

Local air quality management:
lessons learned from the first
round

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Evaluation of LAQM

- Seminar, 23 November
- Workshop, 28 January
- What worked well, what didn't work so well
- Lessons learned will feed into policy and guidance for next round

What worked well?

- Forced air quality onto agenda at local level
- Forced air quality into some other policy areas
- Raised profile of air quality among local politicians
- Significantly raised overall level of expertise and knowledge

What worked well (cont)

- Helped create regional groupings, and to strengthen their role
- 3 stage process filtered out some LAs
- Gave local perspective to national issue
- 98% of LAs completed the work within a year of the deadline.

What worked well (cont)

- Helpdesks, and use of internet support
- Informal guidance, and role of groups like the NSCA
- Feedback from appraisals team

What worked less well?

- Shifting deadlines and changes to objectives, emission factors etc
- Lateness of guidance
- Unrealistic expectations about what LAs could actually deliver given limited powers
- Lack of funding (not ring-fenced, and SCAs don't work for all)

What worked less well (cont)

- Too much focus on lines on maps etc, not enough on **action**
- 3 stage process artificial?
- Process of getting to action plans far too lengthy
- Reserve powers: lack of real sanctions

What worked less well (cont)

- Too much emphasis on traffic management
- Lack of involvement from Highways Agency
- Difficulty of getting hold of necessary data (industrial processes, traffic authorities etc)
- Links to health authorities

Where are the messages mixed?

- Lack of consistency - is it a strength or a weakness?
- How prescriptive should guidance be?
- Planning and air quality - some successes, some failures

What do we need to do about it?

- Listen carefully to feedback, and continue to listen: likely to be many more messages from 28 January event
- Revise guidance to cover some points better
- Ensure guidance is issued in good time for the next round
- Streamline requirements on LAs

What value has LAQM added?

- Perhaps too early to judge, as real value in action plans still to come
- Established a framework for local action, which we may well need to draw on later
- Established community of air quality experts
- Encouraged regional groups and approaches

Conclusions

- We have come a long way in last 4 years - steep learning curve
- Some aspects of LAQM worked very well, others less so
- Will be listening carefully to your feedback over coming weeks
- On balance, however, LAQM did add value

And finally....

- Do make sure you attend the 28 January workshop
- Registration forms available from Clare Beattie today
- Or, e-mail:

clare.beattie@uwe.ac.uk