

## 6.0 Progress Report for Benzene

### 6.1 The national perspective

The main sources of benzene emissions in the UK are petrol-engined vehicles and petrol refining and distribution activities. A number of policy measures already in place, or planned for future years, will ensure that benzene emissions continue to be reduced.

Since January 2000, EU legislation has reduced the maximum benzene content of petrol to 1% from a previous upper limit of 5%. Benzene emissions from vehicles will be reduced further through the provisions the European Auto-Oil Programme. Emissions from petrol storage and distribution activities are already widely controlled by the use of vapour fuel recovery systems.

Modelling and monitoring undertaken at a national level indicates that existing national policies should generally be sufficient to achieve the 2003 objective for benzene. However, some localised exceedances of the 2010 objective may occur close to very busy roads<sup>1</sup>.

### 6.2 The local perspective

In the First Stage Review and Assessment of Air Quality in York benzene was assessed against the following objective:

*'A running annual average of 5ppb or less to be achieved by the end of 2005'.*

It was concluded that this objective would be met in York without the need for further action at a local level.

In the Second and Third Stage Review and Assessment of Air Quality in York benzene was assessed against a revised objective which was:

*'A running annual mean of 16.25  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (5ppb) or less to be achieved by the end of 2003'.*

It was concluded that this objective would also be met in York without the need for further action at a local level.

In the Update and Screening assessment benzene was assessed against the following objectives:

*'A running annual mean of 16.25  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  or less to be achieved by the end of 2003'.*

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<sup>1</sup> DEFRA Review and Assessment: Technical Guidance LAQM.TG (03) 2003

*'A fixed annual mean of 5mg/m<sup>3</sup> to be achieved by the end of 2010.'*

### **6.3 Conclusions**

Based on the results of the update and screening assessment it was concluded that City of York Council was not required to progress to a detailed assessment of benzene. Since the submission of the update and screening assessment (May 2003) no further development has taken place in York which would have the potential to give rise to exceedences of the benzene objectives. The council therefore considers that the conclusions drawn in the update and screening assessment are still valid and that the undertaking of a detailed assessment for benzene is not required at this time. A further update and screening assessment for benzene shall be carried out in April 2006.