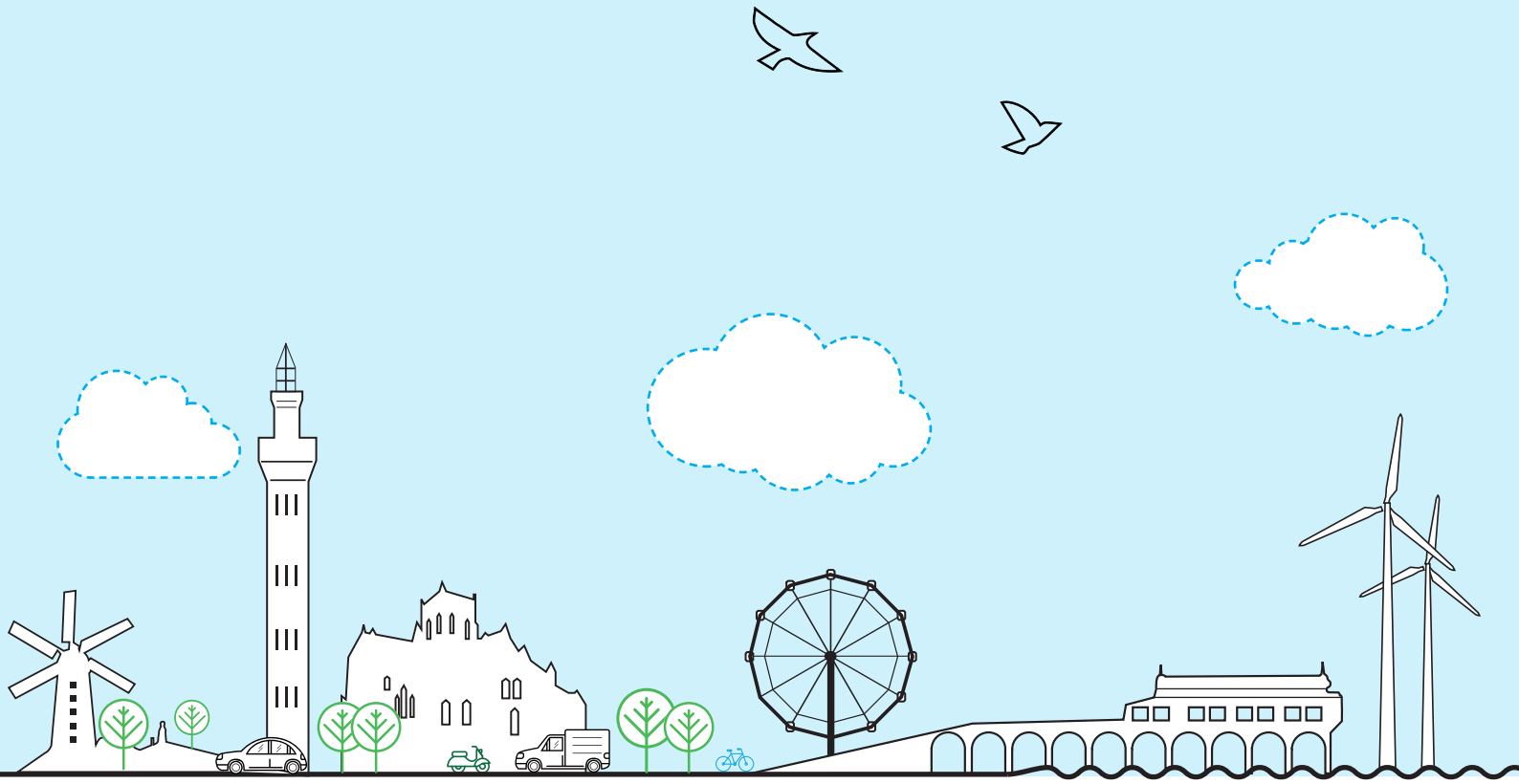


North East Lincolnshire Council

Air Quality Strategy

Achieving clean air in North East Lincolnshire

2021-2026

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
www.nelincs.gov.uk

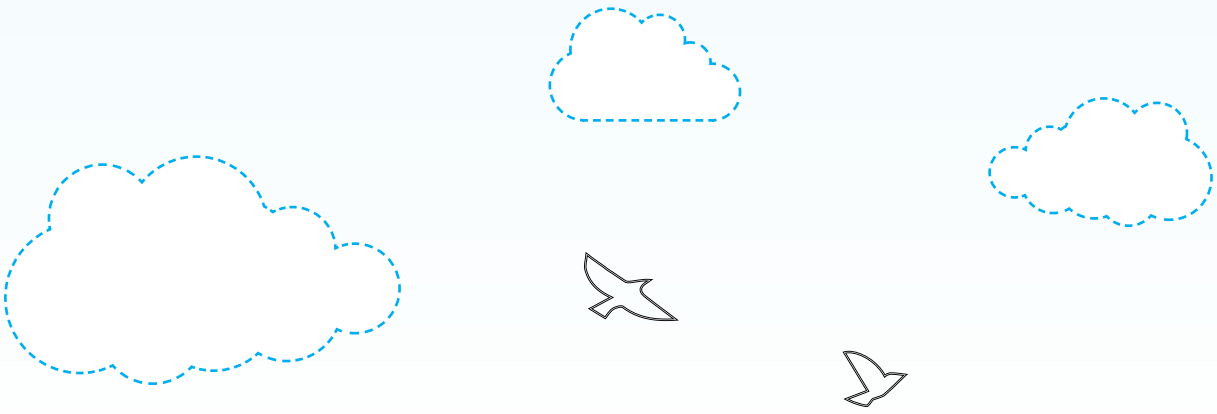
Executive Summary

North East Lincolnshire's Council's (NELC) Air Quality Strategy (AQS) runs from 2021-2026 and focuses on achieving clean air in North East Lincolnshire.

Air pollution is a major public health risk ranking alongside cancer, heart disease and obesity. It causes more harm than passive smoking. An estimated 4.2 million premature deaths globally are linked to ambient air pollution, mainly from heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, and acute respiratory infections in children [1]. There is emerging evidence of other health effects, for example, emerging evidence has associated air pollution with dementia and Type 2 diabetes [2].

The Government published its Clean Air Strategy in January 2019[3], this document will enable the Council to work with central government on policies and issues beyond NELC's direct influence. This national strategy sets out a framework to minimise human exposure to harmful concentrations of pollution and represents a change in focus towards tackling smaller and more diffuse sources of air pollution.

Local authorities are encouraged by Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to implement local Air Quality Strategies. This Air Quality Strategy will provide a framework to deliver local air quality improvements which is aimed at informing policy and direction across a wide range of council services.



The strategy focuses on seven broad topics which set out the areas where the council can influence a reduction in air pollution within the borough:

- **Transport:** Working towards a cleaner, less polluting transport network that both supports sustainable transport modes (walking, cycling, car share and public transport) and makes maximum use of existing resources through effective highways and transport planning.
- **Public Health:** Encouragement of wider behavioural changes in the local population with respect to their travel choices, raise awareness and educate members of the public on the health impact of air pollution.
- **Planning and Infrastructure:** Be involved in the planning decision making process as early as is practicable to mitigate potential air quality impacts and support environmentally sustainable development in NEL.
- **Strategies and Policy Guidance:** Working with other departments and stakeholders to direct the use of legislation and targeted enforcement to control air pollution.
- **Air Quality Monitoring:** The collation of air quality monitoring data will identify pollution hotspots enabling interventions and improvement to be made in those areas of concern.
- **Raise Public Awareness:** NELC will encourage the local community to become involved in improving air quality and take actions to reduce their contributions to local air quality emissions.
- **Funding Air Quality Improvements:** To give long term commitment to fund air quality improvements within the borough.

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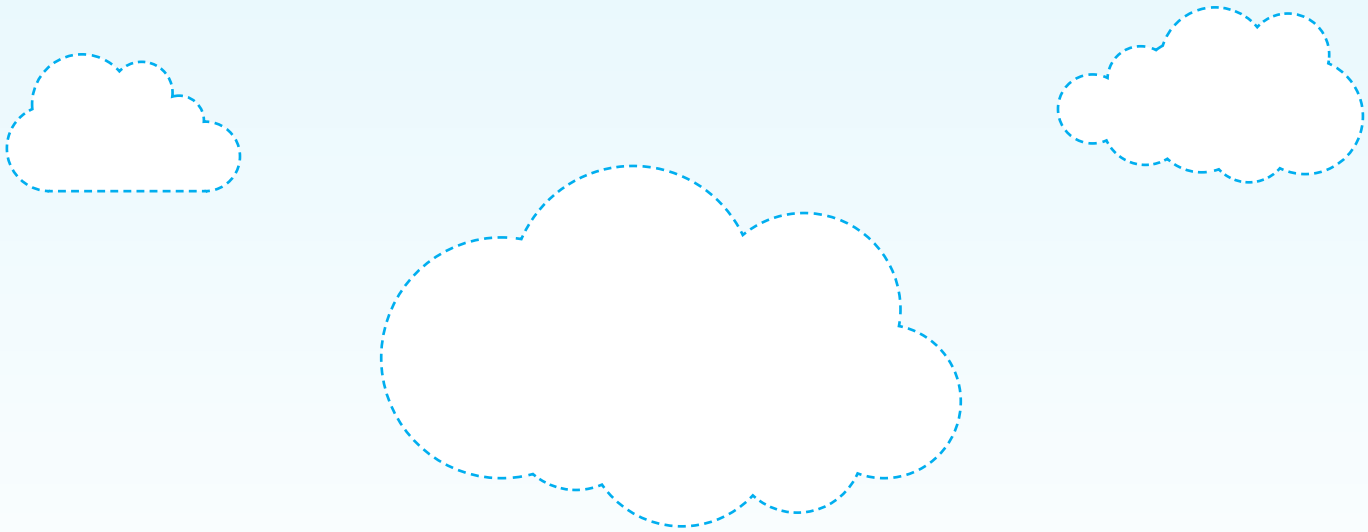


1.0 Introduction

Air pollution has been linked with several long-term health conditions, including cancer, asthma, heart disease, obesity and changes linked to dementia. Additionally, air pollution particularly affects the most vulnerable in society: children and older people. There is also often a strong correlation with equalities issues because areas with poor air quality are also often the less affluent areas [4, 5].

The Council has several statutory responsibilities for air quality, and these are governed by Part IV of the Environment Act 1995. The process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether the air quality objectives are likely to be achieved. Councils are required to produce an Annual Status Report (ASR) which provides a yearly update on monitoring data; measures to improve air quality; new identified issues; and progress made is submitted to DEFRA for approval. This Strategy will support the measures highlighted in the annual report and outlines how we plan to effectively tackle air quality issues within our borough.

1.1 Health Effects

Recent research commissioned by Public Health England has found that the health and social care costs of air pollution (particulate matter $PM_{2.5}$ and nitrogen dioxide NO2) in England could reach £5.3 billion by 2035[6]. This is a cumulative cost for diseases which have a strong association with air pollution: coronary heart disease; stroke; lung cancer; and childhood asthma.

- Short-term impacts: from mild symptoms such as irritation of the airways, sore throats, and headaches, to severe impacts such as asthma and heart attacks.
- Long-term impacts: may include permanently reduced lung function in children, the causation of cardiovascular disease, respiratory illness such as asthma, and early death.

In order to better inform the public about short-term levels of outdoor air pollution and their potential health effects, the Daily Air Quality Index (DAQI) was developed following advice from the Committee on Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP). This index, numbered 1-10, standardises the measured values of different pollutants by categorising them into 4 bands (Low, Moderate, High, and Very High). These bands are linked to the perceived impacts to health of each pollutant. As such, the DAQI provides information about the health risk of different levels of pollutants in a simple and comparable format and is like the sun index or pollen index used in weather forecasts. Measured values of the different pollutants should not be directly compared as their effects on health and the environment are very different.

Table 1: Recommended Actions and Health Advice

Air Pollution Banding	Value	Accompanying health messages for at-risk individuals	Accompanying health messages for the general population
Low	1-3	Enjoy your usual outdoor activities.	Enjoy your usual outdoor activities.
Moderate	4-6	Adults and children with lung problems, and adults with heart problems, who experience symptoms, should consider reducing strenuous physical activity, particularly outdoors.	Enjoy your usual outdoor activities.
High	7-9	Adults and children with lung problems, and adults with heart problems, should reduce strenuous physical exertion, particularly outdoors, and particularly if they experience symptoms. People with asthma may find they need to use their reliever inhaler more often. Older people should also reduce physical exertion.	Anyone experiencing discomfort such as sore eyes, cough or sore throat should consider reducing activity, particularly outdoors.
Very High	10	Adults and children with lung problems, adults with heart problems, and older people, should avoid strenuous physical activity. People with asthma may find they need to use their reliever inhaler more often.	Reduce physical exertion, particularly outdoors, especially if you experience symptoms such as cough or sore throat.

1.2 Sources of Air Pollution

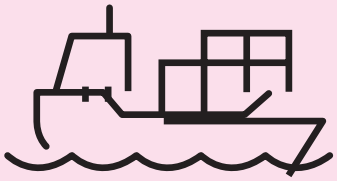
The main sources of pollution in the UK is from traffic emissions, the burning of fossil fuels and industrial emissions.

The diagram below gives details of air pollution sources and their effects.

Road transport is the biggest source of NOx in the UK and it is the main source of exposure at the roadside. It also produces PM, VOCs and SO2.

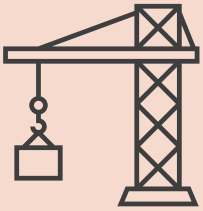
Industrial sources are a major source of PM, NOx, VOCs and SO2.

Shipping and other transport is a major source of NOx.



Agriculture is the main source of ammonia pollution.

Non-road mobile machinery like construction equipment is an important source of NOx, PM & VOCs.



1.3 What is Good Air Quality?

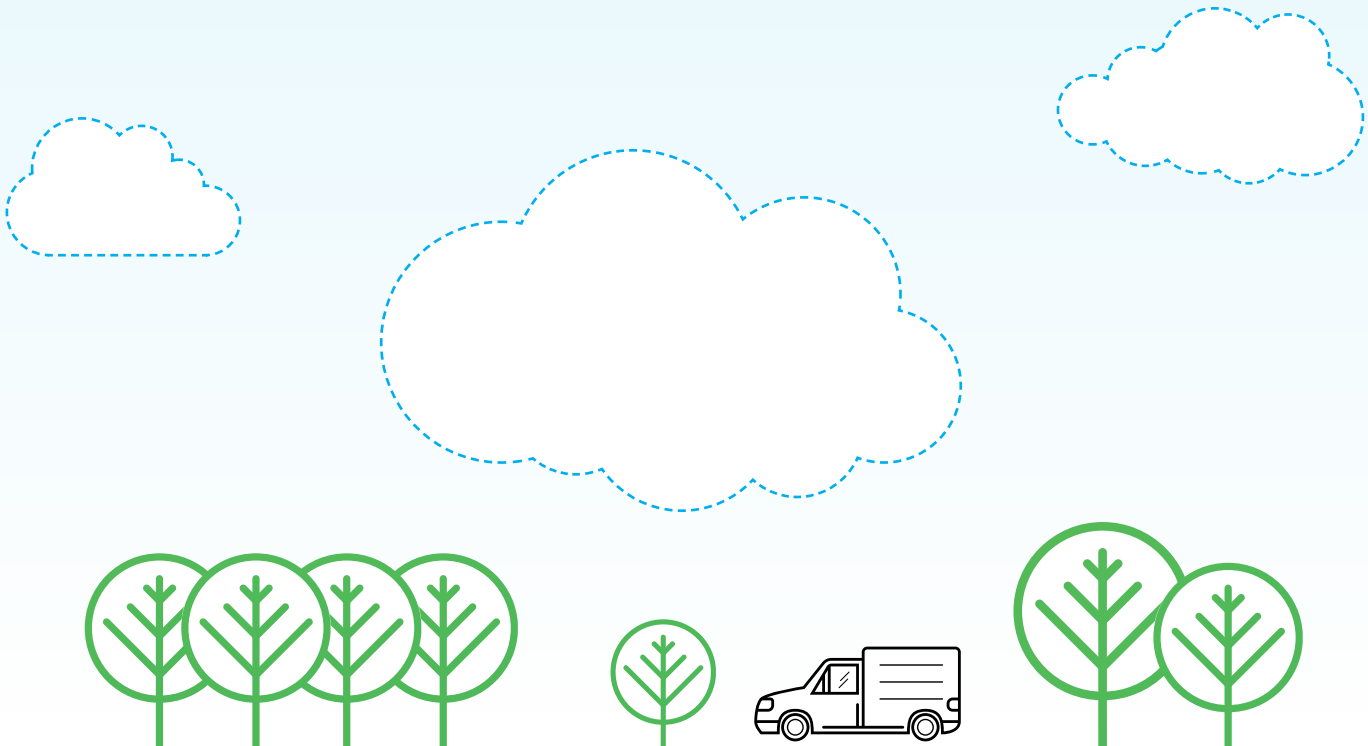
Good air quality relates to the degree which the air is clean, clear, and free from pollutants such as smoke, dust, and smog among other gaseous impurities. Air quality is the term we use to describe how polluted the air we breathe is. When air quality is poor, pollutants in the air may be hazardous to people. Clean air is a basic requirement of a healthy environment for us all to live in, work, and bring up families.

1.4 Clean Air Strategy 2019

The national Clean Air Strategy was published in January 2019 and sets out the comprehensive action required across all parts of government to meet our legally binding targets to reduce emissions of five key pollutants (fine particulate matter, ammonia, nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide, non-methane volatile organic compounds) by 2020 and 2030, and secure significant public health benefits. This includes action to reduce emissions from a range of sources, including domestic solid fuel combustion, agriculture, and industrial sources. The Strategy also made a commitment to bring forward primary legislation on clean air, as outlined in the Environment Bill.

1.5 Environment Bill

The Environment Bill delivers key aspects of the Clean Air Strategy with the aim of maximising health benefits for our residents. It introduces a duty on the government to set a legally-binding target for fine particulate matter (PM2.5), the pollutant of most concern for health, alongside at least one further long-term air quality target. It also ensures local authorities will have a clear framework and simple to use powers to address air quality in their areas.



2.0 Air Quality within North East Lincolnshire

2.1 Local Air Quality Management

The Local Air Quality Management (LAQM)7 process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether the air quality objectives are likely to be achieved.

The air quality objectives apply at locations outside buildings or other natural man-made structures above or below ground, where members of the public are regularly present and might reasonably be expected to be exposed to pollutant concentrations over the relevant averaging period. Typically, these include residential properties, schools and care homes for long-term (i.e. annual mean) pollutant objectives and high streets for short-term (i.e. 1-hour) pollutant objectives.

Where an exceedance of the air quality objectives is considered likely the local authority must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP).

Table 2: Air Quality Objectives included in Regulations for the purpose of LAQM in England [8]

Pollutant	Air Quality Objective	
	Concentration	Measured as
Nitrogen dioxide	200 µg/m^3 not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year	1-hour mean
	40 µg/m^3	Annual mean
Particles PM_{10}	50 µg/m^3, not to be exceeded more than 35 times a year	24-hour mean
	40 µg/m^3	Annual mean
Particles $PM_{2.5}$	25 µg/m^3	Annual mean

The main sources of air pollution within North East Lincolnshire (NEL) are from road traffic and local background which includes domestic sources, agriculture, and emissions from the industrial areas in Grimsby and Immingham.

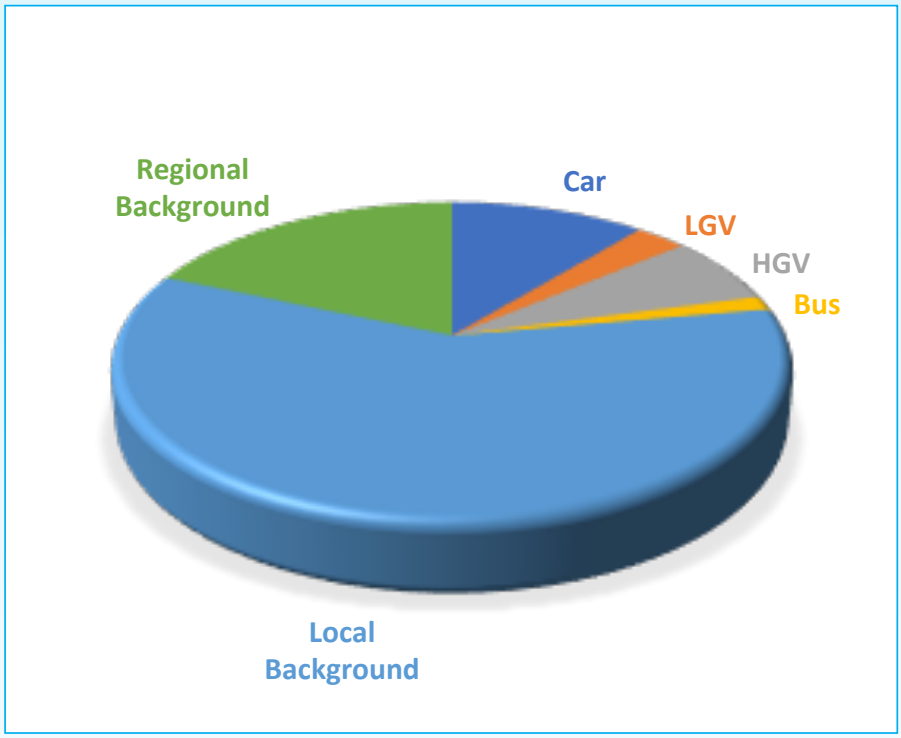
2.2 Local Air Quality Monitoring

The monitoring of air quality in NEL takes place using two real-time air quality monitoring stations. These are located in Grimsby on Cleethorpes Road and Peaks Parkway, both monitor for nitrogen dioxide.

There are approximately 30 diffusion tubes located in North East Lincolnshire, giving us Borough wide coverage, these indicatively measure the concentration of nitrogen dioxide. The location of these tubes is reviewed on a yearly basis, concentrating on areas with large traffic volumes and alongside potential new developments.

To help inform the development of air quality measures, source apportionment of the different road traffic categories has been undertaken.

Figure 1: Contributions to pollution across North East Lincolnshire.



The main sources of air pollution within North East Lincolnshire is from road traffic (22.2%) and local background (59.3%), this includes domestic, agriculture and industrial sources. Followed by regional background at 18.5%.

• the regional background NELC is unable to influence.

• the local background and local sources NELC have influence over.

This means NELC should be able to influence 77.8% of total nitrogen oxide (NOx) concentrations with intervention policies. To ensure this figure is reduced air quality needs to be considered within all North East Lincolnshire future growth plans.

2.3 National Monitoring

The Automatic Urban and Rural Network (AURN) is the UK's largest automatic monitoring network and is used for compliance reporting against the Ambient Air Quality Directives. It includes automatic air quality monitoring stations measuring oxides of nitrogen (NOx), sulphur dioxide (SO_2), ozone (O_3), carbon monoxide (CO) and particles (PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$). These sites provide high resolution hourly information, which is communicated rapidly to the public, using a wide range of electronic, media and web platforms [9].

An urban background AURN monitoring station was installed at the junction of Woodlands Avenue and Oaklands Road, in the residential area of Immingham in November 2017 [10].

2.4 Annual Status Report

Local authorities are required to submit an Annual Status Report (ASR) to the Secretary of State (Defra) for consideration each year. The overall aim of the ASR is to report on progress in achieving reductions in concentrations of emissions relating to relevant pollutants below air quality objective levels. It is also where local authorities identify new or changing sources of emissions.

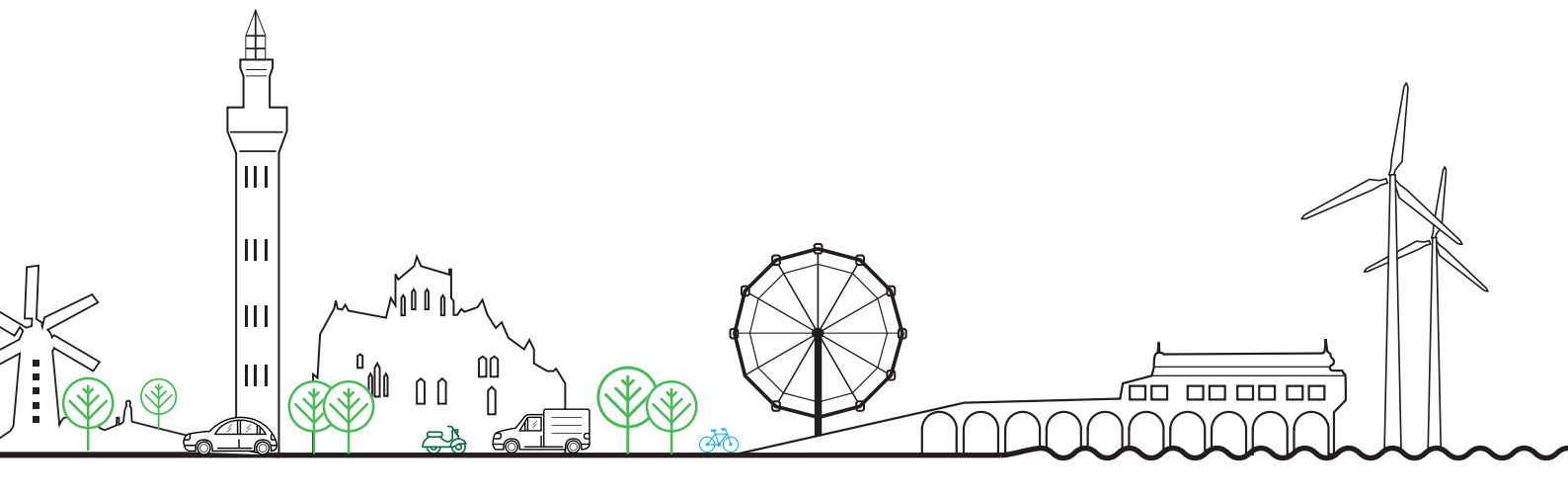
The report is made available to the public, local stakeholders, the Environment Agency, Highways England, and other relevant departments/stakeholders. Information is presented in the executive summary for public to engage in local air quality issues.

The core requirements of the ASR are:

To report progress on the implementation of both established and new measures and their impact in reducing concentrations below the air quality objectives.

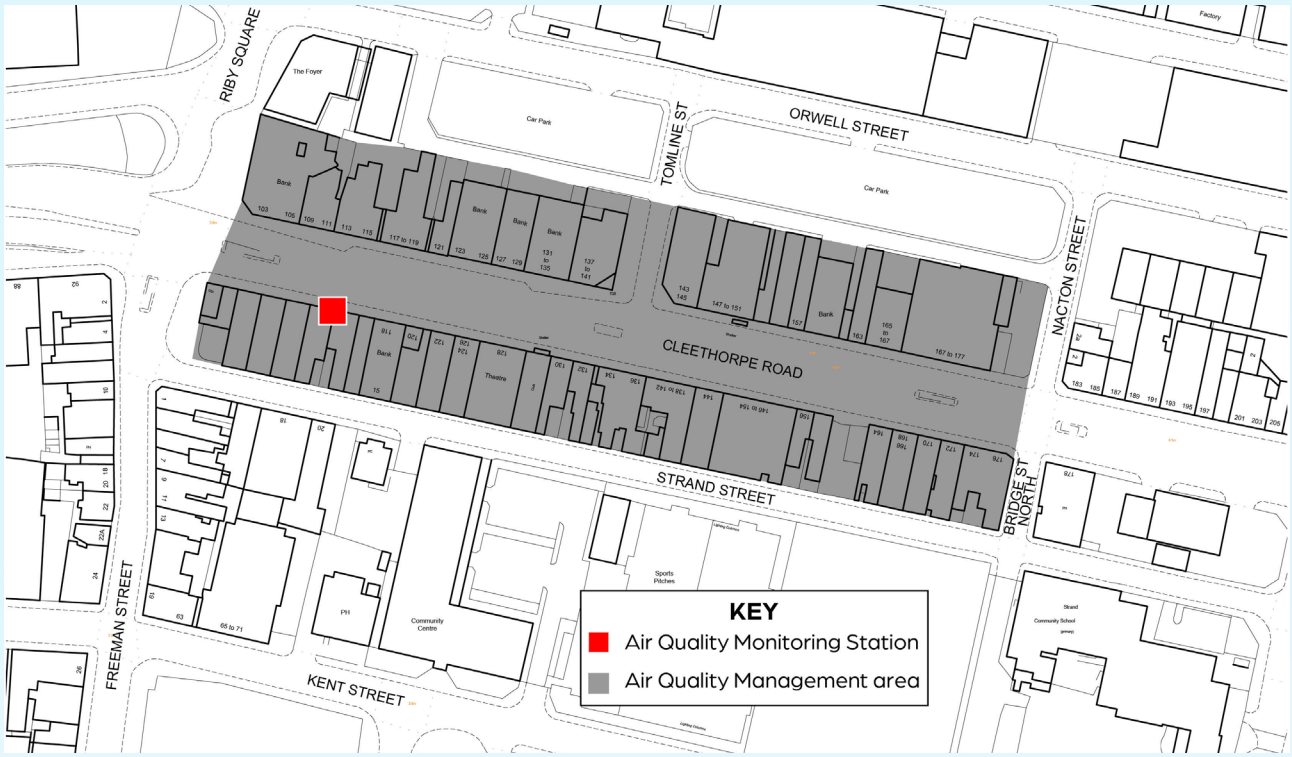
To provide a summary of monitoring data to assess the air quality situation in our area and likelihood of air quality breaches, and to provide the necessary evidence base for the impact of air quality measures.

To report on significant new developments that might affect local air quality.



2.5 Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)

NEL has one area where air quality is in breach of national air quality standards. This is located at Cleethorpe Road/Riby Square Grimsby, the Council formally declared an AQMA in 2010 for the breach of the annual mean nitrogen dioxide objective.



Where an exceedance of the Air Quality Standards Objective levels is considered likely the local authority must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP).

The designation of the AQMA and production of the Action Plan will ensure that air quality is a material consideration in the determination of transport schemes; planning permissions and economic development/investment activity.

The AQAP 2020[11] replaces the previous AQAP which was adopted in 2012. Projects successfully delivered through the past action plan include:

- Riby Square highway improvements to reduce congestion, reduce emissions from idle vehicle engines.
- Vehicle Procurement: The Council have expanded their electric vehicle fleet to now include 25 vehicles.
- Completion of A18/A180 link road to provide a more appropriate HGV route to Immingham Docks (2016), reduced environmental impact of HGVs on the residents of Immingham.
- Bus Stop Facilities: Real time displays at main bus stops.

The primary focus of the AQAP 2020 is to implement measures which will ensure levels of NO_2 across the Borough, and specifically within the AQMA, are consistently below the threshold of 40µg/m^3 expressed as an annual mean.

2.6 Monitoring of Particulates in NELC

Currently there is no monitoring of PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ within North East Lincolnshire. Monitoring of PM_{10} ceased in two locations in 2018 due to consistent results below the objective levels. The current Defra 2018 background maps for North East Lincolnshire Council show that all background concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$ are well below the 2020 annual mean objective.

https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/data/laqm-background-maps?year=2018

The Public Health Outcomes Framework Data Tool12 compiled by Public Heath England quantifies the mortality burden of $PM_{2.5}$ within England on a county and local authority scale. In 2018 the percentage of adult mortality attributable to $PM_{2.5}$ pollution within North East Lincolnshire was 0.5% higher than the average fraction for the Yorkshire and Humber region, however, was 0.2% lower than the average fraction for England.

Area	North East Lincolnshire	Yorkshire & the Humber	England
% of Adult Mortality	5.0%	4.5%	5.2%

Although not initially developed to reduce concentrations of PM2.5, several measures outlined in the ASR are related to vehicles and will help reduce concentrations. Therefore, by the reduction of vehicle use, and the introduction of more efficient and less polluting vehicles, concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$ will decrease.

3.0 North East Lincolnshire's Air Quality Priorities

3.1 Local Policy background

All people in North East Lincolnshire should enjoy good health and wellbeing. Through ensuring air quality issues are considered in the wider decision-making framework, NELC can provide continued improvement in local air quality conditions and secure future health improvements.

NELC's priorities are for a Stronger Economy and Stronger Communities. We want North East Lincolnshire to be an attractive place to live, work, visit and invest, and know that we have significant and exciting opportunities for growth in our area.

North East Lincolnshire Council's Environmental Protection Team are responsible for undertaking the statutory duty of protecting and improving the air quality of North East Lincolnshire.

Built in to NELC's outcome framework is the commitment to a place-based approach to social value. Social value is defined as "outcomes and activities that will improve the quality of life and life chances of our residents and enhance the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the local area"[13].

Our Social Value Policy aims to:

Involve local people and organisations in how we meet the needs of local communities through the commissioning cycle.

Tackle disadvantage and address inequalities of health, wealth, and opportunity across the borough.

Promote the local economy by supporting micro, small and medium sized enterprises, and the voluntary and community sector to thrive.

Further our sustainable procurement objectives to protect and enhance the environment.

Maintaining good air quality is important to these policies and outcome framework. In developing the Air Quality Strategy, we have considered these aims and will adopt them as guiding principles when delivering our service priorities.

3.2 North East Lincolnshire Council Local Plan

The North East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2013-2032 was adopted by North East Lincolnshire Council on 22nd March 2018. It sets out the council's vision and strategy for the borough until 2032. The Local Plan identifies several Strategic Objectives to provide a framework for policies. This includes Policy SO2 on Climate Change which aims to "Address the causes and effects of climate change by promoting development that… reduces pollution". A number of "critical success factors" are also listed, which include to have "addressed the issue of poor air quality" and "reduced the number of declared Air Quality Management Areas in the borough".

Air quality is also included into the following policies,

Policy 5 Development Boundaries: All development proposals located within or outside of the defined boundaries will be considered with regard to suitability and sustainability, having regard to: impact upon neighbouring land uses by reason of noise, air quality, disturbance, or visual intrusion.

Policy 31 Renewable and low carbon infrastructure: Infrastructure will be assessed on their merits and subject to following impact considerations, taking account of individual and cumulative effects: local amenity, including noise, air quality, traffic, vibration, dust, and visual impact.

Policy 36 Promoting sustainable transport: To reduce congestion, improve environmental quality and encourage more active and healthy lifestyles, the Council will support measures that promote more sustainable transport choices.

Policy 38 Parking: Where 100 or more parking places are to be provided to serve a commercial development, a minimum of three charging points should be provided for electric vehicles.

By establishing a strategy framework for the inclusion of air quality considerations within council policies and procedures, the local authority is well placed to maintain good air quality and secure improvements in air quality.

3.3 Public Health Context

Local authorities have a range of powers which can effectively help to improve air quality. However, the involvement of public health officials is crucial in playing a role to assess the public health impacts and providing advice and guidance on taking appropriate action to reduce exposure and improve the health of everyone in North East Lincolnshire.

Mounting scientific evidence shows the scale of the impact of poor ambient air quality on health. Although the links between air pollution as a direct cause of death are still the subject of much debate, poor air quality is considered to be a significant contributory factor to the loss of life, shortening lives by an average of 5 months. The Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollution (COMEAP) provides advice to Government on the setting of air quality standards, and increasingly has sought to consolidate evidence on the health burden and impacts of various pollutants, both in single occurrence and pollutants in combination. The current range of estimate for annual mortality burden for man-made air pollution in the UK is estimated to be between 28,000 – 36,000 deaths[14].

Public Health England recommends adopting a net health gain principle in any policy or work programme affecting air pollution. This should mean that any new development will be clean by design and that any new development or proposal for change to existing developments should intend to deliver an overall benefit to public health. The impact would be that housing and other community developments would by default be well designed to reduce pollution, support walking, cycling and clean public transport, as well as providing charging points for future ultra-low emission vehicles, etc.

Evidence suggests interventions aiming to reduce population exposure to pollution will have the biggest overall health impact, although action also needs to be taken to reduce inequalities in exposure and to protect vulnerable groups[15].

3.4 Planning and Air Quality

Air quality issues are a material consideration in determining planning applications. NELC consider that the planning system has an important role in protecting people from unacceptable health effects caused by air pollution and preventing the further deterioration of the local air quality. These considerations must, however, be balanced against other aims of the Council such as securing economic growth and to provide adequate levels of housing and development.

A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) will be produced to provide developers with advice on considering air quality within the borough. This guidance will reflect both local and national requirements. The following procedure should be adopted where a development may have a detrimental impact on air quality:

The classification of the development proposal needs to be determined.

Assessing and quantifying the impact on local air quality.

Determine the level of mitigation required by the proposed development to meet local air quality requirements.

The overall outcome of an air quality assessment is to determine whether the development will have a significant impact on air quality and/or whether the existing air quality is acceptable for the proposed development to be completed.

3.5 Local Transport Plan

NELC Local Transport Plan (LTP) sets out the role of highways and transport in enabling the delivery of our over-arching economic, social, and environmental goals within North East Lincolnshire in addition to meeting our statutory duties as a highway authority.

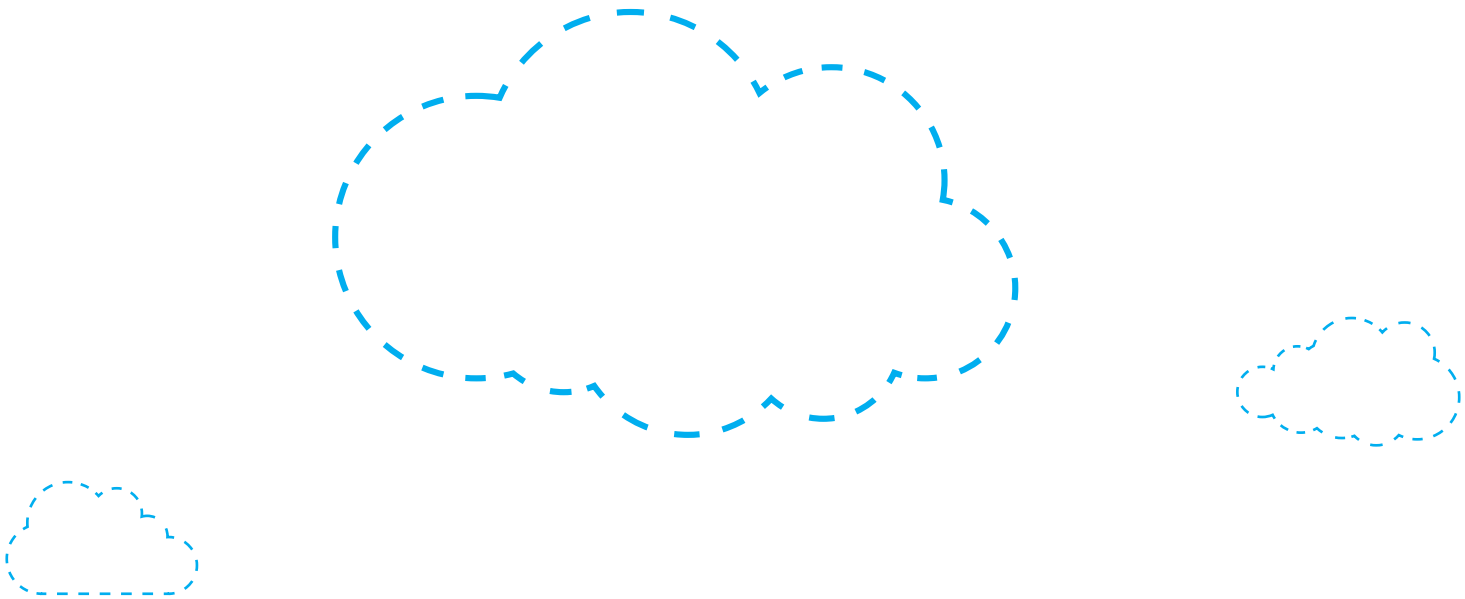
The updated plan (published in December 2016) includes a long-term Transport Strategy, a three-year Delivery Plan (incorporating the annual LTP Capital Programme) and supporting strategies that bridge the gap between the two.

The LTP is closely aligned to wider Council strategies and the new Local Plan highlighting the important role that highways and transport have in supporting the Council's aspirations for a stronger economy and stronger local communities here in North East Lincolnshire.

With the adoption of this Plan the Council has committed to minimising the effects of transport on the natural environment and wherever possible improve the quality of the built environment through the delivery of schemes. This will ensure transport contributes to environmental excellence, improved air quality and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Further information on the LTP can be found on North East Lincolnshire Council website:

https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/assets/uploads/2020/09/LTP-Strategy-2016.pdf



3.6 Climate Change and Energy Management

The close connection between air quality and climate change can have a direct impact on the health and well-being of both humans and the natural environment. Air Quality and Climate Change policies promote practices that reduce the effects on health and the environment of both air pollution and greenhouse gases.

The Council's intends to address the causes and impacts of Climate Change by:

LEAD: In our own operations - by setting a good example.

ENABLE: A low carbon region - through our programmes, policies, and decisions.

INSPIRE: Business and residents - to take action themselves.

The Council has made significant progress in reducing its operational carbon emissions in recent years by over 37%. A combination of property rationalisation and the improved energy efficiency of retained buildings and fleet have produced excellent results and this work continues.

In 2016 Cabinet approved an emerging energy "vision and ambition" and associated aims for NEL. This vision sets a target of reducing the Borough's carbon emissions by 80% (below 1990 levels) by 2050. It goes further and sets an aspiration to become carbon neutral by 2050 which, although ambitious at the time, now aligns with new Government targets recently announced. Transport accounts for 18% of the energy consumed in NEL and tackling emissions from road transport is key to our ambitions for a carbon neutral Borough by 2050.

The Council has a strong track record on its policy driven approach to Climate Change. In 2000 it became a signatory to the Nottingham Declaration. The Council has since formally signed the Climate Local declaration. This superseded the Nottingham Declaration. Signing the declaration and being part of the initiative will further enhance the area's aspirations to become the renewable energy capital of the UK.

The Council resolved to declare a Climate Emergency in September 2019. Declaring a climate emergency is an action being taken by many organisations across the world, bringing the issue up the agenda and making visible their commitment. The Council is now developing its roadmap, and this will be published by 2021.

North East Lincolnshire is an above-average emitter of carbon dioxide (CO_2). It is inevitable that national environmental targets will bring further focus on the need for significant decarbonisation in the Borough.

3.7 Indoor Air Quality

The Clean Air Quality Strategy explains that many people are unaware that emissions in the home increase personal exposure to pollutants and contribute significantly to our overall national emissions.

The principal forms of indoor air pollution are particulate matter (PM) and Non-Methane Volatile Organic Compounds (NMVOCs). PM is produced by many forms of cooking and home heating, most notably from combustion in open fires and stoves. NMVOCs are emitted by a wide variety of chemicals that are found in carpets, upholstery, paint, cleaning, fragrance, and personal care products. Sulphur dioxide (SO_2) is emitted by coal burned in open fires.

Indoor air pollution both increases personal exposure and contributes to our overall national emissions as most of these indoor emissions end up in the atmosphere. There are simple, practical steps that we can all take to reduce our exposure such as ensuring homes are adequately ventilated and making informed choices about the products we use.

These indoor emissions can have a significant impact for some people and add to everyone's incremental exposure over the life course. Studies have found that as much as 90% of the day is spent indoors where the levels of some air pollutants are often far higher than outside.

3.8 Environmental Permitting

These industrial processes are regulated through the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) (England and Wales) 2016 (as amended) which enable local authorities to control pollution from certain types of industry. These permits consist of specific conditions that the operators must adhere to, including controls to ensure the protection of local air quality.

3.9 Stakeholders

NELC work with relevant partners, including Associated British Ports (ABP), ENGIE, Stagecoach, transport operators, local businesses, and industry, to achieve the necessary improvements in air quality. All local stakeholders need to be involved and NELC encourages participation in the process.

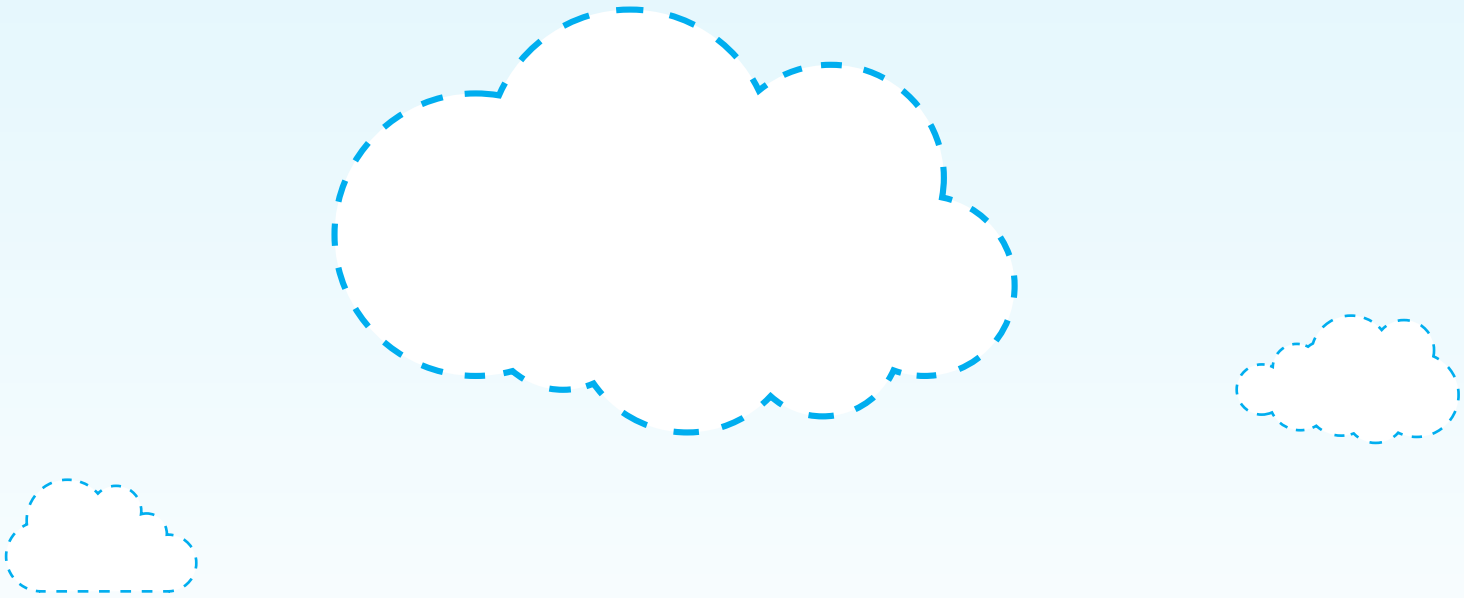
NELC have formed an internal Air Quality Steering Committee, the aim of the group is to involve other departments across the Council and make them aware of air quality issues within the borough. The group is working towards ensuring air quality is

considered in all aspects of Council decision making. This committee also gives officers the opportunity to bring forward any ideas on how air quality can be improved in North East Lincolnshire. Representatives from Environmental Protection, Planning, Public Health, Transport, Highways, Communications and Carbon Reduction Teams meet on a quarterly basis.

3.10 Statutory Nuisance

The Environmental Protection Team has a statutory duty to investigate justified complaints of statutory nuisance these include emissions of smoke, fumes or gases, dust, steam, and smell.

We work with businesses to discuss the issues and achieve the necessary improvements, whenever possible. The emissions must arise from premises and must affect the use or enjoyment of other premises. In some cases where this cooperation is not being given, we have to rely on our formal powers.



4.0 Delivering the Strategy

The aim of the Air Quality Strategy is to support the achievement of Air Quality Objectives as discussed previously and to set out the areas where the council can deliver local air quality improvements. The strategy provides the framework to achieve the overall ambition of maintaining and achieving good Air Quality within North East Lincolnshire.

The strategy focuses on seven broad topics which set out the objectives where the council can influence a reduction in air pollution within the borough.

Transport: Working towards a cleaner, less polluting transport network that both supports sustainable transport modes (walking, cycling, car share and public transport) and makes maximum use of existing resources through effective highways and transport planning.

Public Health: Encouragement of wider behavioural changes in local population with respect to their travel choices, raise awareness and educate members of the public on the health impact of air pollution.

Planning and Infrastructure: Be involved in the planning decision making process as early as is practicable to mitigate potential air quality impacts and support environmentally sustainable development in NEL.

Strategies and Policy Guidance: Working with other departments and stakeholders to direct the use of legislation and targeted enforcement to control air pollution.

Air Quality Monitoring: The collation of air quality monitoring data will identify pollution hotspots enabling interventions and improvement to be made in those areas of concern.

Raise Public Awareness: NELC will encourage the local community to become involved in improving air quality and take actions to reduce their contributions to local air quality emissions.

Funding Air Quality Improvements: To give long term commitment to fund air quality improvements within the borough.

4.1 Actions we will take

The objectives are to be achieved through a series of actions listed in the table below. These summarise work already being achieved or planned for delivery to help the Council protect and, where necessary, improve air quality in North East Lincolnshire.

Action NELC will Take	Outcomes	Timeframe
Improve public transport services, bus stop/train infrastructure & information.	Increase in use of public transport based on average numbers of people using the services.	On-going
Encourage Council Travel Plan opportunities and seek to car share/public transport/walking/ cycling.	Increase the number of employees' car sharing/using public transport/walking/ cycling.	April 2022
Bus fleet upgrades.	Number of low/zero emission buses.	Annually
Continue to promote and facilitate cycling for both transportation and leisure purposes.	Uptake of cycling incentives and bike purchases.	On-going
Encouraging residents and visitors to North East Lincolnshire to use car share and public transport.	Increase the number of residents and visitors to car share/ use public transport.	On-going
Encourage the uptake of Employer and School Travel Plans within the Borough.	Increase number of travel plans in place.	On-going
Public Air Quality Information: Provide further advice to the residents of NEL, including promotion of fuel saving measures within residential and commercial, buildings.	Number of hits on upgraded website per annum.	2022
Annual Air Quality Reports to be made available on the NELC website.	Published reports online after DEFRA approval.	Annually
Ensure that air quality is considered in the planning process.	All planning applications will be appraised to minimise and protect local air quality.	Weekly
Work together with developers to improve sustainable transport links serving new developments.	New developments to ensure public transport is accessible.	Weekly
Work together with developers to promote the inclusion of electric charging points for electric/ hybrid vehicles at new development sites.	All developments will be requested to provide electric vehicle infrastructure.	Weekly
Inclusion of measures to improve air quality in all NELC new or updated strategies.	Air quality to be considered in all NELC decision making.	On-going
NELC Vehicle Procurement.	Ensure that NELC is working towards sustainable vehicle replacement.	On-going
Air quality will be monitoring throughout the Borough.	Monitoring of pollutants to ensure the protection of local air quality.	Daily
Declared Climate Emergency in September 2019.	Carbon Neutral by 2050.	2050
Supplementary Planning Guidance document.	Number of planning applications with air quality conditions/assessments.	March 2021

4.2 Monitoring the Effectiveness of this Strategy

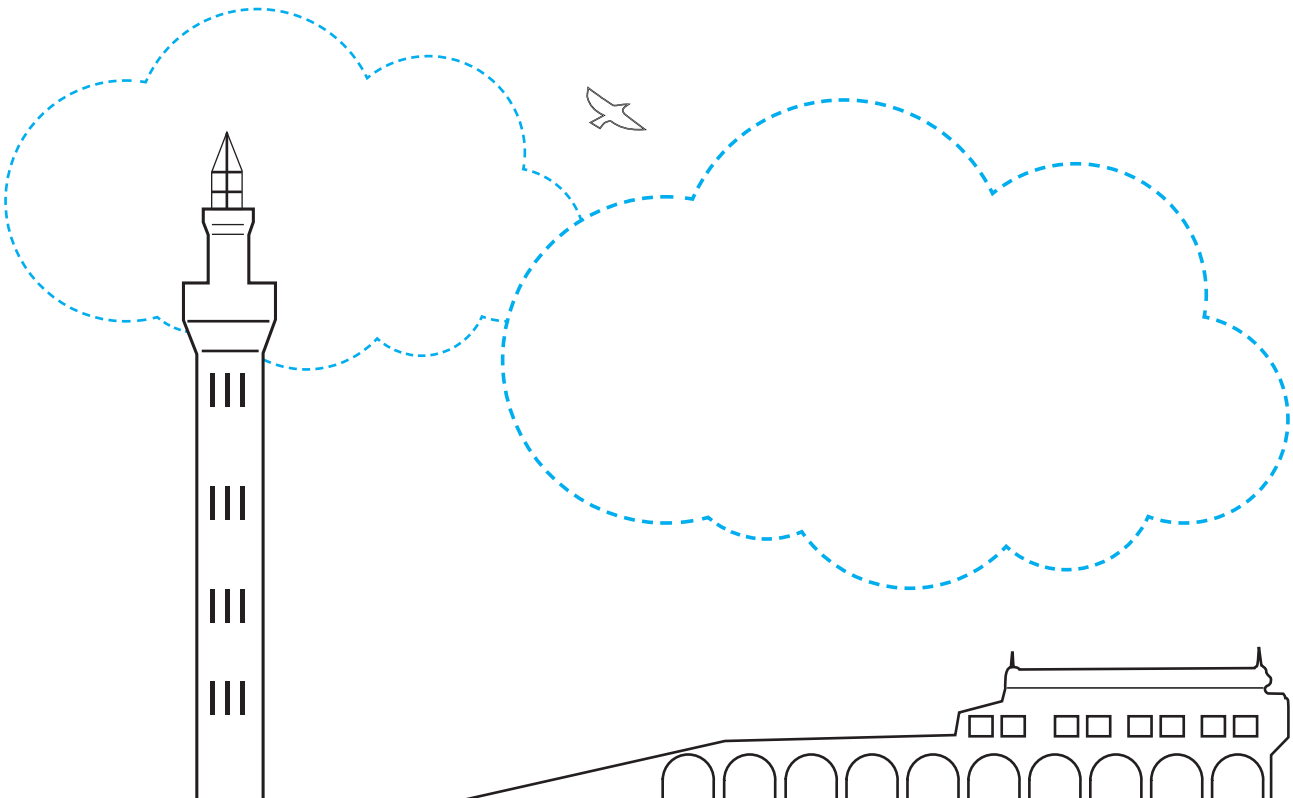
This Strategy provides the tools to prevent the deterioration of the local air quality and help protect people from unacceptable health effects caused by air pollution.

The progress made on our air quality strategy and the national objective targets will be reviewed and reported on annually within the Annual Status Report. Annual reporting of the progress made will ensure NELC can regularly monitor where adjustments need to be made to ensure targets are met. Its performance is dependent on the adoption of the Air Quality Strategy by NELC and the commitment of relevant stakeholders, both internal and external.

The annual report will be produced as a separate document and displayed on the NELC website alongside the air quality strategy.

4.3 Coronavirus (COVID-19)

During lockdown restrictions the coronavirus pandemic led to cleaner air brought about by the enforced absence of vehicles on our roads. Questions remain as to what will happen in the coming months and years as to the impact of coronavirus on air quality. We enter an uncertain future where social distancing may remain the norm for some time to come, working from home is likely to be more popular, and safety on public transport may be questioned – potentially leading to an increase in single car usage amongst the general population. This and many other factors are likely to have profound impacts on the way we live our lives and the impact we have on our environment.



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Glossary

ABP	Associated British Ports
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
AQAP	Air Quality Action Plan
AQS	Air Quality Strategy
ASR	Annual Status Report
AURN	Automatic Urban and Rural Network
CO	Carbon Monoxide
COMEAP	Committee on Medical Effects of Air Pollutants
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease 19
CO2	Carbon Dioxide
DAQI	Daily Air Quality Index
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
DfT	Department for Transport
EPR	Environmental Permitting Regulations
LAQM	Local Air Quality Management
LTP3	Local Transport Plan 3 (updated 2016)
µg/m3	concentration of an air pollutant is given in micrograms (one-millionth of a gram) per cubic meter air
NEL	North East Lincolnshire
NELC	North East Lincolnshire Council
NMVOCs	Non-Methane Volatile Organic Compounds
NO2	Nitrogen Dioxide
NOx	Nitrogen Oxides
03	Ozone
PM10	Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10µm (micrometres or microns) or less
PM2.5	Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5µm or less
SO2	Sulphur Dioxide
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document