

**ACTION PLAN FOR**

**THE ST ALBANS CITY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA ORDERS 2004/2009**

**Update following meeting - July 2010**

## COUNTYWIDE ACTIONS

Item	Action	Responsibility/Organisation	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale	Effect on air quality	Progress with measure	Comments
1	To set up an inter authority steering group to deliver the Action Plan which will report to the Visible Street Scene Board and St Albans Road Improvement Plan (Strip).	SADC/HCC	Tara Murphy	Jan 2010	No direct effect	The first meeting took place on 15 January 2010, attended by RT, BP, AB, SD, SH, DI. Apologies from TG and AR. There will be a six monthly review by STRIP followed by a report to the Sustainability Project Board. The meeting is to report annually to the Highways Joint Members Panel.	Date for next meeting? 09 <sup>th</sup> December 2010 Indicators and cost effectiveness need to be included in the AP where possible. For example: BVPI102 – Public transport patronage LTP4 – Mode share of journeys to school LTP6 – changes in peak period traffic flows to urban centres LTP7 – congestion (vehicle delay) Seven Oaks Council has an example of good practice. TM to download Seven Oak's AP. RT advised that Sue Jackson from HCC can provide traffic modelling data and figure for traffic passing though Scoot. A new list of targets and indicators being developed for April 2011 onwards.
2	Investigate the status of on-street parking in the AQMA and determine if parking is contributing to traffic congestion at each	Led by SADC Car Parking Working Party (CPWP) and assisted by HCC.	Brian Peers/Rupert Thacker	31/12/2010	Low	Investigations into parking at the top of Victoria Street and the bottom of Holywell Hill have already	QNP budget of £10K has been given  Problems with

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	<p>junction.</p> <p>Investigate the provision of on street loading facilities and co-ordinated timings of deliveries. (previously 12).</p>					<p>commenced. To consider pinch points and displacement problems. The Quality Network Partnership (QNP) to consider the problem of parked vehicles. Banning right turns would increase rat runs.</p> <p>The Traffic Management Act provides new powers to deal with obstruction – these are being investigated for suitability of use at Holywell Hill. During peak periods to discourage trader deliveries during the day which create pinch points.</p>	<p>disabled badge holders who can park unrestricted. Particular problem on Victoria Street for significant length of the road on the approach to the traffic signals at Chequer street junction. Further consideration to be given to existing Sunday requirements.</p> <p>Consultation on Holywell Hill Scheme – Summer 2010 for implementation in the Autumn.</p> <p>Peak time loading is banned. Deliveries are now restricted and loading cannot take place between the following times 7.00 – 09.00 and 15.30 – 16.30 Monday to Friday Further consideration to Sunday requirements.</p>
3	SADC will assert comprehensive control	SADC	Deirdre Illingworth	Annually	Low	All processes are risk rated annually and	

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	over Part B/Part A2 processes for smaller scale industries under the Environmental permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007					inspection frequency determined based upon risk. Programmed annual inspections April 09 – March 10 are currently up to date, and ongoing. Processes operating without a permit are identified and the appropriate enforcement action taken.	
4	SADC will investigate complaints about nuisance (domestic and industrial emissions).	SADC	Stephen Hide	Annually	Low	Complaints are investigated as and when received.	
5	Continue to monitor air quality within the district and as necessary review the suitability of monitoring locations.	SADC	Tara Murphy	Ongoing	Low	The details of diffusion tube and continuous monitoring are recorded on <a href="http://hertsbedsair.org.uk">hertsbedsair.org.uk</a> . Monitoring sites to be reviewed periodically	Additional NO2 tube for monitoring outside the Town Hall to be provided. Applied for Defra funding for monitoring survey at Peahen Junction. Awaiting outcome. RT advised it would be helpful to have real time readings for NO2 to assess AM and PM AQ peaks. To be run in conjunction with monitoring CCTV camera info relating to the type of behaviour of traffic. One or two day survey.

## ST ALBANS – AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN (AQMA – Peahen Junction)

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	<b>QUALITY NETWORK PARTNERSHIP</b>						
6	To improve the reliability of bus services and increase patronage and encourage modal shift from the car to public transport.	HCC Passenger Transport Unit (PTU) and Quality Network Partnership (QNP)	Keith White	31/12/2010	Low	Currently being developed by the existing Quality Network Partnership	Applied for 'Kick Start' funding but has not heard yet. Funding would be used to buy new 'cleaner' buses. Some buses would be replaced but overall increase in bus fleet. Details of current fleet required to include in AP. Rupert Thacker to provide. Kick Start funding - awarded 1M in Apr 2010 but subsequently withdrawn by new Gov in May 2010.
7	To investigate the creation of a "Low Emission Zone". (Was 17)	HCC (Highways) and SADC QNP	Rupert Thacker/Brian Peers	2010	Low	Will be assessed as part of wider area traffic modelling and management. (Item 11)	Herts Highways are looking at the feasibility of carrying out this work and are in discussions with other authorities. Ongoing
8	Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) funding to employ a travel plan co-ordinator. Their role is to study parking	SADC/QNP/STRIP	Brian Peers	Commenced and due to complete 30 June 2010	Low	Travel plan co-ordinator in post and located at the University of Hertfordshire.	To feedback to the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

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	pressures, business parking, traffic movements, and congestion within the city centre. (Was 19)						
9	Pilot the Station Travel Plan (Was 26)	HCC/SADC QNP	Trevor Mason/Brian Peers	2010	Low	The county and district councils, together with the rail and bus operators, are part of the DFT's pilot programme of station travel plans. For Hertfordshire, it is a combined plan covering St Albans City, St Albans Abbey and Hatfield Stations. This combination has caused some difficulties in progressing the plan as fast as anticipated – most pilot plans involve only one rail operator and one District Council. The Hertfordshire plan is thus behind schedule, HCC intend to have a major push to get it back on track in the new year. In the meantime, there is on-going joint work with both First Capital Connect and London Midland to continue investigating any further improvements at both	Some work has been undertaken and is now being evaluated.



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11	To carry out modelling for the partial traffic management of St Peter's Street, Chequer St, Market Place and Victoria Street.	HCC Highways	Rupert Thacker	31/12/2009	N/A	Currently in progress	Base modelling by Feb/March 2010. Option modelling April/May and will be reported to Cabinet in June.  Base model completed June 2010. Proposed changes to be modelled in summer 2010. Cabinet report Dec 2010.
12	Implementation of traffic management scheme in St Peter's Street, Chequer Street and Market Place.	SADC/HCC	Rupert Thacker/Brian Peers	Summer 2011	Medium	Dependent on results of item 7 + 11	
13	Investigate the possibility of informative signing on the approaches to the Peahen crossroads to encourage drivers to switch off their engines whilst waiting in queuing traffic.	HCC/SADC	Rupert Thacker/Brian Peers  Tara Murphy	31/12/2010	Low - medium	Research <b>has been</b> carried out to assess if this is a viable option. <b>Conflicting advice ranging from switching engine off if idle for over 10 seconds to switching off if idling for over 3 minutes. Other authorities have implemented measures for encouraging drivers to switch engines off whilst waiting in queuing traffic. Monitoring of car idling at peak times to be carried out by TM.</b>	SADC to lead the research on whether this is a viable option. If yes, can this information go on the scrolling notice boards. Also consider posters rather than signs. <b>Peahen Junction on a 121 second cycle. Concerns from Steering group members whether switching engines off would cause more congestion, for example if cars have trouble starting up</b>



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							<p>again, or don't start up in time for traffic to flow through green light.</p> <p>Could the traffic lights at Westminster Lodge be linked up with Scoot to prevent large volumes of traffic queuing on Holywell Hill?</p> <p>More monitoring of peak hours/congestion required.</p> <p>Councils have the powers to issue a fixed penalty notice of £20 to motorists who leave their car engines idling, under the Road Traffic (Vehicle emissions) (Fixed Penalties) (England) Regs 2002. Should not issue a notice without first giving a warning. Would be impractical to issue FPN to queuing traffic as could hold traffic up more if traffic moves.</p> <p>Newer cars coming onto market with stop/start function built into vehicle.</p> <p>Renders action from</p>

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							driver/enforcer unnecessary. General affluence in area will result in more newer vehicles on road with consequential result of lower CO2 emissions.
14	Investigate possibility of road signs to discourage through traffic	HCC	Rupert Thacker	31/12/2010	Low	New signage and routings are planned for installation at the junction and the approach to the city.	The car park variable message signs are up and running and set to expand to cover other car parks. Phase 2 is to revisit direction signage. Phase 2 area wide direction signage due to start this financial year (city area) and the possibility of a further ring of VMS signs to be used at a more strategic level for traffic information. 2011 subject to funding
15	'Wizzgo Car Club', a fleet of Citroen CV1's made available to St Albans residents to encourage one car per household ownership.	SADC.	Brian Peers	31/03/2010	Low	Wizzgo was in operation but ceased on the 6 November. Alternative options being assessed. Also look at installation of electric charging points.	Two companies are interested in providing car clubs and business cases are awaited for consideration. Vehicles for this scheme need to be traditional and not

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							<p>electric. 'Street Cars' are fully committed and can provide their own vehicles. 'Com Wheels' require us to provide vehicles</p> <p>Cooperating with Herts CC and Watford BC to see if a larger scheme could be developed which could be more financially attractive.</p>
16	Refresh current business travel plans in the area and contact local businesses to encourage travel plans, in particular St Albans District Council and AE COM and St Albans City Hospital.	HCC-Travel Wise team & SADC.	Rupert Thacker	31/12/2010	Low	See item 21	<p>HCC have a specific business travel plan.</p> <p>Network St Albans QNP have successfully bid for monies for new technologies and a business travel plan. QNP is a county wide system.</p> <p>Automatic vehicle locator. Realtime travel news.</p> <p>Currently procuring at HCC under contract and will be trailing Summer 2010. Can be accessed via mobile, computer, scrolling flags.</p> <p>New HCC Business Travel Plan co-ordinator starting on 1 Feb, Richard</p>

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							Turner (maternity cover).
17	<p>Market “lift-share” service (Stalbanstravel.com) internally, to local businesses and to the broader community</p> <p>Car sharing is when two or more people share a car and travel together. It allows people to benefit from the convenience of the car, whilst alleviating the associated problems of congestion and pollution.</p>	SADC	Jerome Veriter	31/12/2010	Low	<p>The scheme is run by “Liftshare” which is run by HCC (contact at County Hall is Lilian Goldberg). The website address is <a href="http://www.hertsliftshare.org">www.hertsliftshare.org</a></p> <p>Liftshare is the largest car-share network in the UK. St Albans Travel is our personal portal to access this database. Individual can join for free to search for people going the same way. Businesses can pay a fee to create their own group so that colleague can organise shared journey just among themselves.</p> <p>The Council will develop a marketing pack to distribute to the local businesses and engage with them early 2010.</p> <p>Once the business have picked up we will engage with the local population (press release, banners, leaflet, promotion at events)</p>	Re-launch proposed to extend to businesses in the city centre. Looking to combine with Watford who have the same system.

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	<b>ELECTRIC VEHICLES</b>						BP advised that decisions on electric vehicles on hold until late 2011 pending increase in number of choices for electric vehicles and government grants
18	Implementation of the 'Buzz Scheme' where free charging is provided for electric vehicles at NCP car parks within St Albans.	SADC.	Brian Peers	31/12/2011	Low	To initiate discussions with NCP on feasibility of this option.	Also to assess whether an electric charging point can be included at the Wizz Go Point. Gov is making grants available from 2011/2012. The range of vehicles available at the moment are limited. The grant will be £5K Applied to EEDA for charging point grant. Unlikely given demise of EEDA.
19	Investigate introducing cheaper car parking for lower polluting vehicles. (was 16).	SADC	Brian Peers	Medium Term Pending Buzz Scheme trial results.	Low		NCP – Contracted car parks can not be used without SADC compensating for loss of income.
20	Consider requiring developers to install electric car points in new developments under Section 106 agreements (was 22).	SADC	Brian Peers			To be discussed with the Planning Department in 2010.	Mainstream manufacturers bringing out new electric vehicles towards end of 2011. Electric

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							<p>bicycles purchased July 2010.</p> <p>Linda Batham (Planning) deals with Section 106 agreements. Is there any money secured against AQMA's. Look at best practice with other authorities. Supplementary planning document 'Community Infrastructure' (being developed) will supersede Section 106.</p> <p>Would be useful for a contact in Planning to attend Steering Group meeting regarding Section 106 agreements.</p>
	The use of electric vehicles for staff including bikes (was 30).	SADC	Brian Peers			Vehicle tested during the summer of 2009. Now being assessed to determine if can be brought into operation in 2010.	
21	Consider an increase in car parking charges with the view to making bus travel a more attractive alternative.	SADC.	Brian Peers	31/12/2012	Low	To be considered by the car parking working party at a future meeting	This may create parking problems in other areas. This could create problems by putting people off from using St Albans

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							shops/market. Needs to be tackled on a Countywide Basis
22	Continue the Trees Against Pollution (TAP) project.	SADC.	Andrew Branch/Brian Peers	Ongoing	Low	Under review by Trees and Woodlands Officer	Limitations on where to plant trees. Some open space already occupied by trees. Problems with underground services (e.g. telecom wires, etc), and planting too near to buildings causing structural damage. Areas of land in private ownership. Input into planning is limited as new applications need to have a design which allow the space . Applications tend to have little amenity space. Planting can also cause difficulties with obscuring CCTV. However, large number of trees to be planted In the Wheathampstead Forest. Reduces CO2 rather than NO2. Budget of £10K per annum for planting trees. £50-60 per tree. Planting

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							aprox 170-200 throughout the district. M25 widening works. Trees taken down for widening but will be replaced to stabilise the banks.
23	Application to the East of England Development Agency for the introduction of 80 small to medium size business travel plans (Business Smiles).	SADC	Brian Peers	Decision expected by 31/12/2009. If successful project launch 2010	Low - medium	Application made Successful (Money from EU, not affected by demise of EEDA, Approx ½ M awarded May 2010. Work commences July 2010.	
24	Car free day event in September (and hoping to continue annually potentially with road closure).	SADC	Jerome Veriter	2010	Low	Event staged in Sept 2009. Will be repeated Sept 2010.	
25	Cycling and walking strategy	SADC/HCC	Jerome Veriter/David Burt (County Cycling Officer)	2010	Low	Cycling (2008) and Walking (2009) Strategies in place. Include improvement to cycle paths, increased provision of cycle parking, production of a district-wide cycling map, improved provision for pedestrians and the development of scenic and safe walking routes.	SADC Green Travel Plan: 6 Council pool bicycles * +2 Electric Bicycles have been provided with lockers. Currently only 5 staff have been using them. Uptake may improve when the weather improves. RT would like use of bicycles to extend to HCC officers. Council insurance



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							would not extend to HCC. RT to check HCC insurance.
26	Signage for pedestrians.	HCC/SADC	Rupert Thacker/Brian Peers	2010	Low	This scheme was delivered by St Albans City and District Council on behalf of Hertfordshire Highways in 2008/2009	Will need reviewing to see if it has had any impact on the number of pedestrians and the impact on the AQMA.  To be linked to the walking strategy and provide details to Tourist Information
27	Mini Park and Ride	HCC/SADC	Rupert Thacker/Brian Peers	2010	Low	HCC will be meeting with SADC to discuss development of feasibility study	This is in the Urban Transport Plan and a viability study will be carried out in early 2010. Feasibility study completed June 2010.
28	Taxi emissions					Investigate measures to update taxi fleet.  Investigate emission monitoring of taxis.  Emissions controlled through Certificate of Compliance at garage check. Annually if vehicle is less than 5 yrs old- Bi-annually if over 5 yrs and Tri-	Hillingdon Council has produced a leaflet for economical driving techniques which provides an overview of technologies that are available of use by taxi fleets.

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						<p>annually over 7 yrs old.</p> <p>Discount for hybrid vehicles (Prius) £60. off licence fee which is £300 or £360 depending on if applicant is a resident or not.</p>	
29	Investigate whether the traffic light sequence at the Peahen Junction has been changed.	HCC	Rupert Thacker			<p>The traffic light sequences at the peahen have not changed significantly since the works were completed in spring 2005. They run an intelligent sequencing that responds to traffic flows and are linked to the High Street crossing.</p> <p>.</p>	Issue raised at Overview and Scrutiny Meeting
30	Investigate whether a set of holding signals can be installed at the bottom of Holywell Hill.	HCC	Rupert Thacker			<p>This is a significant scheme and needs to be considered alongside other possible schemes including the removal of through traffic from St Peters Street etc. As such at this point in time a straight forward answer to the question cannot be given. It could be a possibility but needs to have been fully investigated. Should be considered further to item 11.</p>	Issue raised at Overview and Scrutiny Meeting

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						Officers discussed and felt it might actually exacerbate the problem and result in a further extension of the AQMA	