



*Cyngor Bwrdeisdref Sirol*

*Blaenau Gwent*

*County Borough Council*

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# **LOCAL AIR QUALITY REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT PROGRESS REPORT 2005**



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**PUBLIC PROTECTION DIVISION**

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# 1.0 Introduction

## 1.1 The Legislative Background

Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 Act requires each local authority periodically to review air quality in its area. The process of continuous review and assessment started with the first report being produced by BGCBC in 1999. The next full Review and Assessment is due to be published in 2006 and in each of the intervening years we will provide a progress report for the Welsh Assembly Government that looks at any new developments that could affect air quality. To date it has not been necessary to declare an Air Quality Management Area in Blaenau Gwent.

This document represents the second progress report for Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and covers the calendar year 2004. The aim of this report is :

- To provide a readily accessible source of up to date information on air quality, which may be useful to Local Authority staff for dealing with enquiries from members of the public, developers carrying out environmental assessments, and to assist in other areas such as transport and land use planning.
- To ensure continuity in maintaining resourcing, capability and staff skills for LAQM within the Local Authority.
- Helping to get maximum value from the monitoring carried out by the Local Authority.

The specific pollutants which are prescribed in the Air Quality Regulations 2000 and whose levels therefore have to be reviewed and assessed are:

- Benzene,
- 1,3-butadiene,
- Carbon monoxide,
- Lead,
- Nitrogen dioxide,
- Particulates (PM<sub>10</sub>) and
- Sulphur dioxide.

In June 2003 each pollutant of concern was examined in the light of specific the Guidance Notes LAQM.TG (03), and it was concluded that in Blaenau Gwent it was unlikely that any of the Air Quality Objectives set out in the Air Quality Regulations 1997 would be exceeded by the end of 2005.

## 1.2 The Administrative Area of Blaenau Gwent

The County Borough of Blaenau Gwent is situated in South-East Wales and incorporates the valley towns of Abertillery, Blaina, Nantyglo, Brynmawr, Ebbw Vale and Tredegar. It is predominantly urban in character with a population of around 73 000.

The main trunk route that runs through the County Borough is the A465, Heads of the Valleys road which provides good communication to the Midlands and the North via the M50/M5 and to London via the M4.

Much of the traditional coal and steel industry has been replaced by a diverse industrial base comprising of businesses such as pharmaceuticals, battery and computer systems, electronic and high tech engineering. The closures of the heavy industry have had an adverse impact on the local economy but conversely it has meant the removal of significant sources of air pollution.

### **1.3 The Purpose of the Progress Report**

Progress Reports have been introduced into the review and assessment process to provide greater continuity and a longer-term vision to local air quality management. The overall aims of Progress Reports are to report progress on local air quality management within a local authority's area and progress in achieving the Air Quality Objectives.

The Progress Report will allow air quality monitoring data, and any changes to development within an area that may impact on air quality, to be assessed on a regular basis and provide an early indication of whether measures are required to improve air quality. Where there are risks identified that Air Quality Objectives may not be met, then a Detailed Assessment of air quality will be required.

