

# Draft Air Quality Action Plan July 2024

## Document Control

Publication Date	July 2024
Related Documents	SRBC Air Quality Strategy 2024 SRBC Biodiversity Strategy 2022 SRBC Climate Emergency Strategy 2022 All related documents may be viewed via the <a href="#">South Ribble Borough Council website</a>
Owner (Department)	Environmental Health
Author (Team)	Environmental Health / Climate Emergency Task Group

## Review of Strategy

Review Date	February 2024
Version	0.1

## Introduction

In 2018, South Ribble Borough Council adopted an Air Quality Action Plan, committing to actions to be taken in order to improve air quality within the Borough.

The 2024 Air Quality Strategy and Action Plan revise the 2018 Action Plan, having regard to the revocation of the Penwortham Air Quality Management Area which covered the junction of Liverpool Road, Priory Lane and Cop Lane, Penwortham. This plan, which forms part of the Council's statutory duties under the Local Air Quality Management framework, sets out the actions proposed in the coming five years to improve air quality across the Borough. These actions focus largely on road traffic as this is a major contributor to local air quality issues.

This draft action plan follows a public consultation undertaken during 2023, and we would like to thank all those that took the time to contribute. A further round of consultation is being undertaken in early 2024 following which the action plan will be presented to South Ribble Borough Council's Full Council meeting in July 2024 for formal adoption.

## Aims

To work with our partners to improve and maintain air quality across the borough.

## Objectives

- To improve air quality across the borough of South Ribble,
- To promote awareness of air quality, the impacts and actions individuals, companies and organisations can take to reduce their impact on the environment,
- To fulfil the legal responsibilities of South Ribble Borough Council, Lancashire County Council and other partners,
- To continue to integrate low emission behaviours into our organisation and act as a community leader with regard to air quality, leading by example in minimising our own emissions.




This Action Plan details those actions required to be taken across the Borough but also the actions that it intends to take as an organisation and local employer.

The Council has 3 spheres of influence within the Borough,

- Exemplar – To set our own high standards and be a model of good practice for the Borough.
- Enabler – To play our part in partnership working, sharing responsibility, facilitating, coordinating, and promoting projects.
- Encourager – To provide information, support and introductions that will make a positive contribution to our response to the biodiversity and climate emergency.

In implementing our actions, we are seeking to act as a community leader, setting high standards and working collaboratively to show the changes and improvements that can be achieved, so that we are able to help others across the borough do the same.

There will be an annual update on progress taken to Council each summer alongside the Climate and Biodiversity reports. It is noted that this Action Plan is very comprehensive and that it cannot all be achieved and reported on every year. For this reason, key actions will be identified for each year, and these will form the basis of the annual report on progress. The full Action Plan will be reviewed every four years.








	Biodiversity
	Climate Emergency
	Air Quality



This Action Plan links and crosses over with the existing Climate Emergency and Biodiversity Action Plans. In time they will all be incorporated in to one single Action Plan but in the meantime, links are indicated using the following symbology.


### Key actions for 2024 / 2025

1. Delivery of the Defra funded Clean Air Crew project.
2. Continue to monitor air quality within the Borough, maintaining the air quality network, and publish the results on the SRBC website.
3. Submission of the Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR), in fulfilment of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995
4. Delivery of grant funded electric vehicle charging points throughout the Borough.
5. Continue to inspect and ensure compliance at industrial permitted processes within the Borough.
6. Seek CIL funding for ANPR cameras and bike storage.
7. Support the Climate Emergency “Greening Homes and Businesses” event including active health – Dr Bike – training sessions, air quality engagement and promotion of Clean Air Crew project.
8. Action to reduce emissions from domestic burning, including promotion of Smoke Control Area requirements.
9. Produce guidance on the health impacts of damp and mould in homes,





## Management

	Outcomes	Measure and rationale	Timescales	Partners
	Working with partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting partners in their responsibilities to protect air quality within the borough, e.g. Health and Safety Executive, Environment Agency, UK Health Security Agency</li> </ul>	Annually	HSE, EA, UKHSE
	Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Embedding air quality improvement into the Council's culture, and leading by example, sharing best practice within the community</li> </ul>	Ongoing	SRBC
	Decision Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air Quality shall be considered within the decision-making process on every report to cabinet, council, portfolio holder decision etc.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	SRBC
	Active Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue with the 'bike to work' salary sacrifice scheme.</li> <li>Provide cycle reassurance training for any member of staff, elected members who wish to receive it.</li> <li>Encourage staff to use alternative modes of travel e.g. cycling and walking.</li> <li></li> </ul>	Annually	SRBC
	Reduced Council mileage and increase use of public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to provide hybrid meetings to allow attendance remotely so saving on time and emissions relating to travel.</li> <li>Encourage elected members to car share and use alternative forms of transport, in particular to council meetings and functions.</li> <li>Promote car sharing among staff.</li> <li>Develop an internal travel plan and offer individual travel planning guidance to staff and elected members.</li> <li></li> </ul>	Annually	SRBC
	Council Electric Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue with the rolling programme to systematically replace the depot vans with electric vehicles.</li> <li>Systematically replace grounds vehicles with electric vehicles as technology becomes available.</li> <li>Plan to provide the electric vehicle infrastructure required for the growing fleet of Council electric vehicles.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	SRBC
	Opportunities for staff training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide education and information relating to air quality through members learning hours, leaflets and councillor connect</li> </ul>	Annually	SRBC




	Influence within the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air Quality shall be considered within the decision making process on every report to cabinet, council, portfolio holder decision etc.</li> </ul>	Annually	SRBC
	To continuously monitor, review and adapt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To monitor and review the Action Plan every 4 years in line with international, national, regional and local developments</li> <li>To report on the key actions and achievements as part of the annual report to full Council</li> <li>To set local targets for air quality improvements linking in to regional, national and international projects and opportunities</li> <li>To adjust, adapt and support the new opportunities that will arise</li> <li>To monitor air quality projects and use the findings to adapt and amend our management plans as necessary</li> </ul>	Ongoing	SRBC

Industrial Activities				
	Outcomes	Measure and Rationale	Timescales	Partners
	Control of industrial emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue with regulatory function of relevant industrial activities with emissions to air (environmental permitted processes)</li> <li>Inspect all permitted industrial activities at the required frequency</li> </ul>	Ongoing	SRBC – Environmental Health


## Transport

	Outcomes	Measure and Rationale	Timescales	Partners
	Active Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the cycle infrastructure within the borough, especially along routes to schools and employment sites.</li> <li>Investigate the provision for maintaining &amp; sweeping cycle routes on a regular basis throughout the borough.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Lancashire County Council - Highways  SRBC Estates, Facilities, and Neighbourhoods
	Buses and Taxis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage the greater use of public transport.</li> <li>Work with taxi firms to encourage the uptake of low emission vehicles (Electric)</li> <li>Further reduce the age limit of taxis within the borough</li> <li>Stop taxis and buses idling within AQMA's and outside schools &amp; Colleges.</li> <li>To work with both bus and taxi companies to apply for any grant funding available.</li> <li>Undertake an 'Electrify campaign' – encouraging businesses to only use electric taxis.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	SRBC – Environmental Health, Licensing
	Electric Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the electric vehicle infrastructure across the borough.</li> <li>Provide electric vehicle charging points on council owned car parks and buildings.</li> <li>Offer free or reduced parking tariffs for electric vehicles.</li> <li>Work with LCC to enable delivery on EV charging points on the highways.</li> <li>Seek funding opportunities to enable the development of the EV infrastructure across the borough</li> </ul>	Ongoing	SRBC, LCC, Energy Saving Trust
	Freight and delivery management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To embed the improvement of air quality in other relevant Council Strategies and Policies</li> <li>Provide advice and contacts to businesses to help them chose low emission vehicles and develop travel plans.</li> <li>To promote anti-idling policies with businesses operating within the Borough</li> </ul>	Ongoing	SRBC, LCC






## Environmental Pressures and Mitigation Measures

	Outcomes	Measure and rationale	Timescales	Partners
	Threats and pressures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To highlight threats and issues likely to adversely impact air quality as they arise and outline measures to combat these threats.</li> </ul>	Annually	Various
	Pollution	<p>To improve air quality by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>engaging with residents, businesses and partners to continue to maintain and improve air quality by burning solid fuel only as needed, and in a responsible manner.</li> <li>ensuring only authorised fuel used within the borough (as it a smoke control area)</li> <li>provide advice on bonfires to minimise the air pollution resulting from them.</li> <li>continued enforcement of smoke control legislation</li> <li>responding to complaints about burning</li> <li>continued enforcement of statutory nuisance legislation</li> <li>supporting partners in their regulatory functions e.g. Health and Safety Executive, Environment Agency</li> </ul>	Annually	SRBC, HSE, EA
	Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase numbers of trees and plants to help absorb air pollution, improve mental health and improve resilience to climate change</li> </ul>	Annually	Various





## Sustainable Development


	Outcomes	Measure and rationale	Timescales	Partners
	Planning (development control)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure adequate Electrical Vehicle charging infrastructure is provided on all Planning Applications in line with the Council's Electric Vehicle Charging Points Guidance for Developers</li> <li>Require suitable travel plans to be produced and implemented on all relevant developments in line with the low emissions developer guidance.</li> <li>Require secure cycle storage to be included on all relevant domestic, commercial, industrial, and leisure developments.</li> <li>Promote the use of salary sacrifice schemes on all relevant developments (bike to work)</li> </ul>	Ongoing	SRBC – Planning, Environmental Health



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require adequate changing facilities to be provided for use of staff / visitors for all relevant commercial and industrial developments.</li> <li>To require a suitable air quality assessment in line with a published Air Quality Guidance Document for Developers for all relevant planning applications.</li> <li>To ensure a suitable construction management plan is provided for all relevant planning applications, to control air pollution arising from construction sites.</li> <li>Planning enforcement to ensure compliance with conditions of planning contents.</li> </ul>		
	Transport planning and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To review all traffic light sequencing to reduce the amount of standing traffic.</li> <li>Consider road layouts within the AQMA's to see whether improvements can be made to reduce congestion.</li> <li>Anti-Idling Campaign in declared AQMA's and outside schools, colleges and leisure centres</li> </ul>	Ongoing	SRBC – Planning, Environmental Health, Comms LCC
	Integrated air quality into wider sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To publicise and encourage the use of the Lancashire based Air Quality Guidance Document for Developers.</li> <li>To include the above air quality guidance document within the revised Central Lancashire Core Strategy.</li> <li>Have the SRBC 'Electric Vehicle Charging Points Guidance for Development' guidance document included within the revised Central Lancashire Core Strategy</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Preston City Council and Chorley Borough Council as part of Local Plan development  SRBC Planning, Environmental Health
	Businesses advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide advice to businesses on how they can take positive action to reduce the impact of their business upon air quality</li> </ul>	Ongoing	
	Delivering social benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maximise the contribution that air quality makes to the health of residents and economic prosperity of the borough.</li> <li>To provide opportunities for corporate engagement and volunteering opportunities that support local projects.</li> <li>To integrate the air quality action plan into our Procurement process and encourage contractors working on our property to do their bit for air quality and climate change</li> </ul>	Ongoing	SRBC - Investment and Skills, procurement
	National campaigns and lobbying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To stay up to date with national campaigns and lobbying for air quality</li> <li>To implement new policy according to national guidelines</li> </ul>	Ongoing	

## Education and Engagement

	Outcomes	Measure and rationale	Timescales	Partners
	Raise awareness of air quality in South Ribble and regionally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To raise awareness and understanding of air quality issues by                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● continuing to promote “What can I Do?” activities on our website.</li> <li>● participating in the national ‘Clean Air Day’</li> <li>● promoting walking within the borough, including promotion of walking routes, the Leyland Loop</li> <li>● promoting cycling within the borough, including cycle to work day, salary sacrifice scheme.</li> <li>● publishing the local air quality monitoring results on the Council’s website</li> <li>● working with partners, promoting the expanding network of electric vehicle charging points across the borough</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Deliver the Clean Air Crew Project</li> </ul>	Ongoing	LCC, SRBC
	Working with the local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Encouraging Car Sharing within the borough</li> <li>● Development of further educational material for businesses</li> <li>● Promote the provision of secure cycle storage and changing rooms at businesses and schools.</li> <li>● Investigate the provision of personal travel plans for residents and employees within the borough, produce a template for external organisations.</li> <li>● Promotion of living walls / green roofs</li> </ul>	Ongoing	SRBC
	Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continue to run campaigns to reduce school traffic e.g. walk/cycle to school.</li> <li>● Continue with Cycle proficiency courses in local schools.</li> <li>● Deliver the Clean Air Crew project</li> </ul>	Ongoing	SRBC, DEFRA funded activities to 2025 LCC, Schools
	Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To continue to be a part of the Lancashire Environmental Health Officers Group and other climate and air quality partnerships</li> <li>● To work with the Youth Council on air quality issues</li> <li>● To continue to network and collaborate with partners, peers and climate groups.</li> <li>● Create links with voluntary, community and health groups to improve the health and wellbeing of residents.</li> <li>● To bring conflicting interest groups together to encourage and foster understanding</li> </ul>	Ongoing	SRBC, LCC, local community groups

	Indoor Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To develop educational material covering as a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● indoor air quality – common pollutants and how to minimise them,</li> <li>● smoke control areas – what you need to know to stay legal,</li> <li>● the correct use of solid fuel appliances</li> <li>● tackling damp and mould in the home.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Ongoing	
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### Abbreviations

AQAP	Air Quality Action Plan
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
DERFA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
EV	Electric Vehicle
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
LCC	Lancashire County Council
SRBC	South Ribble Borough Council
UKHSA	UK Health Security Agency