

## Q02 Portsmouth City Council

### Strategic alignment: How the project delivers against the objectives of the Air Quality Grant

This programme will aim to help deliver compliance in areas of current and projected exceedance of air pollution targets as well as the city as a whole through a range of complementary measures focussing on a modal shift to sustainable travel measures and promoting awareness of behaviours positive for air quality. There has been significant investment in sustainable transport infrastructure in recent years, and innovative behaviour change measures are needed in order to encourage residents, workers and visitors to make greater use of this infrastructure, particularly for short trips. Portsmouth would be keen to share best practice in improving air quality with other local authorities following a successful programme.

Portsmouth City Council's Air Quality Strategy was adopted in July 2017, and sets out PCC's aspirations for improving and maintaining healthy air quality across the city. This ten year strategy outlines the consistent approach that is needed to improve air quality, seeking to achieve continual citywide reductions in air pollution, specifically within existing AQMA's, with regard to fulfilling statutory duties for local air quality management and public health. This programme will support PCC's strategy, delivering schemes and initiatives which will raise awareness of local air quality and support residents to consider walking and cycling for local journeys, whilst promoting EV take up in the city.

The Air Quality Strategy lists six strategic objectives, five of which are directly addressed through this programme:

- **Foster closer working relationships between council, directorates and external partners**  
This programme will require close working with other PCC departments, such as public health, and also with external partners particularly businesses and schools and local environmental interest groups. PCC will work closely with neighbouring authorities in the development of measures for National Clean Air Day, sharing best practise and initiative ideas.
- **Create a focus on sustainable travel, including the promotion of a modal shift in transport from the car to active travel**  
The project will directly support this strategic objective promoting active travel uptake.
- **Provide high quality information and guidance on local air quality to members of the public**  
The communications and marketing element of this project will directly support this objective, delivering a range of high quality initiatives to promote good air quality.
- **Develop and implement measures to reduce traffic and congestion related emissions, addressing road network flow and functionality**  
The behaviour change measures of this project will help reduce traffic congestion and related emissions, particularly through the school travel planning work, and workplace journey planning, which can have a direct effect on peak hour traffic volumes.
- **Support and stimulate sustainable citywide economic growth, including a focus on reducing carbon emissions**  
The project will support citywide economic growth through working to improve congestion at key locations and on some strategic routes within the city.

Additionality will be added through the health benefits that will be attained by residents, workers and school pupils who increase their levels of active travel directly as a result of this project. Levels of childhood obesity in Portsmouth are higher than average for England. The percentage of overweight, including obese for Year 6 pupils attending Portsmouth schools is significantly higher than the South East region and England. It is estimated that 24.9% of adult (aged 16 and over) in Portsmouth were obese in 2012-14<sup>1</sup>.

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Any improvements to local air quality will also support other local priorities, such as active travel, well-being, sustainability and the economy and regeneration through reduced congestion and increased productivity.

The key aim of the Air Quality Strategy is to drive forward Portsmouth's Air Quality Action Plan. This programme will directly feed into the Air Quality Action Plan, which is currently being developed. It is recognised that reductions in air pollution can only be achieved with buy-in, co-ordination and commitment from all stakeholders, including members of the public, which this project will address. In order to help guide and develop the Air Quality Action Plan, a multi-disciplinary Air Quality Steering Group will be formed, helping to move forward with a Clean Air Agenda for the city. This project will also strengthen partnership working through the various communications and marketing activities planned. The whole programme aims to influence positive behaviour change to improve air quality in Portsmouth.

This programme would significantly contribute to the work of the Air Quality Action Plan that is being progressed in the city, to include a range of measures and initiatives to reduce local air pollution as well as complement existing active travel infrastructure projects as well as the active travel and road safety promotional work undertaken by the council. The additional funding will allow increased resource into behaviour change promotion to work towards air quality improvement. This project will promote modal shift and active travel, supporting further schemes that are looking to be progressed by PCC, such as the introduction of a floating bike hire scheme, providing a new mode of transport to residents and visitors in Portsmouth that can connect to existing modes of public transport and improve choice and accessibility, whilst increasing the profile of cycling in the city. Also included will be promotion of EV use and will support the existing infrastructure trials that are currently underway.

It also complements the recently submitted an application to the Clean Bus Technology Fund bid, which if successful would enable the conversion of the remaining fleet of Stagecoach buses serving the city to be upgrades to Euro 6 standard, delivering a significant reduction in NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from diesel vehicles.

This project fits strategically with both the Air Quality Strategy, and a number of active travel schemes and projects that either have, or will be developed through the Local Transport Plan (LTP). Any schemes involving physical changes to the infrastructure in support of active or sustainable travel, or events to encourage participation in active travel, will be benefited by communications and behaviour change initiatives which promote and encourage their uptake.

This project also supports a range of schemes within the Local Transport Plan programme, specifically in terms of raising awareness of the walking and cycling networks in the city and promoting their use.

This project will support reductions in air pollution through a range of proven measures. It will directly engage with local communities located within or close to AQMA areas, where levels of NO<sub>2</sub> are at their highest, thus having a positive effect on local air quality. The varied measures and initiatives proposed will enable buy-in by different sectors of the community, encompassing a range of age groups. Behaviour change initiatives are a vital part of any Air Quality Strategy, and this project would form a solid base from which to build upon with the on-going work towards tackling

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air pollution in Portsmouth. Through the 2017 Source Apportionment Study annual mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations predicted for 2020 show an expected exceedance in NO<sub>2</sub> by cars and taxis, in the following areas:

Receptor Number	Receptor Name	AQMA	Annual Mean NO <sub>2</sub> Concentrations		% of total annual mean NO <sub>2</sub> by cars and taxis
			Total Modelled	Cars and Taxis	
18	314-316 Fratton Road	6	40.4	11.2	28
26	48-50 Kingston Road	6	41.4	12.0	29
30	Kingsbury Mansions	6	42.5	10.5	25
32	16 London Road	6	43.2	10.4	24

Much of the work of this project would focus on reducing the number of local journeys made by car, and therefore would have a direct positive impact on the % of NO<sub>2</sub> generated by car journeys. With a high focus being given to walking and cycling for local journey's it is predicted that a positive impact will be made towards reducing the figures in the table above.

This project would directly support PCC in its LAQM reporting requirements by working towards the reduction of NO<sub>2</sub> levels. Part IV of the Environmental Act (1995) requires local authorities to undertake Local Air Quality Management and places an obligation on them to regularly review and assess air quality in their area. This work feeds directly into this requirement by aiming to reduce harmful pollutant levels through small scale local initiatives.

An approach listed within the Air Quality Strategy is to "take opportunities to engage with academic sector and community groups to reinforce shared learning and seek solutions to improve air quality". This project will feed into this approach and findings will be shared with the Air Quality Steering Group and other local community groups as appropriate.

Air quality affects not only the local area in which it is generated, but also surrounding areas due to pollution being transported by the wind. PCC works closely with neighbouring authorities to ensure that information and best practise is shared. PCC are part of the Solent Transport Partnership, which represents Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council and Isle of Wight Council. All councils involved work together to ensure that all benefit from transport planning and solutions in the area, and any relevant information will be shared as appropriate. PCC also liaises and shares information with DEFRA and PUSH authorities. PCC has jointly commissioned, along with its partners in the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH), an Air Quality Impact Assessment to consider the impacts of growth in the whole sub-region to 2034.

PCC are happy to be an example of best practise and advise others, for example we recently hosted an ACT TravelWise event in which a presentation was given on the EV trial work that is being undertaken in the city. Detailed after monitoring will be conducted for all elements of the project, which will help to inform further policy interventions and the development of further schemes and initiatives. PCC are keen to investigate models for predicting air quality percentage reductions and will help to develop an evidence base for how behaviour change measures support air quality improvement as we are aware that there is an evidence gap with this data.

<sup>1</sup> Active People's survey via National Obesity Observatory, Public Health England