

# Air Quality Action Plan September 2024

## Document Control

Publication Date	September 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
Department	Environmental Health
Address	Civic Centre, West Paddock, Leyland, Lancs. PR25 1DH
Telephone	01772 625625
E-mail	Climate.emergency@southribble.gov.uk
Report Reference Number	AQAP 2024

## Review of Strategy

Review Date	September 2029
Version	1.0

## 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 early 2024, and we would like to thank all those that took the time to take part. The action plan will be presented to South Ribble Borough Council's Full Council meeting in September 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 sits alongside the Air Quality Strategy document and 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.

Actions marked \* in the plan below were identified in the consultation responses.







### Update on Key Actions from AQAP 2018 – 2023


- The Council launched an online public portal for residents to view real-time air quality data from our three EarthSense Zephyr air quality sensors via [South Ribble’s public air quality portal](#) and continues to promote “Ready to Burn” and smoke control campaigns.
- South Ribble Borough Council’s Active Health Team continue to deliver Bikeability training in schools and bespoke training for adults, alongside their popular Dr Bike campaign to repair and repurpose bicycles free of charge to encourage active travel amongst residents.
- Improvements to the cycling and walking infrastructure across the Borough
- The Council’s Tree for Every Resident tree planting project has been extended beyond its initial four-year lifespan. Trees were planted or gifted to residents, schools and businesses achieving a cumulative planting total of 173,197 trees planted in 5 years since the Borough since the project started in winter 2019.
- The Defra funded Clean Air Crew schools project was officially launched in September 2023, to include free online resources for schools and home sign up, free school trip and anti-idling campaign resources.
- South Ribble’s Business Energy Efficiency scheme works with businesses on energy and carbon footprint reduction options via energy audits [BEE Scheme - Business in South Ribble](#)
- Air quality has been embedded into the planning process and a guidance for Developers on low emissions and EVs has been published alongside [What are the results locally? | Air quality | South Ribble](#)
- Following the construction of the Penwortham Bypass work has commenced to revoke the AQMA for this area
- OZEV grant funding received to improve the EV infrastructure on Council owned land
- Installation of 4 rapid EV chargers to encourage the electrification of taxis
- Rolling programme of transition to EVs for the Council fleet.





## 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 Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) 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 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding for automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras and bike storage.
7. Support the Climate Emergency “Green Event” event including active transport promotion, air quality engagement and promotion of the 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 and KPI	Benefits	Estimated year to be introduced	Estimated / Actual completion year	Partners	Funding status / source	Estimated cost	Progress to date	Comments / barriers to implementation
	Working with partners to tackle air quality across South Ribble and surrounding areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertaking annual NO<sub>2</sub> and PM monitoring programme as part of Defra national monitoring</li> <li>Submit annual ASR report</li> <li>Partnership and collaborative working *</li> </ul>	Reduction of NO <sub>2</sub> and PM	Prior to 2024	Ongoing	DEFRA, HSE, EA, UKHSA	Existing revenue budgets	£8000 annually plus staffing	ASR for 2023 submitted June 2024	
	Embedding air quality improvement into the Council's culture	<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>	Reduction of NO <sub>2</sub> and PM	Prior to 2024	Ongoing	SRBC	Existing revenue budgets	Existing revenue budgets		
	Continue to deliver the Bikeability scheme, adult cycle training and Dr Bike repair workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providing Dr Bike events, a free Council service where residents can bring their bike along for repairs and maintenance *</li> </ul>	Reduction of NO <sub>2</sub> and PM	Prior to 2024	Ongoing	SRBC	Cycling UK	~£3,000 per annum	For 2023, 1856 participants received the Bikeability training, and the Council provided 14 Dr Bike events	Pool of bicycles available to aid inclusivity
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of Bikeability, a cycling training scheme designed to give adults and children the skills and confidence to ride a bicycle *</li> </ul>	Improve physical and mental wellbeing				Bikeability Trust and LCC	£71,000 for next 4 years		
	Reduce staff mileage associated with Council business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to include staff mileage CO<sub>2</sub>e in our Greenhouse Gas Report</li> </ul>	Reduction of NO <sub>2</sub> and PM	Prior to 2024	Ongoing	SRBC	Existing revenue budgets	Existing revenue budgets	Emissions relating to mileage reported in Council's annual Greenhouse Gas Reports	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend the GHG reporting to include staff commuting</li> <li>Promote car sharing amongst staff and continue to provide hybrid meeting options</li> </ul>	Reduced CO <sub>2</sub> e	2025	ongoing				Hybrid meetings available to staff and elected members	
	Council Electric Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue with the rolling programme to systematically replace the Council vans and grounds machinery with electric machinery as technology becomes available.</li> <li>Plan to provide the electric vehicle infrastructure required for the growing fleet of Council electric vehicles.</li> </ul>	Reduction of NO <sub>2</sub> and PM Reduced CO <sub>2</sub> e	Prior to 2024	Ongoing	SRBC	Capital and revenue Grant funding as available		Rolling programme of transition to EV	
	To continuously monitor, review and adapt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To monitor and review the Action Plan every 5 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> </ul>	Reduction of NO <sub>2</sub> and PM Reduced CO <sub>2</sub> e	Prior to 2024	Ongoing	SRBC	Capital and revenue Grant funding as available	Existing revenue budgets		

Industrial Activities										
	Outcomes	Measure and Rationale	Benefits	Estimated year to be introduced	Estimated / Actual completion year	Partners	Funding status / source / amount	Estimated cost	Progress to date	Comments / barriers to implementation
	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>	Reduction of NO <sub>2</sub> and PM  Reduction of industrial related pollutants	Prior to 2024	Ongoing	SRBC – Environmental Health	Existing revenue  Grant funding as available	Existing revenue budgets	Ongoing interventions to ensure compliance	






Transport										
	Outcomes	Measure and Rationale	Benefits	Estimated year to be introduced	Estimated / Actual completion year	Partners	Funding status / source / amount	Estimated cost	Progress to date	Comments / barriers to implementation
	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>To support Lancashire County Council's Actively Moving Forward Plan *</li> </ul>	Reduction of NO <sub>2</sub> and PM  Improve physical and mental wellbeing	Prior to 2024  2024	2028 and beyond  2028	SRBC Estates, Facilities, and Neighbourhoods  Lancashire County Council	Capital or Grant funding as available		Green links project	
	Encourage the greater use of public transport including buses and taxis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> <li>Explore the opportunity to promote the use of electric vehicles for taxis via licencing and their taxi policy *</li> </ul>	Reduction in NO <sub>2</sub> Reduced CO <sub>2e</sub>		2028	SRBC – Environmental Health, Licensing	Existing revenue budgets			
	Electric Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek funding opportunities to enable the development of the EV infrastructure across the borough</li> <li>Provide electric vehicle charging points on council owned car parks and buildings as appropriate.</li> <li>Work with LCC to enable delivery on EV charging points on the highways.</li> </ul>	Reduction in NO <sub>2</sub> Reduced CO <sub>2e</sub>	Prior to 2024	2028	SRBC, LCC, Energy Saving Trust	Capital or Grant funding as available	LCC have received £10.1 million for Local EV Infrastructure development within Lancashire	Council has received 2 rounds of On-Street Residential Charge point scheme funding	Grant funding criteria dictates the options for delivery within the borough
	Freight and delivery management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide advice 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>	Reduction of NO <sub>2</sub> and PM  Reduced CO <sub>2e</sub>		2028	SRBC, LCC	Existing revenue budgets			

## Environmental Pressures and Mitigation Measures




	Outcomes	Measure and rationale	Benefits	Estimated year to be introduced	Estimated / Actual completion year	Partners	Funding status / source / amount	Estimated cost	Progress to date	Comments / barriers to implementation
	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>	Reduction of NO <sub>2</sub> and PM Reduced CO <sub>2</sub> e		2028	Various	Existing revenue budgets			
	To improve air quality by encouraging behaviour change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To review the Smoke control areas</li> <li>Continued enforcement of smoke control legislation *</li> <li>To engage with residents, businesses and partners to maintain and improve air quality (including indoor air quality)</li> <li>Ensure only authorised fuel used within the borough (as it is a smoke control area) *</li> <li>Continue to enforcement statutory nuisance legislation *</li> <li>To support partners in their regulatory functions e.g. Health and Safety Executive, Environment Agency *</li> </ul>	Reduction of NO <sub>2</sub> and PM Reduced CO <sub>2</sub> e Improve physical and mental wellbeing	Prior to 2024	2028	SRBC, HSE, EA	Existing revenue budgets		Work started on the review of the smoke control areas	
	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>	Reduction of NO <sub>2</sub> and PM Reduced CO <sub>2</sub> e Improve physical and mental wellbeing	Prior to 2024	2028	Various	Capital budget	£135,580 up to March 2024	c.173,000 trees planted in the Borough since 2019	Land availability



## Sustainable Development

	Outcomes	Measure and rationale	Benefits	Estimated year to be introduced	Estimated / Actual completion year	Partners	Funding status / source / amount	Estimated cost	Progress to date	Comments / barriers to implementation
	Integrated air quality into wider sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure planning applications are submitted and processed (where relevant) in line with                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council's Electric Vehicle Charging Points Guidance for Developers</li> <li>Low emissions developer guidance (travel plans).</li> <li>Air Quality Guidance Document for Developers</li> <li>Cycle storage and changing facilities</li> <li>Construction Management Plan</li> </ul> </li> <li>Planning enforcement to ensure compliance with conditions of planning contents *</li> </ul>	<p>Reduction of NO<sub>2</sub> and PM</p> <p>Reduced CO<sub>2</sub>e</p>	Prior to 2024	2028, and beyond	SRBC – Planning, Environmental Health	<p>Existing revenue budgets</p> <p>Grant funding as available</p>		Embedded into the Planning process and guidance documents published	
	Transport planning and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To review all traffic light sequencing to reduce the amount of standing traffic – LCC A582 project *</li> <li>Anti-Idling Campaign in declared AQMA's and outside schools, colleges and leisure centres</li> </ul>	<p>Reduction of NO<sub>2</sub> and PM</p> <p>Reduced CO<sub>2</sub>e</p>	Prior to 2024	2028, and beyond	SRBC – Planning, Environmental Health, Comms LCC	<p>Existing revenue budgets</p> <p>Grant funding as available</p>		Anti-idling included in the Clean Air Crew project	
	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>	<p>Reduction of NO<sub>2</sub> and PM</p> <p>Reduced CO<sub>2</sub>e</p>	Prior to 2024	2028, and beyond	SRBC - Investment and Skills Chamber Low Carbon	SRBC UKSPF	<p>Since 2022</p> <p>£69,500 SRBC</p> <p>£85,000 UKSPF</p>	Grant funding to businesses as part of the Council's BEE scheme	Wait times for audits due to limited number of auditors available across the County
	Delivering social benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	<p>Reduction of NO<sub>2</sub> and PM</p> <p>Improve physical and mental wellbeing</p>	Prior to 2024	2028, and beyond	SRBC - Investment and Skills, procurement	Revenue budgets		Social value volunteering has been undertaken by local businesses	
	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 and emerging technologies *</li> </ul>	<p>Reduction of NO<sub>2</sub> and PM</p> <p>Reduced CO<sub>2</sub>e</p>	Prior to 2024	2028, and beyond	SRBC, UK100	Existing revenue budgets		The Council has been an active member of UK100 since November 2021	

## Education and Engagement

	Outcomes	Measure and rationale	Benefits	Estimated year to be introduced	Estimated / Actual completion year	Partners	Funding status / source / amount	Estimated cost	Progress to date	Comments / barriers to implementation
	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 -                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to promote information and activities on our website *</li> <li>Participate in the national 'Clean Air Day'</li> <li>Promote walking and cycling within the borough</li> <li>Publish the local air quality monitoring results on the Council's website</li> <li>Support the Ready to Burn campaign *</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Reduction of NO <sub>2</sub> and PM  Reduced CO <sub>2</sub> e  Improve physical and mental wellbeing	Prior to 2024	2028, and beyond	LCC, SRBC	Existing revenue budgets		Public events in 2023 and 2024 including Air Quality awareness  Public consultation on revocation of Penwortham AQMA  Public consultation on draft AQAP  Air quality monitoring results on Council website	
	Working with the local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encouraging car sharing within the borough</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>	Reduction of NO <sub>2</sub> and PM  Reduced CO <sub>2</sub> e  Improve physical and mental wellbeing	Started through the Planning process prior to 2024	2028, and beyond	SRBC	Existing revenue budgets  Grant funding as available			
	Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue with cycle proficiency (Bikeability) courses in local schools*</li> <li>Deliver the Clean Air Crew project (Defra funded KS2 project) *</li> </ul>	Reduction of NO <sub>2</sub> and PM  Reduced CO <sub>2</sub> e  Improve physical and mental wellbeing	Prior to 2024	2028, and beyond	SRBC, DEFRA LCC, Schools	Existing revenue budgets  DEFRA grant funding		Delivery of Bikeability training  Clean Air Crew project delivery since April 2023	Defra funded works to March 2025

## Glossary

AQAP	Air Quality Action Plan - A detailed description of measures, outcomes, achievement dates and implementation methods, showing how the local authority intends to achieve air quality limit values'
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area – An area where air pollutant concentrations exceed / are likely to exceed the relevant air quality objectives. AQMAs are declared for specific pollutants and objectives
AQS	Air Quality Strategy
ASR	Air quality Annual Status Report
COMEAP	Committee on Medical Effects of Air Pollutants
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DAQI	Daily Air Quality Index
EA	Environment Agency
EV	Electric Vehicle
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
IAQ	Indoor Air Quality
LAQM	Local Air Quality Management
LCC	Lancashire County Council
µm	Micrometre, one thousandth of a millimetre
NO <sub>x</sub>	Nitrogen Oxides
NO <sub>2</sub>	Nitrogen Dioxide
OZEV	Office for Zero Emission Vehicles
PM	Particulate Matter
PM <sub>10</sub>	Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 10µm (micrometres or microns) or less
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5µm or less
SRBC	South Ribble Borough Council
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
UKHSA	UK Health Security Agency

