



APPENDIX 5

Air Quality Action Plan

2024 – 2029

What is this document?

This is a two-part document which sets out Hammersmith & Fulham's Council approach for improving air quality and protecting health from exposure to air pollution in Hammersmith & Fulham.



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The first part of this *Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP)* sets out why tackling air pollution is a key priority for the Council. It explains why air pollution is so harmful to our health, where pollution comes from, how it has changed in the borough over time, and what actions we have taken to date to improve the quality of the air we all breathe.

The second part is the *Action Plan* matrix, which sets out the actions and policies which will be undertaken in the next five years to reduce air pollution across the borough.

This document goes far beyond the legal requirements for councils on air quality, by committing Hammersmith & Fulham to more ambitious *WHO (2021)* air quality standards and including actions to tackle pollution from new sources not usually addressed by local authorities, such as indoor air pollution.

Why does this document matter to you?

- Everyone is affected by air pollution – clean air is important for us all
- This *Air Quality Action Plan 2024-2029* sets out what H&F Council and our partners will do to improve air quality over the next five years
- This Plan also gives you information and suggestions for you, to help you do your bit by reducing emissions in your daily life, as well as helping you protect your own health by avoiding harmful pollution
- This means this *AQAP* is for everyone, whether you live in, work in, go to school in, or simply visit Hammersmith & Fulham.

As this is a statutory document, there is a lot of information in this *Action Plan*. The contents page on the next page can help guide you to find the information that you need.

This *AQAP* was prepared by the *Air Quality Team* of Hammersmith & Fulham Council with the support and agreement of departments across the Council. Following a public consultation, this *AQAP* has been approved by the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet of Hammersmith & Fulham Council.

This *AQAP* will be subject to an annual review, appraisal of progress and reporting to the relevant Council Committee.

Progress each year will be reported in the *Annual Status Reports* produced by Hammersmith & Fulham, as part of our statutory *London Local Air Quality Management* duties.

If you would like to contact us about this document, please get in touch with our *Air Quality Team* at:

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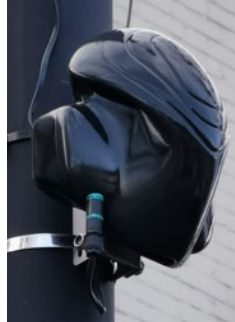
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Forewords

“Hammersmith & Fulham sits in the basin of the Thames Valley. On some days the air quality is perilous.



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Dirty air causes cancer, strokes, heart disease and dementia. It is particularly bad for young children, causing a detrimental effect on brain development, stunted lungs and damage to developing organs. It is bad for the old, and those with pre-existing health conditions. It disproportionately affects vulnerable people, poorer people, and those from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic groups.

Nobody would willingly drink a glass of dirty water. Yet roughly 18 times each minute we do just that. We breathe in contaminated, poisonous air.

Pollution comes from the vehicles on our roads, the gas boilers in our buildings, the dust from construction and development work across our borough and beyond.

There is no safe level of air pollution, and that’s why we in H&F have committed to meeting the World Health Organisation 2021 guideline values for air quality by 2030 - which are far more ambitious than those set out for us by central government.

We can’t just focus on the outside world. Indoor air pollution is a newer concern – air indoors can be just as polluted as outdoors.

This action plan rises to the new challenge, committing us to tackle pollution inside our homes and offices and schools.

Tackling dirty air and our ambitions for a net zero by 2030 go hand in hand. Reducing carbon emissions, improving biodiversity and ecology across the borough, and improving the quality of our air are all key priorities for the council.

To measure the effects of the actions we’re taking, we have installed the largest hyper local *Breathe London* air quality monitoring network in London.

That has enabled us to see how pollution has dropped in the *Clean Air Neighbourhood* streets of South Fulham where commuter traffic has been removed.

Finally, we know that we cannot tackle this issue alone. Our New *Better Air Better Health* partnership brings us together with our partners in healthcare, academia and beyond. We want to show leadership, to inspire and encourage action from everyone in the borough.

Only by residents, community groups, schools, businesses, universities and hospitals working together, can we improve the air we breathe and the health and wellbeing of everyone who lives in, works in, or visits our great borough.”

Steve Cowan
Leader of the council



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Director of Public Health

and

Name to follow
Better Air, Better Health partners
(Imperial College London & Imperial NHS Trust)



Executive Summary

Our new *Air Quality Action Plan 2024-29* sets out Hammersmith & Fulham's vision for a borough with cleaner air, and improved health and wellbeing for all. It is part of the Council's *Climate and Ecological Strategy 2021-2030*.

This plan will help us protect the health and wellbeing of the people who live, work in and visit the borough from the effects of air pollution, and to promote healthy living by protecting children and families from filthy air.

Air pollution affects all of us before we are even born to our last years. Young or old, in good health or with existing health issues. Improving air quality is a key priority for the council as part of its commitment to improving the environment and our commitment to public health and wellbeing, and this *Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP)* sets out what we are going to do and achieve in the next five years to make our vision of a cleaner, healthier borough a reality.

As well as affecting our health, air pollution damages the economy, increasing sick days and illnesses as well as being a burden on the NHS and our social care systems.

This AQAP has been produced as part of our duty to *London Local Air Quality Management*. It builds upon our past successes and outlines the further actions we will take to improve air quality in Hammersmith & Fulham between 2024-2029.

This document fulfils our statutory obligations, but it also goes further, because air pollution can still damage our health even at very low concentrations. As a result, as a Council we are committed to meeting the *World Health Organization Air quality (2021)* guidelines for air quality by 2030 – making this *Action Plan* an ambitious document, where bold action can equal hugely positive impacts.

The purpose of this plan is to protect the health and wellbeing of the people who live, work in and visit the borough from the effects of air pollution. It also supports our aim of being the greenest local authority in the country.

We have the following overarching goals:

- Tackling the sources of pollution that the council can control – for example from our own properties and fleet and through our planning policies, our transport polices, highways works and maintenance
- Raising residents' and businesses' awareness of what they can do to reduce their own emissions and how to avoid exposing themselves to existing pollution.
- Lobbying the government to make the changes needed to improve air quality across the country
- Working with the GLA and TfL to make the improvements needed to reduce pollution in the borough and across London



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Improving air quality is a key priority for the council as part of its commitment to improving the environment

In order to achieve this, we have the following priorities:



1. Provide the necessary infrastructure to enable more active travel, such as walking, wheeling, and cycling.



2. The development of *Clean Air Neighbourhood* projects, including tree planting, sustainable drainage systems and traffic and pollution reduction measures, where supported by residents.



3. Working collaboratively with our partners and stakeholders on innovative policies and projects. Our *Better Air, Better Health* partnership, with Imperial College London and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, is one example of bringing together the public sector with world-class academics and healthcare professionals to jointly tackle the issue of air pollution in new and exciting ways.



4. Support residents and businesses to adopt car-sharing and clean vehicles, utilising H&F's dense electric vehicle charging network.



5. Reduce building emissions by replacing older boilers with clean heat networks and heat pumps, raising residents' and business' awareness of this air pollution source and how they may upgrade to cleaner zero emission heat and power sources, and using the planning system to regulate the installation of new energy plant.



6. Tackling pollution at schools, as well as journeys to and from, by making local improvements and raising awareness of cleaner walking routes.



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Abbreviations

AQAP	Air Quality Action Plan
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
AQO	Air Quality Objective
BEB	Buildings Emission Benchmark
CAB	Cleaner Air Borough
CAZ	Central Activity Zone
CHP	Combined Heat & Power
EST	Energy Saving Trust
EV	Electric Vehicle
GLA	Greater London Authority
GULCS	Go Ultra Low City Scheme
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle
LAEI	London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory

LAQM	Local Air Quality Management
LGV	Light Goods Vehicle
LLAQM	London Local Air Quality Management
NICE	The National Institute for Health and Excellence
NRMM	Non-Road Mobile Machinery
OLEV	Office for Low Emission Vehicles
PM10	Particulate matter less than 10 micron in diameter
PM2.5	Particulate matter less than 2.5 micron in diameter
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
STARS	Sustainable Travel: Active, Responsible, Safe
TEB	Transport Emissions Benchmark
TfL	Transport for London

Introduction and structure of this Action Plan

This report outlines the actions that Hammersmith & Fulham Council will deliver between 2024 - 2029 to reduce concentrations of pollution, and exposure to pollution; thereby positively impacting on the health and quality of life of residents and visitors to the borough.

It has been developed in recognition of the legal requirement on the local authority to work towards air quality objectives under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 and relevant regulations made under that part and to meet the requirements of the London Local Air Quality Management statutory process ¹.

Air pollution is the largest environmental threat to public health in the UK, and up to 36,000 premature deaths each year are attributable to air pollution exposure – that's 20 times more than the number of deaths caused by road traffic collisions. Hammersmith & Fulham is the tenth worst local authority in England for air pollution - with 7.4% of deaths in 2022 linked to toxic air, according to Public Health England ².

Air pollution carries a huge cost for our health and social care systems; if strong action isn't taken, this is estimated at approximately £5.4bn by 2035, rising to over £18.5bn when costs for diseases and poor health with less robust evidence are included ³.

Finally, air pollution damages the economy through lost productivity and poor health. Defra commissioned research concluded that air pollution costs the UK economy £2.7 billion each year .

The impacts of air pollution are severe and far-reaching, but we're not all affected equally. The risk to our health is a result of our existing health circumstances and the extent to which we are exposed to polluted air. People with health vulnerabilities or increased exposure to air pollution are therefore more likely to experience adverse health outcomes from air pollution. Air pollution also has a disproportionate and inequitable impact upon socio-economically deprived communities and Black, Asian and minority ethnic populations ⁴.

Air pollution is the largest environmental threat to public health in the UK, and up to 36,000 premature deaths each year are attributable to air pollution exposure – that's 20 times more than the number of deaths caused by road traffic collisions.

¹ LLAQM Policy and Technical Guidance | <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/pollution-and-air-quality/working-boroughs>

² Fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution (new method) in H&F | Fingertips - Public Health Data 2023 | Department of Health and Social Care (phe.org.uk)

³ Valuing the impacts of Air Quality on Productivity | Ricardo AEA | [1511251135_140610_Valuing_the_impacts_of_air_quality_on_productivity_Final_Report_3_0.pdf](https://www.ricardo-aea.com/1511251135_140610_Valuing_the_impacts_of_air_quality_on_productivity_Final_Report_3_0.pdf) (defra.gov.uk)

⁴ Greater London Authority air quality exposure and inequalities study 2023 | Air Pollution and Inequalities in London - update 2023 | London City Hall

Hammersmith & Fulham's Air Quality Priorities



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The purpose of this plan is to protect the health and wellbeing of the people who live, work in and visit the borough from the effects of air pollution. We also have the aim of being the greenest local authority.

We have the following overarching goals:

- Tackling the sources of pollution that the council can control – for example from our own properties and fleet and through our planning policies, our transport policies, highways works and maintenance
- Raising residents' and businesses' awareness of what they can do to reduce their own emissions and how to avoid exposing themselves to existing pollution.
- Lobbying the government to make the changes needed to improve air quality across the country
- Working with the GLA and TfL to make the improvements needed to reduce pollution in the borough and across London

In order to achieve this, we have the following priorities:

- Provide the necessary infrastructure to enable more active travel, such as walking, wheeling, and cycling.
- The development of *Clean Air Neighbourhood* projects, including tree planting, sustainable drainage systems and traffic and pollution reduction measures, where supported by residents.
- Working collaboratively with our partners and stakeholders on innovative policies and projects. Our *Better Air, Better Health* partnership, with Imperial College London and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, is one example of bringing together the public sector with world-class academics and healthcare professionals to jointly tackle the issue of air pollution in new and exciting ways.
- Support residents and businesses to adopt car-sharing and clean vehicles, utilising H&F's dense electric vehicle charging network.
- Reduce building emissions by replacing older gas boilers with clean heat networks and heat pumps, raising residents' and business' awareness of this air pollution source and how they may upgrade to cleaner heat and power sources, and using the planning system to regulate the installation of new energy plant.
- Tackling pollution at schools, as well as journey's to and from, by making local improvements and raising awareness of cleaner walking routes.

We have developed actions that can be considered under seven broad topics:

- Monitoring and other core statutory duties: maintaining monitoring networks is absolutely critical for understanding where pollution is most acute, and what measures are effective to reduce pollution. There are also a number of other very important statutory duties undertaken by boroughs, which form the basis of action to improve pollution;
- Localised solutions: where supported by residents, these seek to promote healthy living and improved air quality through *Clean Air Neighbourhood* measures including: traffic and pollution reduction trials, sustainable drainage systems, tree planting, schools streets initiatives and improved infrastructure for walking and cycling;
- Emissions from developments and buildings: it is modelled that emissions from buildings will soon overtake transport emissions as the single biggest source of NOX emissions in the borough. Tackling emissions from buildings also results in co-benefits to our work reducing carbon emissions across H&F;
- Public health and awareness raising: increasing awareness can drive behavioural change to lower emissions as well as to reduce exposure to air pollution;
- Delivery servicing and freight: vehicles delivering goods and services are usually light and heavy duty diesel-fuelled vehicles with high primary NO2 emissions;
- Borough fleet actions: our fleet includes light and heavy duty diesel-fuelled vehicles such as mini buses and refuse collection vehicles with high primary NO2 emissions. Tackling our own fleet means we will be leading by example;
- Cleaner transport: road transport is the main source of air pollution in London. We need to incentivise a change to walking, cycling and ultra-low emission vehicles (such as electric) as far as possible.

Our priorities are to tackle the sources of emissions that the council has control over, raising public awareness of air pollution, and lobbying the government to make the necessary widespread changes needed to improve air quality.

You will see in this report that we have worked hard to engage with stakeholders and communities which can make a difference to air quality in the borough. We would like to thank all those who have worked with us in the past and we look forward to working with you again as well with new partners as we deliver this new action plan over the coming years.

In this AQAP we outline how we plan to effectively use local levers to tackle air quality issues within our control.

However, we recognise that there are many air quality policy areas that are outside of our influence (such as Euro standards, national vehicle taxation policy, taxis and buses), and so we will continue to work with and lobby regional and central government on policies and issues beyond Hammersmith & Fulham council influence.



Structure of the Hammersmith & Fulham Air Quality Action Plan 2024-29



Chapter 1: Air Quality in Context

Why we have introduced this new *Action Plan*. This includes a section of the impacts of air pollution on health, our statutory duties on air quality, and the links between air quality and our other crucial work on climate change and ecology.



Chapter 2: Air Quality in Hammersmith & Fulham

Where pollution in Hammersmith & Fulham comes from, how it has changed over time, and how we monitor, measure and model air pollution in the borough.



Chapter 3: What we have achieved so far

A summary of some of the achievements and successes in improving air quality in the borough over the last five years.



Chapter 4: The next five years - the Action Plan Matrix

The actions, outcomes, policies and projects that we are committing to undertaking during the lifetime of this Action Plan to help improve the health and wellbeing of everyone who lives in, works in, or visits Hammersmith & Fulham.



Chapter 5: Further information

More information and links to further reading and guidance on this topic. This includes a brief summary of actions you can take right now if you are a resident, business or school.

Chapter 1 Air Quality in context

