

Extract of relevant pages.

Full report can be found at [www.warrington.gov.uk/airquality](http://www.warrington.gov.uk/airquality)

Warrington Borough Council



**WARRINGTON**  
Borough Council

## Air Quality Action Plan

In fulfilment of Part IV of the  
Environment Act 1995  
Local Air Quality Management

2017-2022

**Warrington Borough Council**

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## Executive Summary

The Council recognises that air pollution is an important determinant of health and that it affects the most vulnerable in our society in particular. Warrington Borough Council is committed to reducing the exposure of people in Warrington to poor air quality in order to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents.

Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts. It is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer. Additionally, air pollution particularly affects the most vulnerable in society: children and older people, and those with heart and lung conditions. There is also often a strong correlation with equalities issues, because areas with poor air quality are also often the less affluent areas<sup>1,2</sup>.

The annual health cost to society of the impacts of particulate matter alone in the UK is estimated to be around £16 billion<sup>3</sup>.

This Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) has been produced as part of the Council's statutory duties required by the Local Air Quality Management framework. It outlines the actions the Council will take to improve air quality in Warrington between 2017 and 2022.

This action plan replaces the previous action plan which ran from 2008 to 2017, although many of the actions remain in place and are on-going. Projects delivered through the past action plan include:

- Increase cycle way infrastructure
- Produce school, workplace and personal travel plans
- Cycle hire scheme at town centre train stations
- Eco Stars Fleet Recognition scheme
- Parking standards to require electric vehicle charging points at all new developments, including all residential with off road parking

While the AQAP covers the years 2017-22, initial actions will focus on a framework of policies and plans to improve air quality and to support wider action to promote health and wellbeing and tackle social injustice. The Council is mindful of the need for its growth, regeneration and transport plans to be sustainable. It is not the Council's intention to produce a simple policy statement, nor to produce a definitive list of actual measures at this stage. It is important instead to fully evaluate a wide range of options and to allow the plan to evolve accordingly.

The Council will continue to liaise and work with Highways England in relation to the motorway network, which forms an important part of regional and national transport

<sup>1</sup> Environmental equity, air quality, socioeconomic status and respiratory health, 2010

<sup>2</sup> Air quality and social deprivation in the UK: an environmental inequalities analysis, 2006

<sup>3</sup> Defra. Abatement cost guidance for valuing changes in air quality, May 2013

infrastructure. We will undertake further exploration of potential schemes to improve air quality and consult with local residents.

This AQAP outlines how the Council will plan to effectively tackle air quality issues within its control. There are a large number of air quality policy areas that are outside of the Council's influence (such as vehicle emissions standards agreed in Europe, national policy and control of the motorway network), therefore work with regional and central government on policies and issues will continue.

We have developed 17 initial actions that can be considered under three key delivery topics: policy; infrastructure; and additional measures. These are set out in more detail in Section 5.1, and summarised on page iii.

**WARRINGTON AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN MEASURES (SUMMARY)**

**POLICY ACTIONS**

- 1 Local Plan review
- 2 Sustainable Transport Strategies (Local Transport Plan update)
  - Walking and Cycling
  - Public Transport
  - Cleaner Fuels
  - Smarter Choices
  - Taxis
- 3 Environmental Protection Supplementary Planning Document review
- 4 Council Procurement
- 5 Smoke Control Area review

**Infrastructure Improvements**

- 6 Highways England/TfN working group
- 7 Warrington Intelligent Transport System
- 8 Chester Road Cycle Way
- 9 Burtonwood to Omega Cycling/Walking Link
- 10 Warrington West Rail Station
- 11 Centre Park Link Road
- 12 Western Link Road

**Additional Measures**

- 13 Clean Air Zone Feasibility Study
- 14 School, Nursery, Care Home and Nursery Action Group
- 15 Temporary Play Streets
- 16 Air Quality Web Page update
- 17 PM2.5 Monitoring

## Responsibilities and Commitment

This AQAP was prepared by the Environmental Protection Department of Warrington Borough Council with the support and agreement of the following officers and departments:

Transport for Warrington

Public Health

Planning Policy

Regulatory Services

The AQAP has been approved by:

- Executive Board
- Senior Management Team
- Director of Public Health
- Director of Economic Regeneration, Growth and Environment
- Portfolio Member for Environment and Public Protection
- Portfolio Member for Public Health and Wellbeing
- Portfolio Member for Highways, Transportation and Public Realm

This AQAP will be subject to an annual review, appraisal of progress and reporting to the Council's Air Quality Programme Board. Progress each year will be reported in the Annual Status Reports (ASRs) produced by Warrington Borough Council, as part of our statutory Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) duties.

If you have any comments on this AQAP please send them to the Environmental Protection team at:

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# 1 Introduction

This report outlines the actions that Warrington Borough Council will deliver between 2017 and 2022 in order to reduce concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) within the two designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA): Warrington AQMA; and the Motorway AQMA. These two AQMAs have been designated due to exceedances in the annual mean objective for NO<sub>2</sub> as set out in the national Air Quality Strategy (AQS) for England and Wales. Actions are also to be considered to reduce particulate concentrations, thereby positively impacting on the wider health and quality of life of residents and visitors to the Borough.

The AQAP has been developed in recognition of the legal requirement on the local authority to work towards AQS objectives under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 and relevant regulations made under that part and to meet the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) statutory process.

This AQAP is considered to be a “live” working document and will be reviewed annually. Progress on measures set out will be reported on annually within Warrington Borough Council’s ASR.



### **5.2.3 Chester Road Cycle Way**

The Town Centre Southern Super Route scheme, funded through the Access Fund, will provide high quality cycling infrastructure along Chester Road within the Warrington AQMA. This will encourage more people to cycle into the town centre, reducing car usage along the Chester Road corridor.

The scheme will create a promenade route alongside the River Mersey and A5060 Chester Road Super Route, linking the Trans-Pennine Trail to Town Centre via Central Park.

The resources to deliver this scheme have been allocated through the Access Fund and scheme delivery will be managed by the Transport Planning team.

### **5.2.4 Burtonwood to Omega Cycling/Walking Link**

The Burtonwood to Omega Link is a scheme funded through the Access Fund that will improve the walking and cycling infrastructure between Burtonwood and two key employment sites. This action is to encourage reduced car movements on this link directly through the Motorway AQMA

The scheme will provide a shared use path alongside Burtonwood Road/Clay Lane, and upgrade Barn Lane to provide link between Burtonwood and Omega/Gemini.

The resources to deliver this scheme have been allocated through the Access Fund and scheme delivery will be managed by the Transport Planning team.

### **5.2.5 Warrington West Rail Station**

The development of a new rail station to serve the west of the Town is programmed to start in 2018. Funded by the Cheshire & Warrington LEP, developer contribution, Government (New Stations Fund) and the Council, this new station will support more sustainable commuting between Warrington and our city neighbours to reduce car usage within AQMAs. This complements the recent upgrade of Birchwood rail station.

### **5.2.6 City Centre Masterplan Highway Infrastructure Programme**

The Council approved the City Centre Masterplan in December 2016. It outlines three new highway infrastructure projects aimed at tackling congestion, improving network resilience, improving air quality and enabling new homes and jobs in the heart of the town. Centre Park link Road and the Western Link Road are included as formal actions within table 5.1. The Bridgefoot Link Road and Road Space Reallocation proposals are included and will be fully integrated into the delivery of the Air Quality Action Plan at an appropriate later stage as and when discernible improvements in air quality can be modelled.

- **Centre Park Link Road**

The Centre Park Link Road is a major new piece of infrastructure that will provide a new link to Chester Road. The project proposes a bridge crossing across the River Mersey from Chester Road, just north of Gainsborough Road. This proposed crossing would join onto an extended Slutchers Lane

Measure No.	Measure	EU Category	EU Classification	Lead Authority	Planning Phase	Implementation Phase	Key Performance Indicator	Target Pollution Reduction in the AQMA	Progress to Date	Estimated Completion Date	Comments
<b>Infrastructure Improvements</b>											
6	5.2.1 Highways England / TfN Working Group	Policy Guidance and Development Control	Other Policy	Transport Planning	2018	Dec 2018	Highlight motorway improvement actions	N/A	Expand on current Highways England engagement	Dec 2018	To look into actions to improve emissions within the Motorway AQMA
7	5.2.2 Warrington Intelligent Transport System	Traffic Management	UTC, Congestion Management, Traffic Reduction	UTMC	2017	2018 - 2019	Journey times	<1 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Secured c.£300k from Department for Transport	2019	On major route within Warrington AQMA linking to Motorway AQMA
8	5.2.3 Chester Road Cycle Way	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	Cycle network	Transport Planning	2017 - 2018	2018-19	Number of users	<1 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Early design work is being undertaken	2019	Encourages modal change directly within Warrington AQMA
9	5.2.4 Burtonwood to Omega Cycling/Walking Link	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	Cycle network	Transport Planning	2017 - 2018	2018-19	Number of users	<1 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Early design work is being undertaken	2019	Encourages modal change to reduce car journeys in the Motorway AQMA
10	5.2.5 Warrington West Rail Station	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	Other	Transport Planning	2017 - 2018	2018-19	Build of infrastructure	<1 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Design work complete, planning permission secured	2019	Funding and planning permission are in place for the scheme
11	5.2.6 Centre Park Link	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	Other	Transport Planning	2017	2017-2018	Build of infrastructure	6 µg/m <sup>3</sup> on Chester Road and 11 µg/m <sup>3</sup> on Wilson Patten Street monitoring points	Design work complete, planning permission secured	2019	As part of the City Centre Masterplan. Funding and planning permission are in place for the scheme
12	5.2.6 Western Link Road	Transport Planning and Infrastructure	Other	Transport Planning	2017-18	2020	Bid submission Full business case	Further transport modelling work with AQ assessment to be undertaken	Outline Business case submitted Dec 2017	2023-24	Other town centre opportunities for link road/ space allocation being explored