

4.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION WITHIN AQMA

The aim of the town centre AQMA is to reduce levels of nitrogen dioxide to below those specified in the national air quality standards. In order to ensure these objectives are achieved, the following criteria have been identified as being capable of being monitored:

4.1 Traffic Flows

Some of the identified measures try to encourage less private car usage within the town centre. We will continue to liaise with Hampshire County Council regarding traffic flows data. Recent work by Hampshire County Council will provide greater information on average vehicle speeds, composition and numbers than has existed historically. There are already automatic vehicle counters on the main roads leading into the town centre as well as at St Georges Street within the town centre.

This data can be evaluated and included in our ongoing review process.

4.2 Air Quality

Air quality will be reviewed annually to establish if and when compliance is achieved. As some of the air quality objectives are set as annual means then air quality reviews will be performed at the end of each calendar year.

It is therefore proposed to implement the following air quality monitoring scheme that will be supported provisionally up to the year 2010:

- In April 2005 we replaced all our monitoring equipment on a like for like basis (except the background CO monitor) to limit the amount of downtime caused by the use of older more unreliable equipment. The new contract up to 2010 includes a hot swap agreement to replace any instruments that cannot be repaired within 48 hours. This together with the new equipment should limit equipment down time and improve on the quality of the data available for performing future assessments. In addition 3rd party auditing and reporting on the air quality data has been arranged to further improve confidence on its accuracy.
- Continuation of the enhanced town centre nitrogen dioxide diffusion tube survey (34 locations) allows for a detailed geographical spread of nitrogen dioxide data. Continuing this survey will allow for an in depth assessment of trends in concentrations across the town centre, as well as providing comparisons between one site to another. This allows assessments of both compliance with objectives and spatial changes in concentrations that may occur if any traffic management schemes are implemented.
- The recent installation of 3 indicative Turnkey particle monitors (light scattering devices) at lamppost locations within the town centre, with Hampshire County Council financial support. One device has initially been located against the type approved particle analyser within a monitoring station to obtain a bias correction factor that can be applied to the data. As it has proven impossible to accurately model particle levels, additional monitoring will allow for a better assessment of compliance with the particle objectives across the town centre, including the more stringent 2010 objectives.

4.3 Public Perception

Part of our strategy is to encourage less reliance on private car usage by the greater uptake of public transport alternatives. This modal shift relies on the acceptance of these options and measuring satisfaction levels should provide useful data to their likely uptake. It is therefore considered important to assess any changes in public willingness to utilise such options. As part of the MIRACLES project, analysis before and after the project will include issues relating to the uptake and acceptability of public transport. Additional ways of obtaining such information, such as via the Council's Citizens Panel, will also be investigated.