

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in the proposed Cambridge Air Quality Action Plan. The plan was developed in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council and the Greater Cambridge Partnership and approved for consultation by Cambridge City Council's Environment Scrutiny Committee in March 2018. The plan will be updated annually to reflect any changes that have been made as a result of the consultation or other relevant developments.

The Cambridge [Air Quality Action Plan](#) sets out our priorities for the next five years to improve areas of poor air quality and maintain areas of good air quality across the city.

We would like to know what you think of the Plan. We are confident that the plan will improve air quality, but do you feel it goes far enough or may be, too far? How could the plan be improved? What, if any, additional actions would you like us to consider?

The current list of proposed actions fall into three main themes:

- 1. Reducing local traffic emissions as quickly as possible**
- 2. Maintaining levels of pollutants below national objectives**
- 3. Protecting public health by improving air quality in the future**

The Air Quality Action Plan is a 'live' document. This means that the measures can be altered and adapted as circumstances change. For example, our understanding of the health impacts or technical issues relating to air quality may alter; or new legislation may be introduced during the lifetime of the Plan. Furthermore, whilst some of the actions are already in progress, some have yet to be developed.

We have already started work on some of the actions, such as new taxi licensing policies that will ensure a rapid transition to Plug in Hybrid and fully electric taxis within ten years, installation of rapid charge points for electric taxis, and consideration of a Clean Air Zone for Cambridge.

Some of our most important proposed actions are outlined below:

Lowering emissions from taxis by encouraging the change to ultra-low emission taxis in Cambridge. This will be supported through incentives and the installation of more electric vehicle charging points for taxis.

Work in this area is well underway. Cambridge City Council has introduced fee reductions for low pollution taxis and licensing conditions to ensure that new taxis

are low or ultra-low emission (for example, petrol hybrid or electric). Funding has been obtained for the installation of 18 Rapid Charge Points over the next two years for taxis, so that the drivers can quickly charge their electric vehicles during their working day.

Reducing bus and coach emissions by working with partners to invest in more environmentally-friendly vehicles

Buses and Heavy Goods Vehicles are the main source of air pollution in the centre of Cambridge, so this area of work is very important. Development of a new Quality Bus Partnership is key; work on this will resume when more is known about the proposed Greater Cambridge Partnership schemes, including the potential Clean Air Zone. These projects will be progressed by Cambridgeshire County Council and Greater Cambridge Partnership, with input from all partners.

Reducing Heavy Goods Vehicles emissions in the city centre by promoting 'greener' methods for making deliveries of goods, such as by cycle or electric vehicles.

A Clean Air Zone could drive emission improvements in Heavy Goods Vehicles – other options to reduce the impact of Heavy Goods Vehicles include setting up distribution centres on the edge of the city to enable deliveries to be combined, as well as increasing the number of deliveries carried out by bike/electric vehicles. This work is mostly being progressed by the Greater Cambridge Partnership and is in early stages.

In addition, the Greater Cambridge Partnership, (<https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/>) has commissioned a Clean Air Zone feasibility study for Cambridge, which could lead to restricted access to more polluting vehicles, including taxis, buses and Heavy Goods Vehicles.

Using planning policies to ensure new communities are designed to make it easy for people to use sustainable modes of transport.

This area of work is being developed. The ambition is to make it easier for people to use a bike or walk by improving cycle-ways and footpaths, as well as making sure that these are well designed in new developments. We would like to encourage the use of electric bikes, which means making sure that there are places to charge them. The availability of a car club vehicle reduces the number of journeys made by car – provision of car club spaces can be required in larger developments. We also want to make it easier to charge an electric vehicle – we are being increasingly asked about charging facilities for cars in residential areas.

Improving public health by providing information about the health impacts of air quality and encouraging everyone to have a more active lifestyle, including walking and cycling.

The City Council magazine, Cambridge Matters, is delivered to every household in Cambridge each quarter. An article on a topical aspect of air quality is included in each magazine. Topics recently covered include traffic idling and tips on wood-burning without creating smoke. The County Council Public Health team have started a series of workshops on air quality and public health, looking at ways to raise awareness for decision-makers.

Notes

There is more detail on Page 37 onwards of the Action Plan. There is a longer list of additional actions we could take or are taking to improve air quality from page 49 onwards (a summary list is available). We are asking your opinions on any of these actions.

Many of the proposed actions will be carried out in partnership with the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Combined Authority, Cambridgeshire County Council, Greater Cambridge Partnership. These are larger infrastructure projects and will be the subject of specific separate consultations as each comes forward for development and delivery (link to <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/search/consultation/>).

The consultation on our Air Quality Action Plan will close on 18th September 2018, so please submit your responses by this date.

You can look at the plan online at <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/air-quality-action-plan>, or you can ask for a printed copy to look at from our Customer Service Centre at Mandela House, 4 Regent Street, Cambridge. The Customer Services Team will have printed copies of the consultation questionnaire as well.