

## Matter 15 – Policies for climate changes, resource management and environmental quality

### Note for Inspectors relating to SWDPR 37 Air Quality

This note provides further explanation to the proposed Main Modification to this policy arising from MIQ Q.290 relating to the justification for the standards set out in the policy. Specifically, the requirement for AQA for development over 100+ dwellings under criterion Aii.

The environmental health body for the county, Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) have advised that Environmental Protection UK and Institute of Air Quality Management updates to guidance and technical requirements now means that this aspect of the policy is no longer supported.

The policy was drafted on the basis of WRS own technical guidance informed, by localised experience, within the series of 'WRS Technical Guidance Note for Planning' [[wrs-technical-guidance-document-for-planning-v-5-7-final.pdf](#); p22, s3.4.1]. Although since updated in March 2024 the cited text in the document predates the existence of any formal planning guidance for Air Quality.

Currently the industry is generally guided by the EPUK & IAQM (2017) Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning For Air Quality which is commonly referred to within the AQ modelling industry. In this respect points 1 and 2 of Table 6.2 are most relevant:

**Table 6.2: Indicative criteria for requiring an air quality assessment**

The development will:	Indicative Criteria to Proceed to an Air Quality Assessment *
1. Cause a significant change in Light Duty Vehicle (LDV) traffic flows on local roads with relevant receptors. (LDV = cars and small vans <3.5t gross vehicle weight).	A change of LDV flows of: - more than 100 AADT within or adjacent to an AQMA - more than 500 AADT elsewhere.
2. Cause a significant change in Heavy Duty Vehicle (HDV) flows on local roads with relevant receptors. (HDV = goods vehicles + buses >3.5t gross vehicle weight).	A change of HDV flows of: - more than 25 AADT within or adjacent to an AQMA - more than 100 AADT elsewhere.

On this basis WRS are content that the specific criterion be amended through a proposed Main Modification and the policy updated more widely to reflect the more recent and nationally applied standards referred to above.

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8.5.2025