

Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Summary Guide

The Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document ('SPD') includes guidance to support policies in the adopted Mid Devon Local Plan Review 2013 – 2033, where the planning proposals for the development and use of land and buildings can have a detrimental impact on air quality. The SPD will be capable of being used as a material consideration to help inform the preparation of planning applications submitted to the Council for determination and the decisions made on these.

The SPD aims to:

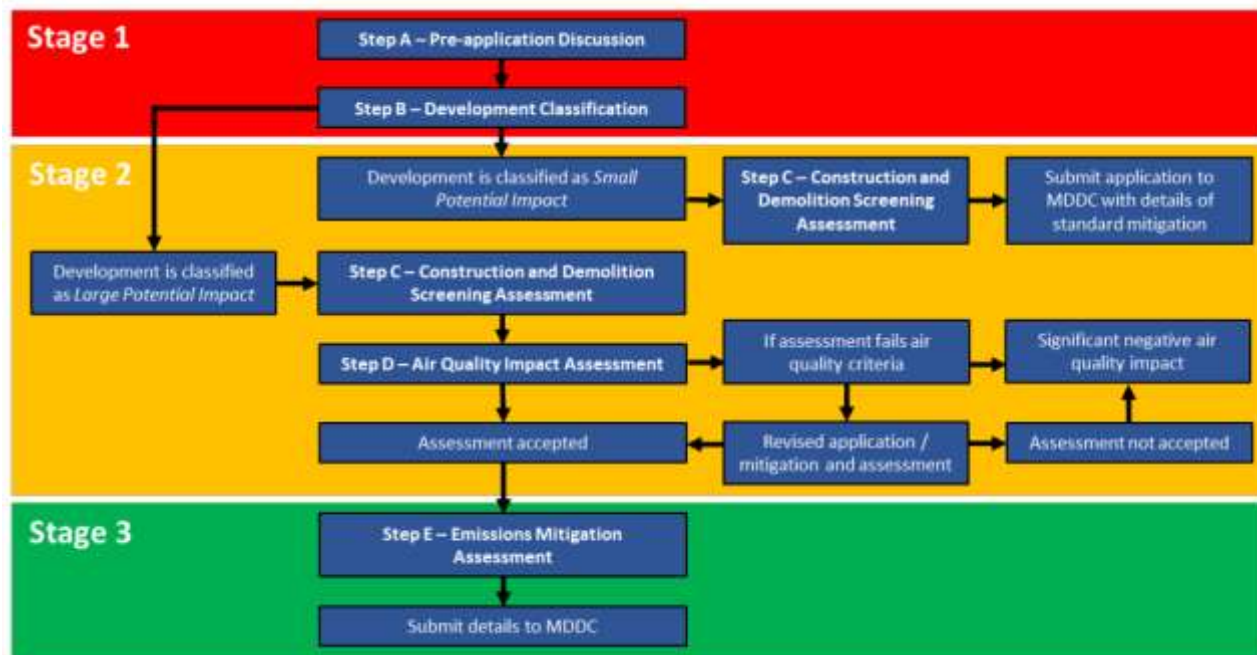
- Sustain and contribute toward the compliance with the national air quality objectives with consideration given to the presence of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in Crediton and Cullompton, and the cumulative impacts from individual sites in local areas.
- Encourage early engagement in the development process to identify the points that need to be considered and addressed prior to making a planning application and decrease the risk of any potential delays during the assessment process.
- Set out a clear and consistent method for developers to provide the relevant information that will be required to be submitted with planning applications for developments that are likely to have an impact on local air quality.
- Ensure better regulation by setting out the approach to undertaking air quality assessments and determining mitigation; and applying these consistently in planning decisions.

The SPD sets out three stages for how its guidance will be used:

Stage one will be to classify the development as having a small or large potential impact. Within this stage, there are two steps. Step A recommends early engagement through pre-application discussion to confirm the scale of development and ensure that the appropriate assessment requirements are undertaken. The discussion will consider whether proposed development is within, near to, or will likely have an impact on an AQMA and which categorisation a site will fall into ('large potential impact' or 'small potential impact'). Step B will identify what actions are required to assess the new development ('no action required', 'construction and demolition screening assessment required' or 'air quality assessment required')

Stage two sets out how to assess and quantify the impact of the development on local air quality. The type of assessment is dependent on the outcomes from stage one. The level of impact identified will range from 'negligible' to 'substantial'. For large potential impact developments, additional pollutant exposure emissions cost (otherwise referred to as 'Damage Costs') should be calculated for the transport element of the development. 'Damage Costs' are values which are used to estimate the costs associated with changes in pollutant emissions. The process has been developed by DEFRA to enable a proportionate analysis when assessing impact on air quality. Damage Costs should be used to determine the scale of the required investment in air quality mitigation measures.

Stage three determines the mitigation that should be applied. All developments should incorporate air quality mitigation where necessary. The type of mitigation measures that are appropriate to reduce air quality impacts will be dependent on the impact of the development that has been identified in the previous two stages.



The SPD explains each stage in more detail and provides worked examples to show how its guidance should be applied to different types of proposed development.