

Appendix B - Consultation Plan

On developing or revising an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) the local authority is required to consult with a number of statutory consultees and the interested local bodies and organisations (e.g. local businesses and residents affected by AQAP measures). The statutory guidance encourages local authorities to consult as widely as possible. To this end we propose to consult statutory consultees and other larger organisations with a strong interest in the issues relating to air quality directly. This will be achieved by directly mailing these specific organisations.

In terms of the general public and local businesses and organisations, we intend to carry out an online consultation (see below for content) via the Boston Borough Council website and publicise the consultation using the Boston Bulletin. We intend to consult for a period of 28 days.

On completion of the consultation exercise all responses will be collated and brought back to members for consideration as to whether any amendments need to be made prior to final approval of the AQAP. Once approved the AQAP will need to be submitted to DEFRA for their final approval.

Implementation will require close working and cooperation over a number of Council departments and other external bodies. Updates on progress on implementing the AQAP will need to be made within the Council's Annual Status Report's made to DEFRA.

List of Consultees

Direct consultation by mail

1. Environment Agency (Statutory)
2. DEFRA (Statutory)
3. Lincolnshire County Council (Statutory)
4. Highways England (Statutory)
5. Neighbouring Local Authorities SHDC, NKDC, ELDC (Statutory)
6. Public Health England
7. Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce
8. BTAC
9. Port of Boston
10. Lincolnshire NHS
11. United Lincolnshire NHS Trust
12. Age UK Lincoln & South Lincolnshire
13. Sustrans
14. Inland Waterways Association
15. Natural England

Online consultation

1. General Public
2. Local businesses
3. Local Organisations & Charities

Consultation Questionnaire

Boston Borough Council - Air Quality Action Plan Consultation

Boston Borough Council is seeking the views of residents, visitors, businesses and organisations in Boston on potential measures to improve air quality in the town as outlined in our Air Quality Action Plan Consultation.

Consultations runs from xxxxxxxx to xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.

The survey is available at

Background

Boston Borough Council has a duty under the Environment Act 1995 to review and assess air quality in the Borough.

Boston Borough Council monitors air quality in the borough. In two specific areas of Boston annual recorded levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) are close to or exceed national air quality standards. NO₂ is produced during combustion and the exceedances are relates to road traffic. As required by the Environment Act 1995 Boston Borough Council has declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's) at these locations. As such, Boston Borough Council is required to formulate an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to improve air quality in these areas.

Action Plan

A steering group consisting of a number key officers of the Boston Borough Council and representatives from Lincolnshire County Council Highways and Public Health was formed to draw up an Air Quality Action Plan with the intention of improving air quality in the AQMA's. An AQAP consultation document has been prepared which sets out the areas that Boston Borough Council and its partners will investigate in greater depth to assess their effectiveness and viability. These measures include changes to road layouts, encouraging the use of cleaner methods of transport such as electric vehicles, and alternatives to vehicle use such as cycling and walking.

Why are local views needed?

Poor air quality affects us all and whilst Boston Borough Council and its partners can identify ways in which improvements can be made, unless there is also support from the wider community, success in securing the necessary improvements will be more difficult. In addition, consultation allows us to get feedback on our work to date and to tap in to the knowledge and experience of the local community and make sure other opportunities have not been missed.

What will happen post consultation?

When the consultation ends, Boston Borough Council will review the draft AQAP in light of local feedback. Following this, the Borough Council members will be requested to adopt the AQAP and the final AQAP will be submitted to DEFRA.

Some of the measures may take years to put in place whilst other can be achieved more quickly. It is likely, however, that reductions on NO₂ can be achieved by implementing measures within the AQAP over a period of time and through central Government Policies.

Boston Borough Council has to produce an Annual Status Report for DEFRA each year and progress on the measures will be reported in this way. These reports will be published on the council website.

Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) Consultation Questionnaire.

Question 1 To help us understand who we have consulted with please indicate which of these best describes your view point in relation to this consultation.

I am a local resident and these are my personal views	
I am not a local resident but work or visit Boston	
I am responding in a professional / business capacity	
I am responding on behalf of a non-business organisation	
None of the above	

Question 2 How important did you think the issue of air quality was in Boston prior to reading the AQAP consultation?

Very important	
Important	
Not very important	
Not sure/Don't know	

Question 3 How important did you think the issue of air quality was in Boston after reading the AQAP consultation?

Very important	
Important	
Not very important	
Not sure/Don't know	

Question 4 Do you agree with the overall approach described in the plan to improve air quality? If not, why not?

Yes	
No	
Partially	
Not sure/Don't know	
Reason(s) if you do not agree	

Question 5 Of the potential measures listed below please indicate what in your view is the importance of the measure?

	High Importance	Medium Importance	Low Importance	Don't Know
Provision of an outer distributor road				
Junction improvement to aid traffic flows				
Setting emission standards for taxis and anti-idling on taxi ranks				
Encourage the use of electric vehicles by providing public charging points				
Encourage electric charging points to be installed in new build homes/businesses through the planning process				
Increase the patronage/service provision of the 'Into town bus service'				
Provision of cleaner buses				
Request air quality assessments for developments				
Investigate reduced car parking charges for EV/hybrid vehicles				
Promote cycling and walking as an alternative to the car				
Encourage the take up of low emission vehicles				
Monitoring of traffic and air pollutants				
Implement standards for control of dust from construction sites				
Promote travel plans for new developments				
Liaise with Environment Agency regarding industrial emissions from permitted sites to ensure AQMA considered when setting emission limits				
Discourage the use of bonfires for disposal of wastes				
Use procurement procedures as a tool to encourage greener transport services				

Provision of air quality information to public, schools to inform healthier choices				
Work with rail operators to increase use of rail freight and passenger services				
Workplace parking levy				

Question 6 Are there any other measures you feel the council or its partners should be taking to improve air quality which are not included in the draft AQAP?

Question 7 Which of these measures would you personally consider taking to improve air quality in Boston? Please tick all those that apply.

Walk more	
Cycle more	
Use public transport	
Share a lift	
Use a lower emission vehicle	
None of the above	

Question 8 What issues or factors do you currently consider prevent you from regularly using more sustainable transport options or low emission/electric vehicles?

Question 9 Do you think the proposed measures will improve air quality in Boston?

Yes	
No	
Not Sure/Don't know	

Question 10 Do you have any other comments or suggestions relating to the improvement of air quality in Boston?

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