

Cleaner air for COVENTRY

Why do we need a Local Air Quality Action Plan for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)?

Coventry, like many towns and cities in the UK, faces the challenge of poor air quality in some areas of the city - particularly in areas with high levels of traffic.

■ Air pollution is having a harmful impact on the health of people of all ages who live, work and study in the city. Roadside pollution levels, especially those resulting from NO₂ emissions from traffic, are a particular concern, and the map overleaf demonstrates the scale of the problem within the city.

The health impacts of air pollution include increased risk of asthma, heart disease, strokes, lung disease and dementia.

In the Government's UK-wide plan for tackling roadside NO₂ emissions, published in

July 2017, Coventry is named as one of 28 towns and cities in England forecast to have NO₂ levels exceeding legal limits in 2021.

The City Council has been working closely with the Government's Joint Air Quality Unit [JAQU] to develop a plan to ensure that NO₂ levels are reduced below the legal limit of 40ug/m³ in the shortest possible time.

This plan is the Local Air Quality Action Plan for NO₂, and this is being developed based on a review of existing air quality and the latest available evidence from transport monitoring data

and traffic and air quality modelling.

Those locations where NO₂ levels exceed the legal limit are identified in the map overleaf.

A range of measures, including the use of new and innovative technologies, have been identified that will help us to achieve compliance of the targets without the need for charging zones. These are briefly described overleaf.

What's in the Local Air Quality Action Plan?

The plan will consist of a combination of measures, and the following list indicates what is being considered:

■ Cleaner Vehicles:

- › Working with bus companies to ensure that Coventry's buses are low or zero emission vehicles
- › Working with taxi operators to ensure our taxi fleet is low emission, preferably electric taxis built in the city
- › Working with local businesses to ensure that fleets [pool cars, vans, lorries] maximise the use of low emission vehicles

■ Behaviour Change:

- › Work with schools, colleges, universities and businesses to develop and implement travel plans aimed at encouraging sustainable and active travel, especially for local journeys within the city
- › Work within local communities to promote sustainable and active travel and allow residents to make better informed decisions on how they travel around the city

■ Technology:

- › Upgrade the city's traffic management systems, including traffic lights, to utilise new technology to manage traffic flows on Coventry's road network to make the best use of our limited road space and reduce queuing

- › Improved ways of getting up-to-date travel information out to the city's residents, visitors and businesses so that they can travel around the city more easily whilst avoiding air quality hotspots

■ Infrastructure:

- › Improvements that make it easier, and safer, to walk around the city
- › New and improved cycle routes connecting our local communities and making it easier to travel around the city by bike
- › Targeted junction improvements that will remove congestion hotspots and allow freer-flowing traffic, resulting in reduced emissions from queuing traffic
- › Improvements that support faster, more reliable, bus services by allowing buses to bypass congestion hotspots

■ Benchmarking:

- › In July 2017 the government instructed a number of local authorities, including Coventry City Council, to reduce NO₂ levels. As part of this it agreed to help fund and support towns and cities in the UK to help them consider and implement measures to improve air quality. The government is also asking local authorities to show that their plans would achieve NO₂ reductions quicker than measures like a charging clean air zone

Tell us what you think

We want to know what you think. Let us know
by emailing airquality@coventry.gov.uk

You can find out more and see the full document
at www.coventry.gov.uk/airquality or come
along to a drop-in session.

**There are three drop-in sessions at
Central Library in the city centre
so you can find out more:**

Wednesday 27 February – 12noon to 2pm

Thursday 28 February – 4.30pm – 6.45pm

Saturday 2 March – 10am to 12noon



Coventry City Council