

## 4.30 Policy ENV7 - Air Pollution

All major development proposals will be required to assess the likely impacts of the proposed development on air quality.

Development proposals will be expected to include mitigation measures to offset negative impacts, which may include:

1. Ensuring the development is located within easy reach of established public transport routes.
2. Maximising provision for cycling and pedestrian facilities.
3. Encouraging the use of cleaner transport fuels on site, through the inclusion of electric car charging points, and;
4. Contributing towards the improvement of the highway network where the development is predicted to result in increased congestion on the highway network.

Development proposed nearby any Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) declared within the district will require an air quality assessment to identify likely impacts of development upon the designated area. Permission will only be granted if the individual and cumulative impact of the proposed development on air quality is acceptable and appropriate mitigation measures are applied. Contributions towards measures identified to deliver the Air Quality Action Plan will be required as part of the development.

### Explanation

- 4.30.1 Since December 1997 each local authority in the UK has been carrying out a review and assessment of air quality in their area. This involves assessing air pollution and trying to predict how it will change in the next few years. The aim of the review is to make sure that the national air quality objectives will be achieved throughout the UK by the relevant deadlines. These objectives have been put in place to protect people's health and the environment.
- 4.30.2 If a local authority finds any places where the objectives are not likely to be achieved, it must declare an Air Quality Management Area. In Eden this process has led to parts of Penrith town centre (Victoria Road and Castlegate) and Eamont Bridge being proposed as Air Quality Management Areas. Development proposals which potentially would affect air quality in these areas will be required to be accompanied by an assessment of its potential impact, and set out the measures by which any potential impacts can be mitigated. Mitigation could include supporting the use of low emission vehicles, incorporating higher standards or alternative uses of energy in new buildings, contributions to traffic management measures or promotion of alternative forms of transport.

### Reason for the Policy

- 4.30.3 To protect quality of life and the natural environment, and to highlight that air quality issues exist in Penrith which new development proposals will need to take into account.