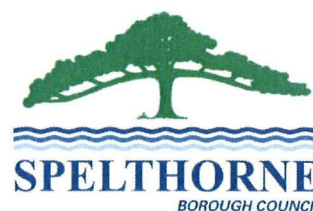


# **Core Strategy and Policies Development Plan Document**

**Adopted 26 February 2009**

**Planning and Housing Strategy  
Spelthorne Borough Council  
Council Offices  
Knowle Green  
Staines  
TW18 1XB**



### **Policy on Air Quality**

- 10.14 Air quality is an important environmental issue for Spelthorne. The whole Borough is currently an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) which reflects the particular need to improve air quality. The Council has an Air Quality Action Plan.
- 10.15 The biggest single contributor to poor air quality in Spelthorne is road traffic, and modelling suggests that the main road corridors are the worst affected areas. Improvements to vehicle technology offer scope for benefits but nevertheless some areas of poor air quality, below EU standards for nitrogen dioxide, are forecast to remain, notably alongside the A308 at Sunbury Cross. The level of particulates (known as PM<sub>10</sub>s) is also a concern adjoining the M25 and Heathrow Airport.

- 10.16 Much of the traffic on major roads in the Borough is through traffic, over which the Council has little or no direct influence. However, there is more scope to influence trips that have origins or destinations within Spelthorne. Measures to locate new development where it is accessible by non-car based modes of travel and support for initiatives such as travel plans to encourage alternatives to car use offer some scope to reduce the reliance on the car for local journeys and thereby help improve air quality.
- 10.17 There is also scope to reduce reliance on cars by the general promotion of non-car based transport through improved facilities, services and information on public transport and cycling. Developing an integrated sustainable and effective transport system is one of the six themes in the Spelthorne Community Plan and there are specific actions and targets identified in the County Council's Local Transport Plan. Car use can also be limited to an extent by reducing parking provision. The appropriate routeing of lorries and low emission technology for both public service and other vehicles can also make a contribution.
- 10.18 A specific proposal the Council is promoting through its Allocations DPD is, as part of the extension of the Elmsleigh Centre, the reformatting of the Staines bus station to make it more attractive and safe for passengers and thereby encourage the greater use of bus travel.
- 10.19 New developments may affect air quality. Where development is proposed in areas of poor air quality measures will be required to ensure an acceptable environment will exist for occupiers of the development. The Council will require air quality assessments to be undertaken for development proposals and the policy identifies when these will be required.
- 10.20 The nature of the assessment will depend on local air quality circumstances. Developers are recommended to make early contact with the Council's Environmental Health section on what may be required. Where adverse impacts can be overcome by mitigation measures these will be required by condition or agreement. Where adverse impacts cannot be overcome permission will be refused.
- 10.21 Policy EN3 sets out how the aim of Strategic Policy SP6, of contributing to improving air quality in the Borough, will be achieved.

**Policy EN3: Air Quality**

The Council will seek to improve the air quality of the Borough and minimise harm from poor air quality by:

- a) supporting measures to encourage non-car based means of travel,
- b) supporting appropriate measures to reduce traffic congestion where it is a contributor to existing areas of poor air quality,
- c) requiring an air quality assessment where development:
  - i is in an Air Quality Management Area, and
  - ii generates significant levels of pollution, or
  - iii increases traffic volumes or congestion, or
  - iv is for non-residential uses of 1000 m<sup>2</sup> or greater, or
  - v is for 10 or more dwellings, or
  - vi involves development sensitive to poor air quality
- d) refusing development where the adverse effects on air quality are of a significant scale, either individually or in combination with other proposals, and which are not outweighed by other important considerations or effects and cannot be appropriately and effectively mitigated,
- e) refusing development where the adverse effects of existing air quality on future occupiers are of a significant scale which cannot be appropriately or effectively mitigated and which are not outweighed by other material considerations.