

WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL

SCREENING REPORT

**SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE (SG)
'AIR QUALITY'**

TEP 1 – DETAILS OF THE PLAN

Responsible Authority:

West Lothian Council

Title of the plan:

Supplementary Guidance (SG) – Air Quality

What prompted the plan:

(e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)

Legislative provision – The SG will support Local Development Plan Policy EMG 4 – ‘Air Quality’ and DES 1 Design Principles and will form part of the plan. The guidance provides detail on when an air quality impact assessment is required, guidance on how to undertake an air quality impact assessment and outlines a requirement for mitigation measures such as electric vehicle charging points to be incorporated into new developments.

Plan subject:

(e.g. transport)

Town and Country Planning.

Screening is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Based on Boxes 3 and 4, our view is that:

An SEA is required, as the environmental effects are likely to be significant: Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

Section 5(3)

Section 5(4)

An SEA is not required, as the environmental effects are unlikely to be significant: Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

Section 5(3)

Section 5(4)

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STEP 2 – CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

Context of the Plan:

Supplementary Guidance 'Air Quality' has been prepared in connection with the West Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) and as such forms part of the LDP in line with Section 25 of the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006.

The SG provides further information on Policy EMG 4 'Air Quality' contained in the LDP. Policy EMG 4 'Air Quality' requires developers, where appropriate, to provide information on the impact of their proposals on air quality; the policy sets out a requirement to identify and provide details of potential mitigation measures and to make provision for the mitigation measures. Lastly, Policy EMG 4 makes the provision for applications to be refused if proposals have been assessed to make to unacceptable impact on air quality or where it is not possible to mitigate the adverse effects of that development on air quality effectively. Policy DES 1 Design Principles outlines when assessing development proposals, the developer will be required to ensure that, there are no significant adverse effects on air quality (particularly in and around Air Quality Management Areas).

The further information that the SG contains is detail on when an air quality impact assessment is required; how to carry out an air quality impact assessment and certain prescribed mitigation requirements.

The West Lothian Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted on 4 September 2018. The Adopted West Lothian Local Development Plan 2018 has been subject to a SEA and is the primary means by which development sites are allocated and where impacts have been already been assessed.

Description of the Plan:

West Lothian Council has a responsibility to ensure that health based air quality standards are achieved across West Lothian to protect the health of our citizens. The SG 'air quality' outlines how air quality will be considered when determining planning applications.

The key objectives of the SG are:

- The local policy context.
- Our current understanding of air quality within West Lothian.
- How air quality will be considered within the planning process by West Lothian Council.
- Clear guidelines on when information relating to air quality will be required with a planning application i.e. an air quality impact assessment.
- Our requirements for the methods that should be used when carrying out air quality impact assessments for development management purposes.
- Guidance on what type of mitigation measures may be required to reduce or offset air quality impacts.

What are the key components of the plan?

It provides clear guidelines on when an air quality impact assessment is required; the methodology for carrying out an air quality impact assessment and guidance on what type of mitigation measures may be required to reduce or to offset air quality impacts.

The SG will cover the administrative geographical boundaries of West Lothian Council.

When adopted the guidance will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

LDP Policy EMG 4 Air Quality reads;

'Where appropriate, developers will be required to provide additional information on the impact of their proposed development on air quality. Where a development is likely to affect air quality, developers should identify and provide details of potential mitigation measures and, where appropriate, should make provision for developer contributions or planning obligations to mitigate the development's individual or cumulative impacts upon air quality.

Development promoting behaviour change programmes in Linlithgow and Broxburn/Uphall to facilitate modal shift of shorter journeys to walking and cycling is supported in principle.

Development will not be supported where it is not possible to mitigate the adverse effects of that development on air quality effectively or where development proposals cause unacceptable air quality or dust impacts, or would result in sensitive uses, which give rise to air pollution concerns, being located within or close to uses with potential to generate such pollution. Where appropriate, planning conditions will be imposed which require air quality monitoring apparatus to be installed'.

An extract from Policy DES 1 Design Principles reads;

'When assessing development proposals, the developer will be required to ensure that:

- *the proposal includes appropriate integrated and accessible infrastructure, open space, green infrastructure and landscaping;*
- *sustainability issues are addressed through energy efficient design, layout, site orientation and building practices;*
- *there are no significant adverse effects on air quality (particularly in and around Air Quality Management Areas), or on water or soil quality and, as appropriate, mitigation to minimise any adverse effects is provided'.*

The SG provides the following;

- A policy context.
- A narrative on air quality in West Lothian
- The SG details when an air quality impact assessment is required.
- The SG details what should be included in an air quality impact assessment
- And provides information on mitigation measures to reduce or to offset air quality impacts.

Have any of the components of the plan been considered in previous SEA work?

Yes. The document is produced to support Policy EMG 4 'Air Quality' and DES 1 'Design Principles' in the West Lothian Local Development Plan 2018. An Environmental Assessment has previously been undertaken in respect of policies and proposed land allocations in the West Lothian LDP. The Environmental Assessment undertaken in respect of these policies concluded that they would have no significant environmental implications.

In terms of your response to Boxes 7 and 8 above, set out those components of the plan that are likely to require screening:

All

**STEP 3 – IDENTIFYING INTERACTIONS OF THE PLAN WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND
CONSIDERING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF ANY INTERACTIONS**

Plan Components	Environmental Topic Areas										Explanation of Potential Environmental Effects	Explanation of Significance
	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Material assets	Cultural heritage	Landscape	Inter-relationship issues		
Supplementary Guidance – 'Planning and noise'	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	<p>The SG aids the development management process by providing guidance to ensure due care and attention is paid to applying air quality assessment criteria to new development proposals and that any air quality impact assessments are carried out with methods that are closely aligned with Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) technical guidance.</p> <p>The potential environmental effect is to ensure the impact of developments on air quality is at an acceptable level and to ensure any impacts are appropriately mitigated. This in turn may lead to a positive effect on population on human health.</p> <p>However, this policy principle is integral to the WLLDP which has been subject to a SEA.</p>	The SG is not considered to have any additional environmental effects.
Component 2												

