

# Development Plan Guidance

## Topic: Air Quality and Co-location

SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY	Identifier:	LUPS-DP-GU2d
<b>Land Use Planning System</b> <b>SEPA Development Plan Guidance Note 2d</b>  Development Plan Guidance on Air Quality and Co-location	Page no:	Page 1 of 4
	Issue No:	Version 1
	Issue date:	19/02/2015

### Why we comment on this issue

Strategic and local development plans have an important role to play in protecting and improving air quality in Scotland. Environmental Protection UK (2011) [guidance for local authorities on integrating air quality and climate change policy](#) suggests that in order for climate change and air quality strategies to implement the full range of actions they propose, they need to influence other plans and strategies that guide a local authority's services. Development plans provide an important opportunity to address air quality through supporting sustainable transport infrastructure, the location of new development, promoting sustainable places and green infrastructure

In 1995, the Environment Act set out the legal requirement for ministers to "prepare and publish a statement...referred to as 'the strategy' containing policies with respect to the assessment or management of the quality of air". The Scottish Government develops domestic policies and initiatives to improve air quality and reduce risks to human health.

SEPA and the Scottish Government work in partnership with the other devolved administrations and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to ensure objectives set out in the [Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland](#) are achieved and that transposition and implementation of European Community (EC) and other international obligations are taken forward. There is a statutory duty on SEPA to have regard to the strategy in carrying out its pollution control functions. We are a statutory consultee for all review and assessment reports and action plans.

### SEPA's planning objectives for this topic

- To ensure that development plans aim to minimise carbon and local air quality emissions and recognise the links between the two agendas;
- To ensure that development plans make an effective contribution towards protecting and improving air quality in the plan area;
- To ensure that plan allocations are located, sited and designed to minimise impacts of adjacent regulated processes; and,
- To ensure that development proposals do not create unacceptable risks to adjacent communities.

### How we will address this issue through Strategic Environmental Assessment

- Require SEA to consider the effects of policies, proposals and allocations on air quality
- Recommend that SEA objectives used for assessment include objectives to maintain and improve air quality including improving air quality, reducing emissions / levels of air pollution, reducing levels of nuisance (odour, dust, etc)



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<b>Land Use Planning System</b> <b>SEPA Development Plan Guidance Note 2d</b>  Development Plan Guidance on Air Quality and Co- location	Page no:	Page 2 of 4
	Issue No:	Version 1
	Issue date:	19/02/2015

### Links with other development plan topic tables

Other related tables include: sustainable resource use (SPACE tool, zero waste, district heating and renewable energy).

The following table outlines our requirements and recommendations for Strategic and Local Development Plans relating to air quality and co-location in more detail. If the following requirements are not met then we are likely to make formal representations to the emerging development plan.

Further details on the implementation of the requirements and recommendations and supporting information can be found in the Air Quality and Co-location Background Paper.



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<b>Land Use Planning System</b> <b>SEPA Development Plan Guidance Note 2d</b>  Development Plan Guidance on Air Quality and Co-location	Page no:	Page 3 of 4
	Issue No:	Version 1
	Issue date:	19/02/2015

## Air quality and co-location: requirements and recommendations

Strategic Development Plans	Local Development Plans
<p><b>Requirement:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Policy coverage that protects and improves air quality and directs LDP to provide appropriate policy coverage.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Requirements:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Policy coverage to ensure that any proposed development which could have a detrimental impact on air quality, through exacerbation of existing air quality issues or introduction of new sources of pollution, provides appropriate mitigation measures which are agreed with the local authority.</li> <li>2. Sites are not allocated for land uses that would require regulation by SEPA where they are unlikely to be authorised due to an inability to mitigate risks arising from the location of the development (e.g. flood risk, proximity of sensitive receptors, impacts on air quality, water environment including water dependent ecosystems).</li> </ol>
<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Good air quality is recognised in policy coverage as an important element of sustainable place making that contributes towards health and well-being.</li> <li>2. That in developing the spatial strategy and strategic development sites consideration is given to the impacts of alternative options and sites on air quality and greenhouse gas emissions by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimising potential negative impacts and seeking to maximise potential positive impacts in AQMAs and areas at risk of becoming an AQMA;</li> <li>• Use of carbon assessment tools such as SPACE;</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Good air quality is recognised in policy coverage as an important element of sustainable place making that contributes towards health and well-being.</li> <li>2. Any supplementary guidance on sustainable place making should consider local air quality and, where appropriate, include siting and design options that would help improve local air quality. Examples of such options are incorporation of green infrastructure, setting buildings back from pavement edges, varied building height and short block lengths.</li> </ol>



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<b>Land Use Planning System</b> <b>SEPA Development Plan Guidance Note 2d</b>  Development Plan Guidance on Air Quality and Co-location	Page no:	Page 4 of 4
	Issue No:	Version 1
	Issue date:	19/02/2015

- Consideration of other pertinent issues such as co-location of sensitive land uses with sources of emissions; and,
  - Promoting renewable energy and low carbon options that do not have a detrimental impact on local air quality.
3. The link is made between improving air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and highlights the need for greenhouse gas reduction measures not to have a detrimental impact on air quality.

3. When developing the spatial strategy and resulting allocations consideration is given to the impacts of alternative options and sites on air quality and greenhouse gas emissions by:
- Minimising potential negative impacts and seeking to maximise potential positive impacts in AQMAs and areas at risk of becoming an AQMA;
  - Use of carbon assessment tools such as SPACE;
  - Consideration of other pertinent issues such as co-location of sensitive land uses with sources of emissions; and,
  - Promoting renewable energy and low carbon energy options that do not have a detrimental impact on local air quality.
4. Site allocations are informed by information regarding any adjacent regulated processes with relevant development requirements being attached as required. We also recommend that the planning authority consult with the operator of the regulated site to ascertain the impact that development proposals at an adjacent site could have on the existing business.

