council owned vehicle fleet	2008	£45k	Low	MDDC (Operations)	<p>MDDC 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 or meet Euro IV emissions standards with resultant emission improvements and fuel cost savings. Further review will be carried out on data obtained for the new National Indicator NI 194 (LA estate emissions of NOx and PM10) to identify further improvement targets.</p>
29	MDDC Air Quality and Planning Policy	2007	£1k	Moderate	MDDC (Forward Planning and Health and Community Services)	<p>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 produced 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 was approved for adoption in 2008 and is now formal planning policy.</p> <p>MDDC are incorporating low emission strategies and other sustainability issues within the Development Plan Document currently being produced under the Local Development Framework. As part of this process, the Council are currently acting as pilot Local Authority under the Low Emissions Strategies Development Programme supported by Defra and DCLG and led by the Low Emissions Partnership.</p>

30	MDDC Green Travel Plan	2009	None in connection with the Action Plan but other MDDC costs anticipated	Low	MDDC (various)	<p>Following staffing changes in March 2007 progress with this measure continues to be uncertain. Negotiations between Unison and MDDC Management regarding staff car parking have not provided a mechanism to progress a Green Travel Plan. Impetus may be achieved following a review of MDDC performance under NI194 (see measure 27 above) and data obtained will be analysed in respect of MDDC fleet and business travel impacts to identify improvement measures.</p>
31	<p>MDDC Energy Efficiency Promotion/Grants</p> <p>(Warm Zones)</p>	Ongoing	£40k 2007 and £90k 2008 and Warm Zone funding from Oct 2008.	Low	MDDC (Private Sector Housing)	<p>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)</p> <p>'Warm Zones' commenced across Devon in October 2008 supported by a TV campaign, an article in the Mid Devon Talk and a partnership with local Community organisations. New rules offering free insulation to over 70's also increased overall demand.</p> <p>In the Crediton Zone, 87 referrals had been received up to the end of March 2009. Further marketing has started with displays at the Crediton MDDC Office and Lords Meadow Leisure Centre and another run of the TV campaign has also commenced. Additional marketing will take place at the forthcoming Devon County Show and Mid Devon Show.</p>