

Air Quality Action Plan and Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) consultations

Briefing Note No. 23-20

Service :

Public Protection

Further Enquiries to:

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We wanted to update you on an upcoming consultation on the Air Quality Action Plan and Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document – documents that detail how the council plans to help ensure the air quality throughout Wiltshire is safe.

Background

As well as transport contributing over a third of all carbon emissions in Wiltshire, it also releases harmful gases that affect the quality of the air. Wiltshire Council monitors air quality across the county to assess the levels of harmful gases in the local environment. This monitoring has shown that the air quality in Wiltshire is very good but in a few heavily trafficked areas they have identified levels of nitrogen dioxide that are too high. Nitrogen dioxide is a product of combustion and in Wiltshire's case the high levels is being caused by emissions from motor vehicles. The biggest contributors are diesel cars and Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) have been declared around Wiltshire where the nitrogen dioxide levels are excessive. The council is required by law to produce an action plan detailing the measures that will be used to reduce levels of nitrogen dioxide in these locations.

We have produced a summary of our Air Quality Action Plan alongside a more detailed plan to help inform you how we plan to ensure the quality of the air the local population breathes is safe. The plan contains a list of proposed actions and measures that we will take to improve air quality, more specifically the reduction in levels of nitrogen dioxide in eight areas in the county where levels have been found to be excessive.

The Air Quality Action Plan is being consulted on at the same time as the draft Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This provides an important mechanism to help us achieve the aims and objectives of the action plan.

Key dates

A statutory consultation on both the Air Quality Action Plan and Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document gets underway on 24 July for six weeks and runs until 4 September.

Who can take part in the consultation?

The consultation is open to everyone. A hard copy of the draft Air Quality Action Plan is available in our libraries in towns where Air Quality Management Areas are located. These are Marlborough, Bradford on Avon, Calne, Westbury, Devizes and Salisbury.

How to take part in the consultations

Feedback is welcomed on all documents and people are encouraged to complete short surveys. All the documents, including the surveys to complete, will be found at via the council's consultation portal from 24 July at:

Air Quality Action Plan Consultation – <https://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/kse/event/37579>

Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Consultation –
<https://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/kse/event/37581>

A link to both consultations will also be available from 24 July at
<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/air-quality-wiltshire>.

Next steps

A summary of responses will be made following the consultation period. These responses will be fully considered and, if appropriate, changes will be made to the draft action plan to help produce a final version prior to the council considering it for formal adoption.

More information

If anyone has any questions or comments about this consultation they can contact the council at publicprotectionsouth@wiltshire.gov.uk or post them to The Environmental Control and Protection Team, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 8JQ.