
Air Quality Action Plan Consultation

EDTCE Scrutiny

Date of meeting: 28 August 2024

Lead director/officer: Daniel Pearman

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All Wards
- Report author: Daniel Pearman
- Author contact details: 0116 454 3061
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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide details on the proposed new Air Quality Action Plan for Leicester and associated consultation
- 1.2 To advise members of the commission of the process by which they may provide comments for the plan

2. Background

- 2.1 Authorities with an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) are required to produce an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP).
- 2.2 The extent of the AQMA is visible within the included presentation, and will be shown to commission members present during the meeting.
- 2.3 Leicester's current AQAP is 8 years old, and we have agreed with the Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs to approve an updated plan no later than March 2025.
- 2.4 Leicester is currently compliant with government targets at all 5 monitoring stations (year 2023 data) – compliance with the NO₂ limit has been achieved since 2022, with a number of monitoring sites showing compliance earlier.
- 2.5 The biggest contributor to NO₂ emissions is road transport, with 2022 data suggesting 66.4% can be attributed to road network contributions.
- 2.6 Public consultation is being conducted on the draft plan and recognising the time of year, this is open until the 27th September.

3. Themes and priorities

3.1 The format for an AQAP is heavily prescribed by DEFRA, but retains the need to identify themes, priorities, and an overall key outcome.

3.2 The public consultation document is available in full at [Draft Air Quality Action Plan 2025 - 2030 - Leicester City Council - Citizen Space](#)

3.3 Recognising that transport remains the largest contributor, and is the area over which the authority has the most ability to directly influence along with transport operators, the proposed AQAP continues to target improvements to the transport network through modal shift and vehicle efficiencies. The five themes identified in the plan are:

- i **Air Quality Monitoring, Public Awareness and Engagement** – this includes maintaining and enhancing the air quality monitoring network to understand any pollution hotspots, enabling targeted interventions, supporting awareness campaigns and working with communities, businesses and schools. Maintaining, and expanding where necessary, monitoring networks to understand where legal limits are exceeded.
- ii **Promoting, Supporting, and Encouraging Sustainable Transport** – this includes expansion of the walking and cycling network to create a top-quality, connected and cohesive network of attractive routes, and continued delivery of our Bus Service Improvement Plan.
- iii **Reducing Emissions from Transport** – this includes adopting cleaner transportation methods, such as encouraging the use of electric vehicles (EVs) for public transport, freight and private vehicles
- iv **Optimising Traffic Management** – this includes continuing to provide and enhance infrastructure to help people walking, cycling or using public transport, whilst ensuring effective management of traffic flow. Major schemes and complementary work programmes have the potential to contribute directly to air quality improvements.
- v **Development Control and Regulatory Services** –this includes ensuring air quality considerations are considered in the planning process and other Council polices and strategies. Continue to control domestic and industrial emissions.

- 3.4 The Air Quality Action Plan includes the following four priorities:
- i Providing residents and workers of Leicester with active and sustainable transport choices
 - ii Promoting awareness of air pollution and engaging with schools, communities and businesses, whilst maintaining and expanding our monitoring network
 - iii Reducing air pollution exposure and improving conditions for those who live and work in Leicester.
 - iv Mitigating the impact of future growth on air quality.
- 3.5 Overall, the key outcome is improving the health outcomes for all and providing opportunities to live healthy lives.

4. Measures

- 4.1 The new air quality includes measures to support these themes, including continued development of infrastructure to support sustainable travel, management and maintenance of the monitoring network, and to continue to support the electrification of buses operating within the city.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Members of the commission note the need for the new AQAP
- 5.2 Members of the commission provide any relevant comments or feedback to officers for consideration as part of the consultation.