



ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Wednesday 18th September 2024

REPORT TITLE:	AIR QUALITY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT 2024
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the first update on the progress on the Air Quality Implementation plan for the Wirral Air Quality Strategy 2024-28. It also provides an update on the Air Quality Status report (ASR) for 2024, which incorporates actions taken during 2023 to improve air quality, and an update on monitoring results for air pollution during 2023.

Progress of the development of the implementation plan, how it will be governed and an overview of progress with actions for 2024 is summarised within this report. In future years, a full report detailing progress with the actions included within the implementation plan, will be provided within an Appendix.

The Air Quality Implementation Plan (AQIP) supports the delivery of the Air Quality Strategy and the Wirral Council Plan 2023-2027, particularly 'Protect Our Environment' theme; 'To improve Wirral's Air Quality and Implement an Air Quality Strategy'.

This matter is not a key decision but affects all Wards within the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee is recommended to:

1. Recognise the progress in 23/24 contained within the ASR.
2. Acknowledge the latest air quality monitoring results for 2023.
3. Endorse the actions contained within the AQ implementation plan and governance routes.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The Annual Status Report 2024 details the actions that have been taken by Wirral Council, and partner organisations during 2023, to improve air quality in Wirral.
- 1.2 The Annual Status Report 2024 details the air pollution monitoring undertaken in Wirral during 2023 and identifies if there are any exceedances of the National Objective levels for pollutants.
- 1.3 Wirral Council approved its first Air Quality Strategy 2024-2028 in December 2023, which identified five key areas for action, to improve the air quality in Wirral.
- 1.4 The implementation plan will drive forward actions to target the key priorities for action, helping to reduce to reduce emissions of pollutants and help protect the health and wellbeing of our residents, workers and visitors, and help to reduce health inequalities.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other options were considered as the alternative is the Council not delivering on its statutory Local Air Quality management function, which included undertaking monitoring for relevant pollutants and submitting an annual status report to Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) summarising monitoring results and actions taken to improve air quality.
- 2.2 Considering other options would also mean that the Council was not delivering on the Air Quality Strategy and the 'Protect our Environment' theme of the Wirral Plan.
- 2.2 The Air Quality Implementation Plan progress report ensures transparency in how the council is delivering on its commitment to implement the Air Quality Strategy.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Health Effects of Air Pollution.

- 3.1.1 Air pollution is a mixture of particulates and gases in the air we breathe, which are absorbed and can have both short- and long-term health effects. Air pollution can affect everyone and can have negative health impacts from pre-birth to old age.
- 3.1.2 Short term exposure to air pollution can exacerbate respiratory conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Long-term exposure can cause respiratory and cardiovascular disease, cancer, depression, dementia, diabetes, and can affect foetal development.
- 3.1.3 Although everyone can be affected by poor air quality, the most susceptible are children the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions. Air pollution

particularly affects people living in more densely populated and polluted areas. These areas are often areas of higher deprivation, which can widen health inequalities.

- 3.1.4 Air quality is the term used to describe how polluted the air we breathe is. When air quality is poor, pollutants in the air may be hazardous to people, particularly those with lung or heart conditions.

3.2 International Action on Air Quality

- 3.2.1 In 2021, the World Health Organisation (WHO) updated its health-based air quality guideline concentrations, due to a much stronger body of evidence showing how air pollution affects health at lower concentrations. The guidelines focus on “classical pollutants”, specifically particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), ozone (O₃), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and carbon monoxide (CO). These WHO guideline concentrations are lower than those required by the UK national objective levels.

- 3.2.2 Please see appendix three for details on these guideline concentrations.

3.3 National Action on Air Quality

- 3.3.1 In 2019, the UK Government produced a National Air Quality Strategy. This was built upon by the air quality chapter within the Environment Improvement Plan 2023, which sets out the governments delivery plan to achieve its air quality targets.
- 3.3.2 In March 2023, the UK Government produced an “Air Quality Strategy: framework for delivery”, which sets out for Local Authorities their powers, responsibilities, and further actions the government expects them to take. Within this strategy, the UK Government set a requirement that each local authority must develop and implement an Air Quality Strategy by the end of 2023, regardless of whether they have declared an Air Quality Management Area. Wirral Council Air Quality Strategy was approved by the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee in December 2023.
- 3.3.3 The Government has air quality objectives, for key air pollutants, in line with European Directives. New, lower, legally binding, fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) target were introduced in 2023. These must be achieved by 2040, with interim target to be met by 2028. Please see appendix three for details on these national objectives and targets.

3.4 Local Action on Air Quality

3.4.1 Annual Status Report

- 3.4.2 Local Authorities in England have duties regarding local air quality management and must regularly review and assess air quality to determine whether objectives are likely to be achieved. As part of this responsibility, Wirral Council is required to submit an Annual Status Report (ASR) to Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) each year by 30th June. This report provides an overview of air quality in Wirral, and it fulfils the requirements of Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) as set

out in Part IV of the Environment Act (1995), as amended by the Environment Act (2021), and the relevant Policy and Technical Guidance documents. The ASR shows the strategies employed by Wirral Council to improve air quality and any progress that has been made.

3.4.3 Wirral's ASR 2024 was submitted to DEFRA on 24th June 2024. Written confirmation was received from DEFRA on 18th July 2024 stating that "the conclusions reached in the report are accepted for all sources and pollutants", with feedback stating that it was a "very good ASR" and that "no further improvements can be recommended".

3.4.4 Full details regarding the actions taken by Wirral Council, and partner organisations during 2023, to improve air quality can be found in the Annual Status Report for 2024. This is published on the Councils website at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/environmental-problems/pollution-control/air-quality>

3.4.5 Air Quality Monitoring in Wirral.

3.4.6 Nitrogen Dioxide. During 2023 Nitrogen Dioxide was monitored in real time at two DEFRA AURN stations and at five sites using 'indicative' real time sensors. It was also monitored at fifty-six sites using passive diffusion tubes. Monitoring identified no exceedances of the annual mean Nitrogen Dioxide national objective of 40µg/m³ or the hourly mean National Objective of 200µg/m³ not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year.

3.4.7 Particulate Matter (PM₁₀). During 2023 PM₁₀ was monitored at one DEFRA AURN station and at five sites using 'indicative' real time sensors. No exceedances of the annual mean PM₁₀ objective or PM₁₀ daily mean concentrations air quality objective of 50µg/m³, not to be exceeded more than 35 times per year, were identified.

3.4.8 Particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). During 2023 PM_{2.5} was monitored at one DEFRA AURN station and at five sites using 'indicative' real time sensors. No exceedances of the current national objective for PM_{2.5} were identified. The result from the AURN was 6.5µg/m³, which is above the current World Health Organisation Air Quality Guideline level of 5µg/m³ but below the new annual Mean Concentration Target of 10µg/m³, 12 µg/m³ (to be met by January 2028) and below the new annual Mean Concentration Target of 10µg/m³ (to be met by 2040).

3.4.9 All five "indicative" monitors measured levels of PM_{2.5} over the current World Health Organisation Air Quality Guideline level of 5µg/m³. The highest annual mean figure was 11.6µg/m³ (Liscard and Poulton) and the lowest was 10.5µg/m³ (Upton). all results were below the new National interim target of 12 µg/m³ (to be met by January 2028) but above the new annual Mean Concentration Target of 10µg/m³ (to be met by 2040). The highest annual mean figure was 11.6µg/m³ (Liscard and Poulton) and the lowest was 10.5µg/m³ (Upton).

2.4.10 It is important to note that the PM_{2.5} results from the "indicative" real time monitors are indicative only. The monitors are not approved by DEFRA for use by local authorities for compliance monitoring according to their Local Air Quality Management Technical guidance note (TG22), however they can provide indicative air quality data to support our work in reducing air pollution.

- 2.4.11 Wirral Council has not declared any Air Quality Management areas, as no exceedances of national objectives have been identified.
- 2.4.12 Full details regarding air pollution monitoring results for Wirral during 2023 can be found in the ASR (see link above).
- 3.4.8 Appendix two provides a table of monitoring results for Nitrogen Dioxide for 2023, and a comparison to 2022 results (where available), highlighting if levels have increased, decreased, or stayed the same at each monitoring site.

3.3 Development of the Air Quality Implementation Plan (AQIP)

- 3.3.1 Wirral's Air Quality Strategy commits the Council to act on five identified priority areas to improve air quality. These priority areas are:
- Reduce emissions from transport.
 - Improve indoor air quality.
 - Reduce impact from housing development and regeneration.
 - Reduce domestic, commercial, industrial, and agricultural emissions.
 - Raise public awareness and encourage behaviour change.
- 3.3.2 The AQIP is the delivery vehicle for the Air Quality Strategy and was developed in 2024 and is designed to identify and implement actions to improve air quality within the identified priority areas.
- 3.3.3 This report forms the first annual progress report for Wirral's Air Quality Implementation Plan.

3.4 Air Quality Implementation Plan and Climate Action Plan: Working together.

- 3.4.1 Air quality and climate change are inextricably related. Many common air pollutants are greenhouse gases and therefore reducing air pollution will lessen the warming effect on climate. Poor air quality and climate change have a direct impact on the health and well-being of both humans and the natural environment.
- 3.4.2 To prevent duplication, and ensure efficiency savings, three policies from the Environment and Climate Emergency, specifically, ECE Policy 9: Supporting and increase in use of 'active travel', ECE Policy 10: Working to support an increase in public transport use, and ECE Policy 11: Securing investment to support the necessary shift to ultra-low carbon vehicles, were transferred into the Air Quality Strategy Implementation Plan. The Air Quality Manager also sits on the Environment and Climate Emergency Action Group.
- 3.4.3 The strategy will also support the Cool Wirral objectives including Clean Travel: A complete transition to fossil fuel-free local travel by around 2030, Adequate Resourcing, Stronger Partnerships and Networks, and Evidence Informed Action.

3.5 Governance of the AQIP

- 3.5.1 The Air Quality Steering Group, consisting of Officers from Departments across the Council, will oversee progress with delivering the Air Quality Strategy through the implementation plan.
- 3.5.2 Six Officer working groups have been set up, to identify actions under each of the priority areas, and help drive forward their completion. Each action has been allocated a lead officer, to ensure accountability. The working groups meet quarterly to provide updates on the progress with identified actions. A review will be undertaken, and all actions will be RAG rated. Any concerns highlighted by this review, will be taken to the steering group, for appropriate action to be considered.

3.6 AQIP Progress in 2024

- 3.6.1 The development of the implementation plan has made good progress in 2024. Many actions have been identified, and several have been completed.
- 3.6.2 An overview of progress for all workstreams for 2024-2025 is summarised in the table below.

Priorities	RAG rating			
	Complete	Green	Yellow	Red
Reduce Emissions from Transport	6	15	0	0
Improve indoor air quality	2	10	0	0
Reduce the impact from housing development and regeneration	0	5	0	0
Reduce domestic, commercial, industrial and agricultural emissions.	3	6	0	0
Raise public awareness and encourage behaviour change.	1	8	0	0

Complete (Blue)	Action completed.
Ongoing (Green)	Action on track to be delivered as planned.
Ongoing (Amber)	Action has issues that are being dealt with.
Serious issues (Red)	Action not on track, has issues that are unresolved.

3.4.5 Reporting of Progress with the Implementation Plan in Future Years

- 3.5.1 Progress with the actions within the implementation plan, for each financial year, will be reported within the Annual Status Report, which is submitted to DEFRA for approval, and then published on the Council website.
- 3.5.2 Progress will also be reported, annually to the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee in an annual update report. This report forms the first annual update.

4.0 Headline Completed Actions to Date

- Developed the Road safety plan, to improve road safety and help encourage active travel.
- Developed an active travel strategy to encourage walking/cycling.
- Reviewed Wirral's parking strategy to ensure it aligns with the net zero ambition.
- Completed Council fleet review, to support the development of a Green Fleet Strategy. This Strategy will include reducing emissions from council fleet and installing infrastructure to support a low/zero emission fleet and includes utilising innovative technologies, such as e-cargo bikes.
- Trialled and reviewed Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO) as an alternative fuel source for refuse collection vehicles.
- Raised public awareness regarding best practice wood burning techniques, anti-idling campaign and indoor air quality during Clean Air Day 2024.
- Mapping of health data and hospital admissions link to respiratory conditions, to assist targeted actions by Health Homes Team.
- Support Air Quality messaging within Wirral Public Health's Summer readiness communication campaigns to help protect vulnerable settings and communities.
- Reviewed appropriateness of existing smoke control area, with intention of extending them.
- Reviewed inter-departmental sharing of information regarding new commercial / industrial processes and change of use, to ensure robust systems.
- Produce and publish a simple guide to whether a business needs an Environmental permit.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The nature of the report is to provide an update on Air Quality in Wirral and to monitor progress of the action plan, therefore there are no financial implications from the report.
- 5.2 It is acknowledged that there will be future capital and revenue costs associated with completing the actions identified within the implementation plan. Any actions within the implementation plan are being developed with the relevant departments, and any associated costs will be assessed, and the source of funding agreed.
- 5.3 Projects will be delivered via various funding methods or already have funding in place to deliver. Where they are council actions they will be delivered within business-as-usual operations or via capital funding bids. There may be an opportunity to apply for future additional funding to deliver local improvements and

projects from external partners, for example, DEFRA, United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), Capital bids, Town Deal funding, 'Sustrans' and Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. The costs associated with production and publication of the Air Quality Strategy are met within the service budget.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Local Air Quality Management Framework, underpinned by the Environment Act 1995, sets local pollution limits put into place through the Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended in 2002). The framework requires local authorities to assess the quality of their air and, if it does not comply with relevant concentration limits, put in place a plan to remedy the problem. The ASR must be submitted to DEFRA to summarise local air quality.

In addition, the [National Air Quality Strategy: Framework for Local Authority Delivery \(2023\)](#), requires all Councils to develop and publish an Air Quality Strategy, setting out the steps the local authority will take to improve local air quality.

- 6.2 The development of the Air Quality Strategy provides a framework for future action to improve air quality within Wirral.

It is consistent with national guidelines and will assist the Council to achieve its objective of improving the air quality within Wirral to help to better the environment and the health and well-being of all residents and visitors to the area.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 7.1 The Annual AQIP progress reports are delivered through existing staff resources within the Environmental Health Team and drawing on services across the council to provide regular updates to the Air Quality Officer Working Groups and the Air Quality Steering Group to keep the AQIP as a live document.

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 8.1 The Council has made a commitment to take action to improve air quality, within Wirral's Air Quality strategy. Failure to demonstrate action and commitment to change would present a reputational risk. It could also lead to criticism of the Council's Local Air Quality management arrangements by DEFRA.

9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 9.1 Consultation was undertaken with Council Officers to develop the implementation plan and report progress on those same actions. A summary of the priority actions for 2024/25 is presented in this report.

- 9.3 No external consultation was undertaken in relation to this update report.

10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact

Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.

- 10.2 The existing Equality impact assessment for the Air Quality Strategy is still valid as no changes have been made and it can be found at:
<https://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=EIA%20Wirral%20Air%20Quality%20Strategy&ID=1486&RPID=554264396&sch=doc&cat=13841&path=13652%2c13837%2c13841>

11.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The AQIP is fundamental to the monitoring and delivery of the council's actions to improve air quality in Wirral by:

- Reducing emissions from transport.
- Improving indoor air quality.
- Reducing impact from housing development and regeneration.
- Reducing domestic, commercial, industrial, and agricultural emissions.
- Raising public awareness and encourage behaviour change.

This committee report provides an update on progress with the identification and delivery of the actions identified for 2024-25 to achieve these objectives.

12.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 Everyone is at risk from air pollution, but people are more vulnerable if they have COPD, asthma or other lung conditions or are elderly or a child. Air pollution can cause coughs, dizziness, inflamed airways and shortness of breath. It increases the risk of pneumonia, COPD and lung cancer, as well as heart disease and stroke, leading to early death. It can also impact pregnancy and the development of children's lungs.

Driving forward Wirral's Air Quality Strategy, by delivering actions, through the AQIP, to improve air quality in Wirral, will have a positive public health impact; helping to reduce the burden on the NHS, improving health and reducing the health inequity gap on the borough.

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APPENDICES

- Appendix One - Summary of actions within the implementation plan for 2024-25
- Appendix Two - Summary of the air quality monitoring results for Wirral for 2023
- Appendix Three – Summary of National Objective Levels and World Health Organisation air quality guideline concentrations.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. National Air Quality Strategy (2019)
2. Environment Improvement Plan (2023)

3. Air Quality Strategy: framework for local authority delivery (2023)
4. Local Air Quality Management: Policy Guidance (PG22).
5. Local Air Quality Management: Technical Guidance (TG22)
6. Chief Medical Officers Annual Report 2022. Air Quality
7. Wirral Joint Strategic Needs Assessment on Air Quality 2022
8. Wirral Working Together: A Council Plan for 2023 to 2027.
9. WHO review of evidence on health aspects of air pollution
10. WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines
11. Health Matters: air pollution
12. Environment and Climate Emergency Policy 2021
13. Environment and Climate Emergency Action Plan Progress 2023/24

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee in accordance with 5.2 A of its Terms of Reference, “in co-ordinating the response to cross-cutting sustainability issues such as reducing carbon emissions, air quality issues, climate change response, improving resource efficiency and developing sustainable energy”.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport Committee Meeting – Approval of Wirral’s Air Quality Strategy 2024 – 2028	5th December 2023

Appendix One: Wirral Air Quality Implementation Plan 2024

This implementation plan sets out our collective approach to deliver the Wirral Air Quality Strategy during the 2024-25 financial year. For each priority it sets out the actions to be achieved within the first 12 months of strategy implementation.

Status key:

Complete (Blue)	Action completed.
Ongoing (Green)	Action on track to be delivered as planned.
Ongoing (Amber)	Action has issues that are being dealt with.
Serious issues (Red)	Action not on track, has issues that are unresolved.

Priority 1: Reduce Emissions from Transport

Priority - Supporting an increase in active travel (ECE9).

Action	Leads	Estimated / actual Completion Date	Status
Develop the Road safety plan, to improve road safety and help encourage active travel.	Road Safety	Sept 2023 (transferred into AQIP from CEAP)	Completed
Wirral Council Staff travel plan	Strategic Transport Infrastructure	Dec 2024	Implementation
Support staff to make active travel choices through provision of information and storage lockers/showers/ timing of meetings/cycle to work schemes/ working from home	Strategic Transport Infrastructure	2024 – for Mallory	Implementation
Support local Schools to increase levels of sustainable travel and increase road safety (modeshift stars scheme and Living streets)	Road Safety	Ongoing	Implementation
Develop an active travel 'Places for People' strategy to encourage walking/cycling	Strategic Transport Infrastructure	Jan 2024	Completed
Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) - Birkenhead to Liscard Active Travel Scheme	Strategic Transport Infrastructure	July 2024 for Report to committee	Implementation
Deliver infrastructure improvements to support walking and cycling e.g. cycle lanes, pedestrian crossing.	Strategic Transport Infrastructure	2025	Implementation

Priority - Securing investment to support necessary shift to ultra-low carbon vehicles (ECE 11) / Opportunities for funding for EV

Action	Leads	Estimated / actual Completion Date	Status
Parking Strategy - reviewing Wirral's parking strategy to ensure it aligns with the net zero ambition.	Strategic Transport Infrastructure	Dec 2023	Completed
Production of E.V Strategy	Strategic Transport Infrastructure	Oct 2024	Implementation
Council fleet review to support production of Green fleet strategy. To include reducing emissions from council fleet and installing infrastructure to support a low/zero emission fleet. To include utilising innovative technologies, such as e-cargo bikes.	Parks and Gardens	May 2024 –fleet review completed	Completed
Increase alternative fuelled machines and equipment in Parks & Countryside	Parks and Gardens	Ongoing - Linked to fleet review.	Implementation

Priority - Tackle Vehicle Engine Idling

Action	Leads	Estimated / actual Completion Date	Status
Raise public awareness regarding idling campaign during Clean Air Day 2024	Environmental Health	June 2024	Completed
Refresh Wirral anti-idling campaign.	Environmental Health	Oct 2024	Planning
Refresh and relaunch internal anti-idling policy.	Environmental Health	Oct 2024	Planning

A process to be put in place to enable parking enforcement to record number of engagements / actions regarding idling.	Network Operations	Sept 2024	Implementation
Regular review of data from parking enforcement re idling, to identify potential hotspots for targeted engagement / enforcement.	Environmental Health	March 2025 (first review)	Implementation
DEFRA funded Behaviour change campaign included info to tackle idling engines. Videos across social media during Feb 2024	Climate Change / Environmental Health	Feb 2025	Implementation
Engage with bus companies regarding idling to raise awareness regarding idling and encourage behaviour change.	Environmental Health	Engagement commenced April 2024 - work ongoing through life of strategy	Implementation
Priority - Reduce Emissions from Transport			
Action	Leads	Estimated / actual completion Date	Status
Reducing network occupation by Utilities with a view to reducing works duration and minimising network disruption.	Highways	Ongoing	Implementation
Trial and review HVO as an alternative fuel source for refuse collection vehicles	Environmental Services	March 2024	Completed
Improving air Quality to be considered within the Highways Network Management Plan	Network Management	September 2024	Implementation
Priority 2: Improve Indoor Air Quality			
Priority - Develop a co-ordinated comms strategy and delivery plan for indoor AQ			

Action	Leads	Estimated / actual completion Date	Status
Work with comms to develop key messages to raise awareness and support individuals to reduce exposure to indoor air pollutants.	Comms / Environmental Health	Ongoing. Seasonal messages.	Implementation
Priority - Collaboration and support to promote key messages and actions to improve indoor air			
Action	Leads	Estimated completion Date	Status
Provision of home energy efficiency advice that includes advice on ventilation, to ensure adequate ventilation, when thermal insulation and air tightness increases	Housing	Commence 30 th June 2024. Ongoing	Planning
Develop tailored responses for particularly vulnerable households to treat damp & mould.	Housing	Commence 30 th Sept 2024. Ongoing	Planning
Recruit Healthy Homes Community Workers Specialising in Damp & Mould to do door knocking campaign and public events.	Housing	Recruitment commencing Sept 2024.	Planning
Landlords Forum - event to publicise Damp & Mould Campaign / training for landlords in licensing areas.	Housing	Sept / Oct 2024	Planning
Mapping of health data and hospital admissions link to respiratory conditions, to assist targeted actions by Health Homes Team.	WIS / Housing	July 2024	Complete
Collaboration with John Moores University to undertake indoor, outdoor air pollution monitoring and undertake traffic monitoring.	Environmental Health / LJMU	Sensors to be installed Aug / Sept 2024	Implementation
Priority - Influence Planning and Development to improve indoor air quality			

Action	Leads	Estimated / actual completion Date	Status
Building control to continue in their statutory function of assessing new dwellings in relation to the provision of adequate rapid, background and mechanical ventilation to help ensure that the development complies with the requirements of the Building Regulation 2010: Approved Document Part F	Building Control	Ongoing	Implementation
Building control to continue in their statutory function of assessing new dwellings in relation to the control of overheating of internal spaces to help ensure that the development complies with the requirements of the Building Regulation 2010: Approved Document Part L.	Building Control	Ongoing	Implementation
Priority - Link the effects of adverse weather on indoor air quality and promote messages			
Action	Leads	Estimated / actual Completion Date	Status
Support Air Quality messaging within Wirral's Summer readiness communication campaigns to help protect vulnerable settings and communities.	Public Health	July 2024	Complete
Support Air Quality messaging within Wirral's Winter preparedness communication campaigns to help protect vulnerable settings and communities.	Public Health	Oct / Nov 2024	Planning
Priority - Training and development opportunities, to enhance delivery of key messages regarding indoor air quality.			
Action	Leads	Estimated / actual completion Date	Status
Disseminate information regarding training opportunities to primary health care partners to raise awareness and facilitate tailored advice to patients.	Environmental Health	March 2025	Planning
Priority 3: Reducing the Impact from Housing Development and Regeneration			
Priority - Incorporate best practice guidance on air quality and sustainable development in planning and development.			

Action	Leads	Estimated / actual Completion Date	Status
Progress the emerging Wirral Local Plan to adoption, ensuring air quality is considered.	Regeneration and Place	End 2024/early 2025	Implementation
Consider the need to develop planning guidance (potentially at a Liverpool City Region level) focused on best practice planning and design for air quality to be kept updated with local, regional, and national changes in guidance and legislation,	Regeneration and Place	End 2024/early 2025	Planning
Consider the need to develop planning guidance (potentially at a Liverpool City Region level) focused on best practice relating to Health Impact Assessments (HIA) such that HIAs submitted with applicable planning applications consider air quality where appropriate.	Regeneration and Place	End 2024/early 2025	Planning
Priority – Reinforce Electric Vehicle standards in building regulations			
Action	Leads	Estimated / actual Completion Date	Status
Building control to continue in their statutory function of assessing new dwellings in relation to the provision of Electric vehicle charging facilities to help ensure that the development complies with the requirements of the Building Regulation 2010: Approved Document Part S.	Building Control	Ongoing	Implementation
Priority – Support Development of Green Infrastructure considering sensitive locations			
Enhancing air quality through Council tree stock.	Climate Emergency and Environment	Strategy implemented 2020 – work ongoing	Implementation
Priority 4: Reduce Domestic, Commercial, Industrial and Agricultural Emissions			
Priority - Emissions from industrial and commercial settings			

Action	Leads	Completion Date	Status
Increase surveillance to support identification of unauthorised processes.	Environmental Health	Ongoing	Implementation
Review current permits in-line with new DEFRA process 'BAT' and guidance notes.	Environmental Health	Ongoing	Implementation
Review inter-departmental sharing of information regarding new processes and change of use, to ensure robust systems.	Environmental Health	2024	Complete
Produce and publish a simple guide to whether a business needs a permit.	Environmental Health	2024	Complete
Priority – Allotments			
Action	Leads	Completion Date	Status
Issue regular comms / include in existing comms to allotment holders, information regarding the health impacts from waste burning on allotments and provide information on alternative disposal methods for garden waste.	Parks, Allotments, Countryside	Ongoing	Implementation
Update the allotment bonfire policy limit periods of the year that burning is permitted. Consider practicality of full ban on burning at allotments. Consultation on two options.	Parks, Allotments, Countryside	2025	Implementation
Priority – Smoke Control Areas			
Action	Leads	Completion Date	Status
Review appropriateness of existing smoke control area, with intention of extending them	Environmental Health	March 2024	Completed

Implement new expanded Smoke control area.	Environmental Health	2025	Implementation
Produce and implement new procedure for dealing with smoke from domestic premises in Smoke Control Area's	Environmental Health	September 2024	Implementation
Priority 5 – Raise Public Awareness and Encourage Behaviour Change			
Priority – Communications Strategy			
Action	Leads	Completion Date	Status
Utilise a variety of comms methods to ensure a wide reach for messaging on air quality.	Comms	Ongoing	Implementation
Develop a specific co-ordinated communications plan for air quality, tying in with existing directorate priorities.	Comms	Ongoing	Implementation
Ensure Air Quality is considered in the domestic retrofit communications strategy.	Housing	Ongoing. 24/25 & 25/26	Planning
Annual Clean Air Day Activities	Environmental Health	Jun 2024	Complete
Priority – Digital Platform for Data Sharing and Awareness Raising			
Action	Leads	Completion Date	Status
Provide and maintain a public facing 'air pollution' map of Wirral, mapping monitored levels and National / WHO limits.	WIS / Environmental Health	2024 for first iteration. Annual updates	Implementation

Development of designated Air Quality page on Wirral Intelligence Service site, to raise public awareness regarding AQ.	WIS / Env Health	2024	Implementation
Priority – DEFRA funded wood burning stoves project			
Action	Leads	Completion Date	Status
Launch digital plan for continuous engagement for air pollution campaign, using seasonal messaging when appropriate and linking in with key awareness days such as Clean Air Day	Climate Change / Environmental Health	Jan 2025	Implementation
Re-launch domestic burning campaign for winter 2024	Climate Change / Environmental Health	Jan 2025	Implementation
Final evaluation of DEFRA funded air pollution campaign	Climate Change / Environmental Health	Feb 2025	Implementation

Appendix Two

Monitoring Results for Annual Mean concentrations of Nitrogen Dioxide for 2023, and a comparison to 2022 results where available.

Site	Location	2022 NO2 Monitoring Result ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	2023 NO2 Monitoring Results ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	Increase / Decrease between 2022-23	Difference ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)
W2	New Chester Road, Eastham	14.7	12.9	Decrease	-1.8
W3/19	Leasowe Road, Wallasey	21.4	22.1	Increase	+ 0.7
W4	Borough Road, Tranmere	24.3	23.8	Decrease	-0.5
W5	Bolton Road East	28.3	27.2	Decrease	-1.1
W8	Moreton Cross	25.3	23.1	Decrease	-2.2
W9	Woodchurch Road	19.2	31.6	Increase	+ 12.4
W9/23	Woodchurch Road	N/A	24.1	N/A	
W12	New Chester Road, Port sunlight	35.6	35.1	Decrease	-0.5
W13	New Chester Road, Port Sunlight	17.3	17.1	Decrease	-0.2
W14/21	Wallasey Rd, Liscard	21.3	20.4	Decrease	-0.9
W15	Arrowe Park Road, Woodchurch	24.5	24.3	Decrease	-0.2
W17	St Albans Rd Liscard	27.2	26.9	Decrease	-0.3
W18/19	New Chester Road, Port Sunlight	28.5	27.5	Decrease	-1.0
W21	Singleton Ave, Tranmere	24.0	25.2	Increase	+1.2
W22/23	Birkenhead Road, Seacombe	N/A	22.8	N/A	
W23/23	Argyle Street South, B/head	N/A	21.8	N/A	
W24	Conway Street Birkenhead	24.2	23.8	Decrease	-0.4
W25	Dock Road, Seacombe	22.5	21.2	Decrease	-1.3

W27	New Chester Road, Port Sunlight	20.2	20.2	No change	0.0
W28	Church Road, Bebington	21.2	19.9	Decrease	-1.3
W29/20	Mill Lane, Poulton	18.8	17.4	Decrease	-1.4
W31	Canning St, Birkenhead	30.7	31.2	Increase	+0.5
W32/23	Telegraph Road, Heswall	N/A	15.3	N/A	
W33/19	Storeton Road, Bebington	23.3	23.1	Decrease	-0.2
W34/19	New Chester Road, Port Sunlight	20.8	19.7	Decrease	-1.1
W35	Vernon Road, Seacombe	19.1	19.3	Increase	+0.2
W36/21	Geneva Road, Seacombe	23.1	22.4	Decrease	-0.7
W37	Corporation Road, Birkenhead	22.9	22.0	Decrease	-0.9
W38/19	Mount Road, Higher Bebington	22.1	20.8	Decrease	-1.3
W39/21	Chester St, Birkenhead	25.0	22.1	Decrease	-2.9
W41	St Georges Road, Wallasey	15.2	14.0	Decrease	-1.2
W42	New Chester Rd, Bromborough	19.9	18.9	Decrease	-1.0
W43	Whetstone Lane, Birkenhead	21.8	20.6	Decrease	-1.2
W44/23	Meols Drive, West Kirby	N/A	15.7	N/A	
W45	Arrowe Park Rd, Upton	32.4	31.3	Decrease	-1.1
W47/22	Bridle Road, Eastham	13.5	13.5	No change	0.0
W48	Wheatland Lane, Seacombe	27.4	24.8	Decrease	-2.6
W49	Cross Street, Birkenhead	20.4	20.1	Decrease	-0.3
W50	Parry Street, Seacombe	25.6	23.0	Decrease	-2.6
W51	Mount Grove, Birkenhead	13.3	11.6	Decrease	-1.7
W52	Batten Road, Birkenhead	13.0	12.9	Decrease	-0.1
W53	Morland Avenue, Bromborough	11.0	10.0	Decrease	-1.0
W54	Morland Avenue, Bromborough	8.2	8.9	Increase	+0.7

W55	Norbury Avenue, Higher Bebington	11.8	11.3	Decrease	-0.5
W56	Norbury Avenue, Higher Bebington	11.7	11.5	Decrease	-0.2
W57	Pulford Road, Bebington	10.7	11.6	Increase	+0.9
W58/23	Seabank Road, New Brighton	N/A	22.4	N/A	
W59	Lees Ave, Rock Ferry	13.0	11.9	Decrease	-1.1
W60	Ionic Street, Rock Ferry	12.9	15.6	Increase	+2.7
W61	Green Lane, Wallasey Village	13.9	12.8	Decrease	-1.1
W62	Greenleas Road, Wallasey Village	14.1	13.2	Decrease	-0.9
W63	Manor Lane, Liscard	16.6	14.4	Decrease	-2.2
W64	Withens Lane, Liscard	15.6	14.5	Decrease	-1.1
W65	Tower Road, Birkenhead	22.6	22.6	No change	0.0
W66A	Tranmere AURN	N/A	11.1	N/A	
W66B	Tranmere AURN	N/A	11.8	N/A	
W66C	Tranmere AURN	N/A	11.3	N/A	

- W66a, W66b and W66c are located at the DEFRA AURN real time monitoring station and are used as part of a co-location. Site W9 and W9/23 were only in-situ for 6 month each during 2023. Therefore two results are provided, providing 57 results, for 56 monitoring sites for 2023.

Monitoring Results for PM₁₀ for 2023, and a comparison to 2022.

Site	Location	2022 PM ₁₀ Monitoring Result (µg/m ³)	2023 PM ₁₀ Monitoring Results (µg/m ³)	Increase / Decrease between 2022-23	Difference (µg/m ³)
CM1	AURN, Tranmere	12.8	10.9	Decrease	-1.9

Monitoring Results for PM_{2.5} for 2023, and a comparison to 2022.

Site	Location	2022 PM _{2.5} Monitoring Result (µg/m ³)	2023 PM _{2.5} Monitoring Results (µg/m ³)	Increase / Decrease between 2022-23	Difference (µg/m ³)
CM1	AURN, Tranmere	7.8	6.6	Decrease	-1.2

2023 'Indicative' monitoring results for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}

Site	Location	NO ₂ (µg/m ³)	PM _{2.5} (µg/m ³)	PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)
700037	Arrowe Park Road, Upton	17.5	10.5	11.6
700058	New Chester Road, Eastham	16.8	11.0	12.1
700067	Wallasey Road, Wallasey	26.5	11.6	12.8
700073	Poulton Bridge Road, Poulton	18.8	11.6	12.8
700088	Ivy Street, Birkenhead	18.9	11.0	12.0

Appendix Three

National Objective Levels for Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulate Matter (PM10)

Pollutant		Air Quality Objective: Concentration	Air Quality Objective: Measured as
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	Dioxide	200µg/m ³ not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	1-hour mean
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	Dioxide	40µg/m ³	Annual mean
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	Matter	50µg/m ³ , not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	24-hour mean
Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	Matter	40µg/m ³	Annual mean

Fine particulate matter Target (PM_{2.5}).

The two targets, both to be met by 2040 are:

- Annual mean concentrations of PM_{2.5} to be 10 µg m⁻³ or lower
- Population exposure to PM_{2.5} to be reduced by 35% compared to 2018 levels

WHO Global Air Quality Guidelines (AQGs) (2021)

PM2.5 µg/m ³	Annual Mean	5
	24-hour ^a	15
PM10 µg/m ³	Annual Mean	15
	24-hour ^a	45
NO2 µg/m ³	Annual mean	10
	24 hour ^a	25

^a 99th percentile (i.e. 3–4 exceedance days per year).