

Air Quality Update

Health and Environment Policy Committee

18th September 2025



Winchester
City Council

Air Quality – Current Position

- WCC adopted a [New Air Quality Strategy](#) (CAB3461) for the whole district in March 2025, in response to the Environment Act 2021 and the National Air Quality Strategy - England;
- A 5 Year Plan aiming to achieve
 - **NO₂** '30 by 30'
 - **PM_{2.5}** '10 by 30'

Across all areas of the district

- Winchester is the first Local Authority in Hampshire to adopt its new AQS – So ahead of the curve.

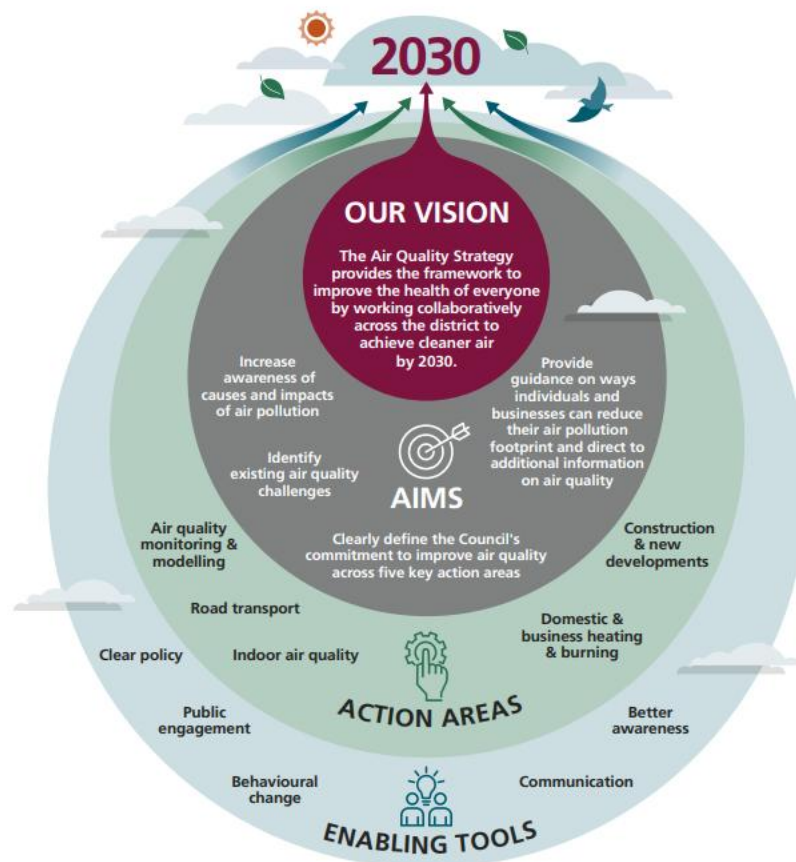


Air Quality – Outgoing Position

- Currently Winchester CC has an Air Quality Management Plan (since 2003), covers the Air Quality Management Area – City Centre and 8 radials.
- Annual Status Report (ASR) submitted to DEFRA in May, including a revocation assessment for the AQMA and associated Plan (3+ years compliance with national standards achieved and no predicted future increases).
- **DEFRA's response received in mid August confirming its “agreement” for WCC to revoke it's AQMA.**
- Officers can now focus on delivering the Air Quality Strategy with further ASR submissions to DEFRA each Spring.

Air Quality Strategy Themes

- New AQS has 13 actions across the following 5 key themes of delivery:
 - Air Quality monitoring and modelling
 - Transport
 - Domestic Heating and Combustion
 - Indoor Air Quality
 - Construction and new developments



Air Quality 13 Strategy Actions

ID	Action area	Action	Lead Organisation	2025-26				2026-27				2027-28				2028-29				2029-30			
				Qtr: 1	Qtr: 2	Qtr: 3	Qtr: 4	Qtr: 1	Qtr: 2	Qtr: 3	Qtr: 4	Qtr: 1	Qtr: 2	Qtr: 3	Qtr: 4	Qtr: 1	Qtr: 2	Qtr: 3	Qtr: 4	Qtr: 1	Qtr: 2	Qtr: 3	Qtr: 4
1	Air quality monitoring and modelling	Conduct a detailed atmospheric source inventory for NO ₂ and PM _{2.5} pollution in the Winchester District to identify the extent to which different key emission sources contribute to pollutant concentrations.	WCC																				
2		Expand the air quality monitoring network across the wider Winchester district, including increased PM _{2.5} measurements using sensor measurements, citizen engagements and indicative monitoring.	WCC																				
3		Develop a new and active participation in, a multi-disciplinary Regional Air Quality Network across Hampshire.	WCC																				
4		Conduct a study to identify and deliver measures at sensitive locations, such as schools/nurseries, playgrounds, or areas where air quality previously failed to meet national air quality objectives.	WCC & HCC																				
5	Transport	Adopt an anti-idling enforcement policy to educate residents and encourage behavioural change of motorists.	WCC																				
6		Lobby and identify capabilities to deliver the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Winchester City and District.	HCC																				
7		To support the Hampshire County Council Local Transport Plan, Winchester City Council commit to investigate and support traffic reduction policies to reduce car use by 10% by 2030 compared to 2024 levels.	WCC																				
8		To support Hampshire County Council Local Transport Plan measures that will increase the uptake and use of Public Transport across the district and improve connectivity with the wider region.	WCC & HCC																				

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				1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
9	Domestic Heating and Combustion	Develop an educational and advisory policy on an effective coordinated response to domestic combustion concerns.	WCC																				
10		Explore the feasibility of adopting a Smoke Control Area and associated enforcement policy to cover Winchester District.	WCC																				
11	Indoor Air Quality	Develop an educational and advisory policy on an effective coordinated response to indoor air quality concerns, including mould and bio aerosols.	WCC																				
12	Construction and new developments	Strengthen the Council's Local Plan 2020 to 2040 (emerging) to widen the principles of the current Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) through the development of a separate informative Technical Guidance Note.	WCC																				
13		Investigate how, as part of the subsequent review of the Local Plan, we can improve air quality and enhance the uptake and continued use of active and sustainable modes of travel.	WCC																				

Delivery

- An Officer working group has been set up within the Public Protection Service
- Each Action will be treated as a mini project for delivery
- Costs associated with AQS, will be determined for each action during delivery phase

Air Quality Strategy - Future

- Where will Air Quality sit? The new Regional Combined Authority or within the Unitary Authority?
- WCC leading the way so much of the AQS can still be delivered before formation of new Unitary in 2028.

Priority Actions to be delivered by April 2028

Deliverable

- Modelling – HCC Project, tender process already started
- Expanded AQ monitoring - WCC led, already started
- Regional Network – WCC led, already started
- Sensitive Location Study – WCC led, already started
- Anti Idling Policy - WCC led, deliverable

Air Quality Strategy – Future

Deliverable (Contin)

- Domestic Policy Advisory - WCC led, deliverable
- Policy on Indoor Air Quality – WCC led, deliverable
- Smoke Control Areas – WCC led, deliverable
- Strengthen AQ in developing Local Strategic Plan - WCC led, deliverable

Uncertain

- Delivery of LCWIP - HCC led project, as yet delivery timeframe unknown
- 10% Traffic Reduction – HCC led aspiration, as yet delivery unknown
- Enhance sustainable travel - HCC led aspiration, as yet delivery unknown

Questions



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