

Response ID ANON-T9RG-5PB9-6

Submitted on 2015-11-06 20:39:59.786019

Introduction

What is your name?

Name:

Simon Thackray

What is your email address?

Email:

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation? If so, please provide the name of your organisation.

Individual

Name of organisation

(Required):

The Shed

What is the nature of your organisation?

Please select:

Other

If other, please specify:

Please complete:

Arts organisation

Do your comments relate to (please note there is a separate consultation available for Scotland):

Required:

England

Would you like your response to be confidential?

No

If your answer is yes, please tell us why.

Please complete:

Consultation Questions

Question 1: Do you consider that the proposed plan set out in the overview document strikes the right balance between national and local roles?

No

If no, please tell us why:

Optional:

The proposed plan relies on the Air Quality Action Plans of Local Authorities being carried out in the 'shortest possible time'. As a practical unit of measure, 'the shortest possible time' is similar to the 'length of a piece of string' i.e. it is about as vague a measurement as could be imagined.

New UK Air Quality Action Plans should incorporate a mechanism to ensure that Local Authority Air Quality Action Plans are implemented within their declared and approved timescales, and penalties should be imposed on Local Authorities that, for no valid reason, fail to implement the actions detailed in their AQAPs by the due date(s). Officers and directors of Local Authorities should be held personally responsible for ensuring that this work is carried out.

Annual report filing, and self-regulation by Local Authority departments is unsatisfactory. This is the equivalent of a car owner carrying out his or her own self-assessment MOT. The implementation of Local Air Quality Action Plans is critical to the success of the UK plans to reduce the concentration of NO2 in the breathable air, and some form of external scrutiny and auditing of Local Authority Air Quality Action Plan reporting data is required to ensure that Local Authority approved Actions are fully implemented.

Failure by Local Authorities to implement the measures contained in Air Quality Action Plans exposes members of the public to harmful levels of NO2 for longer.

Question 2: Are you aware of any other action happening in your area which will improve air quality and should be included in the plan? If yes, please identify in the space provided as far as you are able: a. What the additional actions are; b. The zone(s) in which they are being taken; and c. What the impact of those actions might be (quantified impacts would be particularly useful). If there is more than one action please separate them with numbering.

I am not aware of any other action happening in my area

Optional:

Question 3: Within the zone plans there are a number of measures where we are unable to quantify the impact. They are included in the tables of measures. Do you have any evidence for the impact of these types of measures? If yes, please provide the name or code of the zone plan and measure codes of the measure you are referring to in the space provided.

I do not have any evidence for the impact of these types of measures

Optional:

Question 4: Do you agree that a consistent framework for Clean Air Zones, outlined in section 4.3.6 of the draft UK overview document, is necessary?

Not applicable

If yes, do you think the criteria set out are appropriate?

Optional:

Question 5: What do you consider to be the barriers that need to be overcome for local authorities to take up the measures set out in section 4 of the UK overview document? How might these be overcome?

I am not aware of any barriers

Optional:

Are there alternative measures which avoid these barriers? If so, please set these out in the space provided.

Not Answered

Required:

The verb 'to mitigate' should be erased from the planners' lexicon.

Question 6: Are you aware of any additional action on non-transport sources to improve air quality that should be included in the plan? If so, please set out in the space provided.

I am not aware of any additional action

Required:

I have the following suggestion with regard to the information provided in 'Property sales and letting particulars':

Property Sales and Letting Particulars should include a local air quality declaration, in the same way that particulars are required to include an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC).

This additional information should state whether or not a property is located within an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), and if it is, should declare the pollutant or pollutants present and the concentration of the pollutant(s) in the breathable air.

Including an air quality declaration in all property sales and letting particulars would provide important health related information and enable individuals to make informed choices about where they live in terms of air quality.

Obligatory disclosure of air quality information could quickly focus minds on air quality issues and act as a spur to action towards improvement.