



Watford Borough Council

Review and Assessment of Air Quality under the Environment Act 1995

2008 Progress Report

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Watford Borough Council**Review and Assessment of Air Quality under the Environment Act 1995****Progress Report**

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Chapter 1 Executive Summary and Conclusions

1.1 Executive Summary

The Environment Act 1995 requires all Local Authorities to 'Review and Assess' air quality in its geographical area. This involves comparing actual and predicted concentrations for seven key pollutants against the standards and objectives specified in the Air Quality Regulations 2000 (as amended). Reviews take the form of 'Updating and Screening Assessments', which are used to identify possible areas of concern, and 'Detailed Assessments' which look closely at the sources of pollution in these areas. Where it is established that concentrations are unlikely to meet the objectives and it is established that there is relevant public exposure, then an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) must be declared.

In those years when an Updating and Screening Assessment, or a Detailed Assessment is not being carried out, Local Authorities are required to produce a 'Progress Report'.

These are designed to ensure continuity in the Local Air Quality Management progress, and can also assist in other ways such as:

- Making subsequent rounds of Review and Assessment easier
- Demonstrating progress with air quality Action Plans
- Helping Local Authorities respond to request for up to date air quality monitoring information.

This document is Watford Borough Council's Progress Report for 2008 and has been written with regard to the Government's guidance set out in LAQM.PRG(03).

It includes the latest ratified monitoring data from the nitrogen dioxide and PM10 particles analysers located at the Town Hall and the nitrogen dioxide diffusion tubes located at 17 sites around the Borough.

It also considers new local development that may have an impact on air quality, such as any new industrial processes and major planning applications.

Finally it considers the progress that the Council is making following the declaration of 6 Air Quality Management Areas in 2006, and the links that have been made with the County Council's Local Transport Strategy.

1.2 Conclusions

We have concluded that there is no need to progress to an Updating and Screening Assessment ahead of the next scheduled date for this work.

Chapter 2 Introduction

The Council has undertaken a number of Review and Assessments as follows:

2.1 First Round of Review and Assessment

The Council completed this in December 2001. Whilst the assessment identified a number of areas close to busy roads where it was predicted that the annual average objectives for nitrogen dioxide and PM₁₀ particles would not be met, it was also established that there was no relevant public exposure in these areas. Accordingly no Air Quality Management Areas were declared.

2.2 Second Round of Review and Assessment

The initial part of this Review and Assessment, the Updating and Screening Assessment, was completed in June 2003. This identified twenty-three areas of concern, close to busy roads, where the annual average objectives for nitrogen dioxide and PM₁₀ particles may not be met, so the Council proceeded to a Detailed Assessment for these pollutants.

The Detailed Assessment was completed in April 2004. It concluded that there were six areas of the Borough in which the annual average objective for nitrogen dioxide was unlikely to be met.

The Council carried an assessment of public exposure in these six areas in 2005 and established that there was relevant exposure in five of the 6 areas. We concluded that 6 Air Quality Management Areas needed to be declared, as follows:

No 1 - St Albans Road

No 2 - Vicarage Road

No 3 - Aldenham Road

No 4 - Chalk Hill

No 5 - A405/Horseshoe Lane

No 6 - M1/Meriden

These were declared in February 2006. Full details of the locations and properties affected are in Appendix 3. An update on the progress that the Council had made with its Action Planning is outlined in Chapter 5.

2.3 Third Round of Review and Assessment

This was completed in September 2007 and concluded that detailed assessment did not need to be carried out for any of the prescribed pollutants. The conclusions arrived at for Carbon Monoxide, Lead, 1,3-Butadiene, Sulphur Dioxide and PM10 Particles were straightforward as no part of the Screening Assessments for these pollutants indicated the need to progress to a Detailed Assessment.

However the conclusion reached for Nitrogen Dioxide needed interpretation. Whilst for all screening criteria other than monitoring data, the USA concluded that there was no need to progress to a Detailed Assessment, the monitoring data, in particular the nitrogen dioxide diffusion tube data, suggested that there were 3 areas where a Detailed Assessment should be carried out. These were:

1. Some locations along St.Albans Road
2. The junction of Vicarage Road, Merton Road, Farraline Road, and Wiggshall Road, otherwise known as the 'Hornets' interchange.
3. The junction of Lower High Street, Eastbury Road, Chalk Hill, Pinner Road and Aldenham Road, otherwise known as Bushey Arches.

When we looked in detail at these areas it was apparent that all of these locations fell within existing Air Quality Management Areas, for which further assessment of air quality was already underway. We therefore chose not to proceed to a Detailed Assessment of nitrogen dioxide in these three areas, and this approach was ratified by DEFRA in December 2007.

All of the Review and Assessment Reports are available on the Herts and Beds Air Quality Monitoring Website:

www.hertsbedsair.org.uk

Chapter 3 New Monitoring Results

3.1 Monitoring Overview

Continuous Monitoring

For a number of years, Watford Borough Council has operated a number of continuous analysers at the Town Hall, monitoring concentrations of Ozone, Oxides of Nitrogen and PM10 Particles.

Towards the end of 2007, the Council reviewed the continuous monitoring that it was undertaking. This was done for several reasons:

1. The data capture rate of the Horiba NO_x analyser was falling (only 58% in 2007) due to more frequent reliability issues.
2. The room in which the analysers were housed was needed for another purpose
3. We were dissatisfied with our maintenance contract.

It was decided to;

1. Replace the NO_x analyser, housing the new one in the roadside cabinet along with the existing TEOM.
2. Decommission the Ozone analyser, as ozone is primarily a rural pollutant.
3. Change the service and maintenance contract.

Accordingly since January 2008, the following analysers have been in use:

1. API M200E chemiluminescent NO_x analyser from Envirotechnology.
2. Rupprecht & Patashnick TEOM analyser, gathering PM₁₀ data.

The monitoring station is classified as a roadside monitoring site, being situated approximately 10 metres from the kerb of Rickmansworth Road. Its location is shown in Figure 3.1

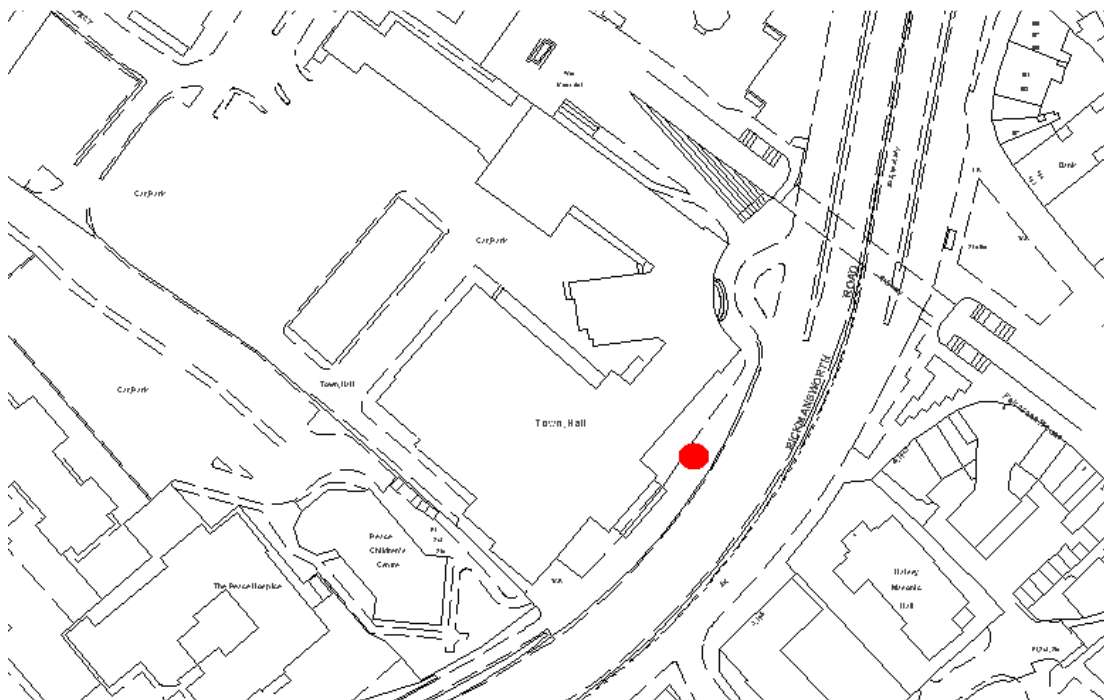


Figure 3.1 Location of Town Hall Continuous Monitoring Station

Data is collected via Modem by the Environmental Research Group (ERG), based at King's College London, who also validate and report the data. Real time data, as well as weekly month and annual reports are available from Herts & Beds Air Pollution Monitoring Network website;

www.hertsbedsair.org.uk

All servicing and maintenance (including periodic calibration of equipment) is managed by ERG as part of their overall management of the Herts & Beds Air Pollution Monitoring Network. The equipment is audited annually by the National Physical Laboratory as part of the QA for the Network. Full details of the QA/QC regime are contained with Appendix A of the Council's Updating and Screening Assessment dated September 2007 too is available from the from Herts & Beds Air Pollution Monitoring Network website.

Diffusion Tube Monitoring

Watford Borough Council continues to measure Nitrogen Dioxide using diffusion tubes at 17 locations within the Borough. A map showing the approximate location of each of the monitoring sites, together with a short description of the site type, is included as Appendix 2.

Tubes are supplied and analysed by Harwell Scientific Services, a UKAS accredited Laboratory. The tubes are prepared using a 50:50 Acetone: TEA methodology.

3.2 Monitoring Results

Continuous Nitrogen Dioxide Monitoring

The objectives for Nitrogen Dioxide as specified in the Air Quality Regulations 2000 (as amended) are as follows:

- 1) $200 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ one hour mean – a maximum of 18 exceedances per year
- 2) $40 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ annual mean.

The last 9 years nitrogen dioxide continuous monitoring data is shown in Appendix 1, and shown graphically in a Figure 3.2. All data is ratified.

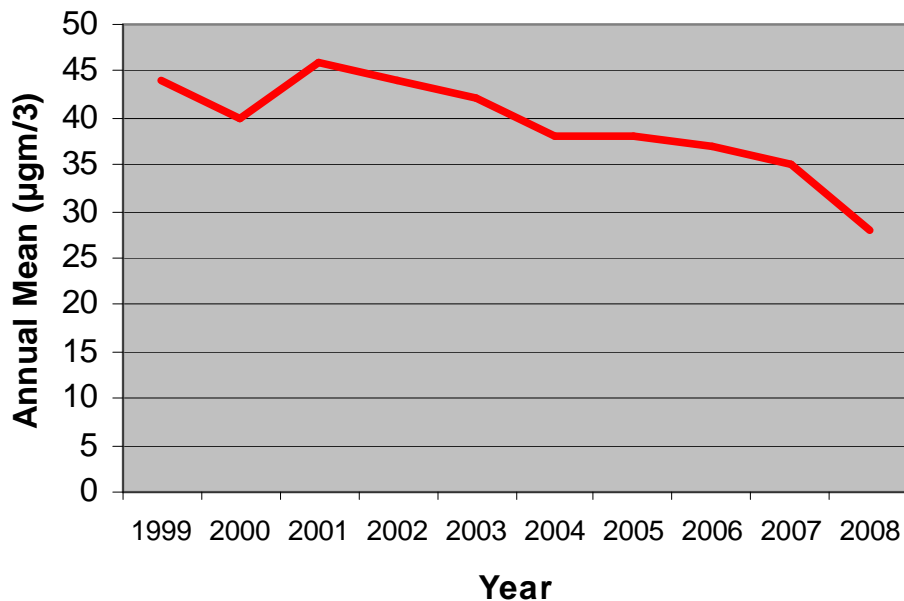


Figure 3.2 Annual Average nitrogen dioxide concentrations

Looking at the results graphically, it is clear that despite the low data capture in 2007 (due to the replacement of the analyser), the annual mean continues to decrease and is likely to remain below the objective level of $40 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

Diffusion Tube Nitrogen Dioxide Monitoring

The Council continues to monitor nitrogen dioxide concentrations at 17 locations across the Borough. The tubes are analysed by Harwell Scientifics, an UKAS accredited laboratory using a 50% TEA in Acetone preparation.

Raw data from the last four years is shown in Appendix 1.

Bias correction factors were obtained from the University of the West of England Review and Assessment Helpdesk website, as follows:

2004	0.88
2005	0.88
2006	0.79
2007	0.81

Corrected data, with the bias correction figures applied, is shown in Appendix 1. The data is shown graphically in figure 3.3

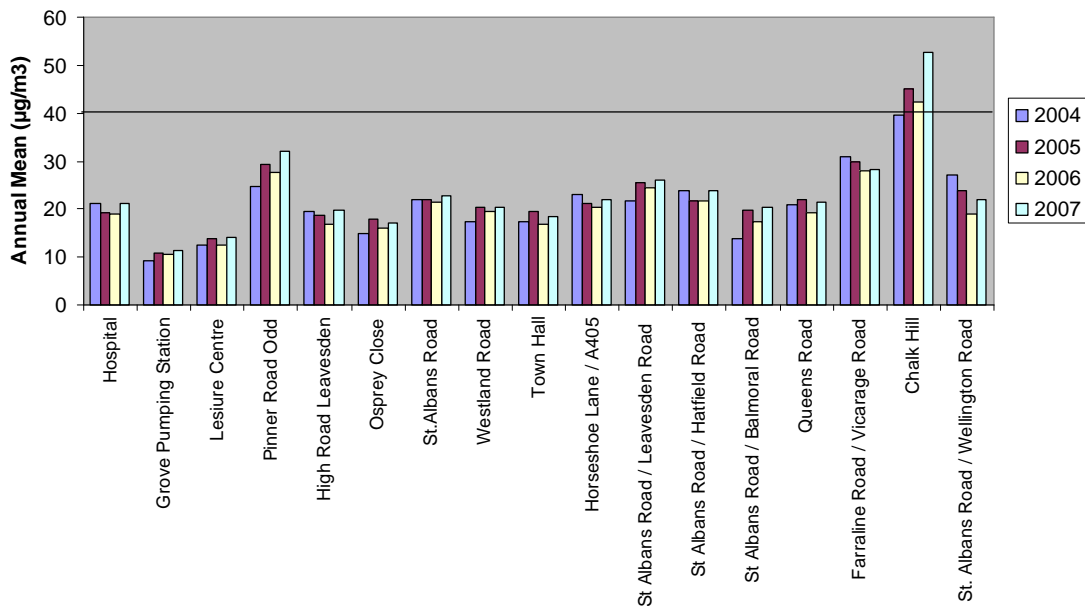


Figure 3.3 Annual Average nitrogen dioxide diffusion tube locations.

It can be seen that overall concentrations have remained fairly static over the last 4 years.

The exceptions to this are the Pinner Road (Odd) and Chalk Hill sites at which concentrations appear to be increasing over the last 4 years. Both of these sites are located in current Air Quality Management Areas. The Chalk Hill site also shows annual average concentrations above the objective level of 40 µg/m³.

Continuous PM₁₀ particle Monitoring

The objectives for PM₁₀ particles as specified in the Air Quality Regulations 2000 (as amended) are as follows:

Annual mean less than 40ug/m³ (gravimetric equivalent)

No more than 35 days where daily mean >50ug/m³ (gravimetric equivalent)

Annual average PM₁₀ concentrations measured at the continuous monitoring station in Rickmansworth Road using a TEOM for the last 9 years are shown in appendix 1 and shown graphically in figure 3.4 below.

Raw data has been multiplied by 1.3 to reflect the fact that the method of monitoring is gravimetric.

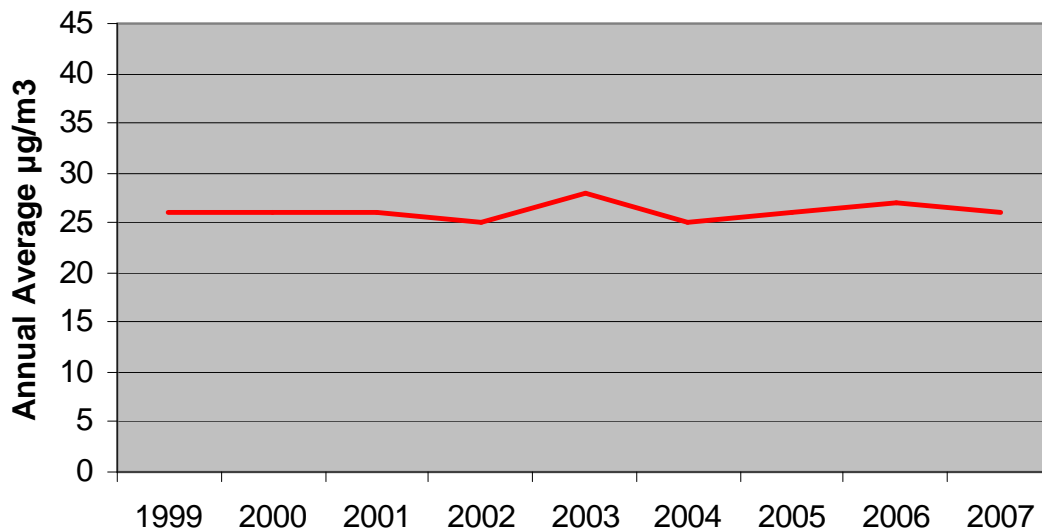


Figure 3.4 Annual Average PM₁₀ particle concentrations

The number of days where the annual mean is above 50 micrograms per cubic meter is shown in Appendix 1 and displayed graphically in Figure 3.4

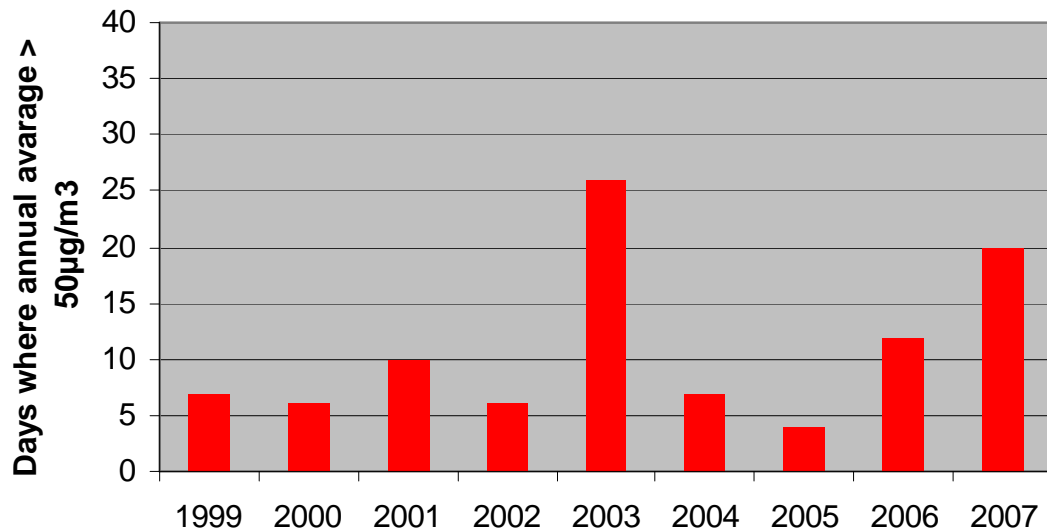


Figure 3.5 The number of days daily mean >50ug/m³ (gravimetric equivalent)

For all years other than 1999 the data capture rate was over 90%. In 1999 the data capture rate was 83%. As per Technical Guidance LAQM.TG (03) results from TEOM analysers have been multiplied by a conversion factor of 1.3

From the above data, it can be seen that the gravimetric adjusted annual mean concentration of PM₁₀ measured at the continuous monitoring site continues to be well below the national objective, and that the number of days where the 24 hour mean exceeds 50µgm⁻³ also continues to be well below the national objective.

3.3 Conclusion

Overall monitoring trends for the last few years suggest that concentrations are static or decreasing, and other than the two sites that are already within an existing Air Quality Management Area, the national objectives are not being exceeded.

Chapter 4 New Local Developments

4.1 Industrial Processes

No new Part A1 or Part A2 processes have been authorised in the Borough of Watford since the 2005 Progress Report. There have been ten new Part B processes authorised in this time all of which are Dry Cleaning Operators. These processes are of a small scale and are all operating within their permit conditions and therefore do not have any significant affect on Air Quality.

Since the 2005 Progress report there have been a number of closures or revocations of authorised processes within the Borough. These are summarised in table 4.1A below.

Name of process	Type of process	Comments
Lafarge, Chalk Hill	Part B - Blending, packing, loading and use of bulk cement	Permit Surrendered June 2005
Sun Chemicals, Cow Lane	Part B - manufacturing or formulating printing ink	Permit Surrendered June 2006
Dome Service Station, North Western Avenue	Part B – Unloading of petrol into storage at Service Stations	Premises closed 2006 site remains undeveloped
Walsh Demolition & Plant Services, Rickmansworth Road	Part B - Mobile crushing and screening processes	Permit Revoked February 2006
BP Mitchell, Queens Avenue	Part B - Mobile crushing and screening processes	Permit Revoked June 2008 – relocated out of Borough
Johnsons the Cleaners, St Albans Road	Part B - dry cleaning using organic solvents	Permit Surrendered July 2008 – no longer in operation at this address

Table 4.1A

4.2 Planning Developments

New developments that have either commenced, been granted planning permission, or have been completed since the previous 2005 Progress Report are set out in table 4.2A below.

We will look more closely at these areas in the next Update Screening Progress. During this process traffic flow data in these areas will be obtained. There is only one development which is close to an Air Quality Management Area however there is a diffusion tube already at this location therefore monitoring will continue to take place.

Table 4.2A

Address of Site	Nature of development
Former Fire And Ambulance Station 562-572 And 550 Whippendell Road	Erection of 100 dwellings,
Sun Chemical site, Cow Lane	Erection of 59 residential units
Leggatts Campus Leggatts Way	Redevelopment of site, comprising 235 dwellings
12-14 St Albans Road	Erection of 123 one and two bed flats, replacement community facility including Steward's flat, surface and basement car parking and provision of landscaped amenity area
East Section Of Tinsley Estate Queen Marys Avenue	Erection of 62 new residential units
Cassio Campus, Langley Road	Redevelopment comprising 223 dwellings, retail units, doctors' surgery,
St Martins House, 31-35 Clarendon Road	Demolition of existing building and construction of a new mixed use building comprising a 221-bed business hotel with associated business centre and restaurant facilities, 22 apartments, new access and basement car park
Watford Springs, High Street	Erection of 2, 3, 4 and 5 storey buildings to provide 130 residential units with associated parking and open space
Land At Beechen Grove And Loates Lane	Mixed use development comprising 907m ² of ground floor A2, B1a and D1 uses and 88 no. residential apartments on ground and 1st to 6th floors, new access, basement car parking (87 spaces), 96 cycle spaces, 30 motorcycle spaces, open space, internal courtyard/service area and landscaping (amended description)
23 - 25 Market Street	Demolition of existing retail unit and erection of a 5-storey hotel
Former EDF Site Vicarage Road	Demolition of existing sub station building and erection of 86 residential units with associated car parking and landscaping
26 Exchange Road	Erection of a 9 storey mixed-use building comprising B1(a), D1 and A2 uses on the ground and 1st floor levels, 134no. residential units on the 2nd to 8th floors, with basement parking , communal open space and access off Upton Road and Exchange Road
19 Bridle Path	Erection of a new 98-bedroom 8-storey hotel
52A - 56 High Street	Redevelopment of existing buildings to provide 4, 5 and 7-storey buildings comprising ground floor retail use, 56 flats and underground parking

4.3 Landfill, Quarrying & Mineral processes

There have been no new landfill sites, quarrying or mineral processes established in Watford Borough since the 2005 Progress report.

4.4 New Transport Developments

There have been no new transport developments in Watford Borough since the 2005 Progress report.

4.4.1 New Road Development

There have been no new road developments in Watford Borough since the 2005 Progress report

4.4.2 Changes to Existing Roads and Road works

There have been no changes to existing roads and road works since the 2005 Progress report

4.4.4.3 Bus Stations

Garston Bus Station is situated on the Northern side of the Borough. However it is still an enclosed bus station and therefore has not been considered further, as per the guidance in Technical Guidance LAQM.TG (03).

Chapter 5 Action Plans, AQMAs and Further Assessments

5.1 Watford Borough Councils Action Plan

Under the guidance of an external consultant, a steering group comprising council officers from relevant departments (District Environmental Health, Development Control, and Planning Strategy officers, as well as County Transport Planners) has been formed. A core steering group consisting of Environmental Health Staff and County Transport Planners has made an initial assessment of a wide range of potential options for improving air quality in Watford. At this stage the steering group has decided to take the following options forward for further consideration.

1. Strategic actions
 - Improving links with Local Transport Plan
 - Improving links with Local Planning and Development framework
2. Encourage sources to use routes away from the AQMAs
 - Consider freight access
3. Encourage the reduction emissions from sources by technical means
 - Planning conditions policy
 - Reduce the age of the Council vehicle fleet
 - Promote the uptake of greener vehicles by the community and businesses
4. Encourage better travel choices
 - Promote better personal and community travel choices
 - Promote better travel choices within businesses and institutions

The steering group will consider these options in more detail against a range of criteria including potential air quality benefits, costs and wider acceptability to draft a prioritised list of measures that they suggest to adopt in the Watford Action Plan. Other stakeholders, such as elected members, the public and Defra will have the opportunity to influence the plan before it is adopted by the Council.

The Action Plan is currently in a Draft stage and will be completed by January 2009 and implemented in April 2009.

5.2 Local Transport Plans and Strategies

The Local Transport Plan (2006/07 - 2010/11) is currently in its third year of delivery, with two further years to go (2009/10 and 2010/11).

It was adopted in March 2006. A copy can be found at website www.hertsdirect.org/ltp. The Local Transport Plan has integrated air quality measures identified in Watford Borough Councils Draft Air Quality Action Plan. Watford Borough Council has worked closely with Hertfordshire County Council to ensure that aims and objectives relating to Air Quality have been addressed.

Chapter 6 Planning and Policies

5. 1 Planning Policies

In Watford the Local Development Plan remains the principal planning policy document relating to air quality. It was adopted in December 2003. The plan has two policies that relate to air quality as follows:

3.58 SE20 Air Quality

3.60 SE21 Air Quality Management Areas

The full text of the policies is contained in Appendix 4.

It should be remembered that the plan was first drafted in 2000 (with subsequent revisions up to 2003), and therefore some of the references to the Council's Air Quality Management process are out of date.

The Local Development Plan is gradually being superseded by the Local Development Framework.

Appendix 1 Monitoring Results

1.1 Continuous Monitoring Results

Annual mean nitrogen dioxide concentrations, in micrograms per cubic meter, recorded by the Town Hall site:

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007 ¹
Mean	44	40	46	44	42	38	38	37	35

¹ Low data capture rate (58%)

Annual mean PM10 particle concentrations, in micrograms per cubic meter, recorded by the Town Hall site:

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Mean	26	26	26	25	28	25	26	27	26

Number of PM10 particle 24 hour running mean concentrations above 50 micrograms per cubic meter:

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
No. of days	7	6	10	6	36	7	4	12	20

1.2 Diffusion Tube monitoring Results

Raw annual means in micrograms per cubic meter:

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Hospital	24	22	24	26
Grove Pumping Station	11	12	13	14
Leisure Centre	14	16	16	18
Pinner Road Odd	28	33	35	39
High Road Leavesden	22	21	21	25
Osprey / Ravenscroft	17	20	20	21
St.Albans Road	25	25	27	28
Westland Road	20	23	25	25
Town Hall	20	22	21	23
Horseshoe Lane /A405	26	24	26	27
Leavesden Road	25	29	31	32
Hatfield Road	27	25	27	30

Balmoral Road	16	23	22	27
Queens Road	24	25	25	27
Farraline Road	35	34	35	35
Chalk Hill	45	51	54	65
Wellington Road	31	27	24	27

Bias corrected results annual means in micrograms per cubic meter:

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Hospital	21	19	19	21
Grove Pumping Station	9	11	11	11
Leisure Centre	12	14	12	14
Pinner Road Odd	25	29	28	32
High Road Leavesden	20	19	17	20
Osprey / Ravenscroft	15	18	16	17
St.Albans Road	22	22	22	23
Westland Road	17	20	20	20
Town Hall	17	19	17	18
Horseshoe Lane /A405	23	21	20	22
Leavesden Road	22	25	24	26
Hatfield Road	24	22	22	24
Balmoral Road	14	20	17	20
Queens Road	21	22	19	21
Farraline Road	31	30	28	28
Chalk Hill	40	45	42	53
Wellington Road	27	24	19	22

Appendix 2 Monitoring Locations

Nitrogen Dioxide Diffusion Tube locations

	Type of site	Easting	Northing
Hospital	r	508689	198955
Grove Pumping Station	b	510569	195796
Leisure Centre	b	510989	200707
Pinner Road Odd	r	511944	195309
High Road Leavesden	r	509850	199942
Osprey / Ravenscroft	r	512253	199901
St.Albans Road	r	510960	198593
Westland Road	r	510864	197141
Town Hall	r	510567	196814
Horseshoe Lane /A405	r	511677	200690
Leavesden Road	r	510869	197753
Hatfield Road	r	510933	198026
Balmoral Road	r	511004	198268
Queens Road	r	511189	197044
Farraline Road	r	510810	196015
Chalk Hill	r	511919	195458
Wellington Road	r	510755	197232

r = roadside site

b = background site

Appendix 3 Air Quality Management Areas

On 17th February 2006, Watford Borough Council declared six Air Quality Management Areas. All areas were designated in relation to a likely breach of the nitrogen dioxide (annual mean) objective as specified in the Air Quality Regulations (England) 2000.

The areas and the residential premises to which they relate are:

<p><u>Watford no 1</u></p> <p>St Albans Road</p>	<p>Residential properties at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1B & 1C Wellington Road ▪ 155 – 157 St. Albans Road ▪ 211-215 St. Albans Road ▪ 164 – 454 St. Albans Road
<p><u>Watford no 2</u></p> <p>Vicarage Road</p>	<p>Residential properties at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 28A – 30A Vicarage Road (Flats above shops) ▪ 85A-87A Vicarage Road (Flats above shops)
<p><u>Watford no 3</u></p> <p>Aldenham Road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Residential Accommodation above The Railway Arms, Aldenham Road
<p><u>Watford no 4</u></p> <p>Chalk Hill</p>	<p>Residential property at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 12 Chalk Hill
<p><u>Watford no 5</u></p> <p>A405/Horseshoe</p>	<p>Residential properties at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3A – 5A Horseshoe Lane ▪ 887 St Albans Road ▪ 1026 St Albans Road
<p><u>Watford no 6</u></p> <p>M1/Meriden</p>	<p>Residential properties at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 16, 17 & 18 Ravenscroft ▪ 1 – 5 The Gossamers ▪ 31 The Gossamers ▪ 63 – 65 The Gossamers ▪ 95 – 97 The Gossamers ▪ 62, 64, 69 Eastlea Avenue

Appendix 4 Local Development Plan Air Quality Policies

3.58 SE20 Air Quality

In determining planning applications it will be important to consider the impact of a development in terms of the effects on air quality caused by both the operational characteristics of the development (industrial, commercial and domestic) and the traffic generated by it. The Council will have regard to the potential effects of a development on local air quality when determining planning applications.

- 3.59 In considering the impact of a proposed development on air quality, the Council will liaise with the pollution control authorities (the local Environmental Health and Licensing Service or Environment Agency). The Council may require the submission of information and modelling to indicate the potential impact of atmospheric emissions, or the effect on background pollution concentrations. This should particularly be the case where a development is proposed in, or close to, an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). Where local air quality is identified as being a risk to health, and the potential problem is incapable of being overcome by a condition or planning obligation, then this may be cause for refusal of planning permission.

3.60 SE21 Air Quality Management Areas

Any development within areas designated as air quality management areas in Watford must have regard to guidelines for ensuring air quality is maintained at acceptable concentrations as set out in the national air quality strategy. In addition, where developments are close to AQMAs, and a significant increase in road traffic is predicted, similar regard to air quality concentrations must be had.

- 3.61 Major developments can have an effect on air quality. Road related development as well as some types of industry can both increase emissions. The Environment Act 1995 places a duty on local authorities to review and assess air quality in their districts. Those areas that are expected to exceed national guidelines in the year 2005 will be deemed Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and a strategy will need to be devised by the Council to reduce pollution concentrations accordingly.
- 3.62 The Council completed its initial assessment of air quality across the Borough in 2001. This identified six areas where the objectives laid down in the Air Quality Regulations 2000 could, on occasion, be exceeded, as follows:

- Close to the M1
- Close to the A41
- Close to the A4008 (Pinner Road)
- Close to the A4178 (Cassio Road/Wiggenhall Road)
- Close to the A411 (Hempstead Road)
- Close to the A412 (Rickmansworth Road)

In each case, the pollutants of concern were nitrogen dioxide and 'PM10' particles (small particles of dust). Both are traffic-related pollutants. As no significant public exposure was identified in any of these areas, no Air Quality Management Areas were declared. However, the areas remain of concern.

3.63 The Council is currently repeating the Review and Assessment process. Early indications are that nitrogen dioxide and 'PM10' particles may again be problems in areas close to some of the Borough's busiest roads.

3.64 Air Quality is an issue of sustainability, identified as a key element in the reduction of health risks from environmental pollution and hazards, also impacting on the built and natural environment. Its improvement is a major factor in the quality of life received by Watford's population. Air Quality is being monitored at a number of sites across the Borough including at the Town Hall.