

## **Wigan Council's Policy for Air Quality**

**Wigan Council is committed to maintaining good standards of air quality across the borough and by working collaboratively will work to mitigate any issues that may impact on the borough's air quality.**

The quality of the air we breathe is integral part of the health and well-being of our communities and our local environment. Everybody who lives, works and visits Wigan Borough should not have to experience poor air quality.

Poor air quality is estimated to cause 40,000 premature deaths per year in England. Most of the harmful emissions in the UK come from road vehicles, industrial sources and the burning of solid fuels. Poor air quality is also linked with deprivation. People living in densely populated areas are affected most by pollution. The council is committed to growing the borough's economy and creating jobs but will ensure any negative impacts on air quality are mitigated appropriately to safeguard people's health and wellbeing.

Good air quality plays a crucial role in making a healthier, cleaner and greener Wigan. To maintain good air quality the council will:

- Work closely with Transport for Greater Manchester and the other 9 councils in Greater Manchester, to implement the city region strategy and work towards city region and national targets.
- Monitor Air Quality across the borough in order to ensure action is taken to prevent or mitigate occurrences of poor air quality and ensure improvements are secured.
- Ensure air quality considerations are embedded in the council's decision-making processes to ensure that measures that will reduce air pollution are prioritised wherever possible in improving its own services and with those that the council regulates.
- Promote healthier lifestyle choices and encourage residents and businesses to do what they can, including:
  - o Walking, cycling and using public transport more
  - o Driving less, especially for short, local journeys
  - o Turning engines off whilst stationary, loading or waiting
  - o Burning fewer solid fuels and not installing log burners at home

Wigan Council's Air Quality Steering Group meets regularly to oversee the delivery of the council's Air Quality Action Plan. This group is chaired by the council's Lead Member for Greener Wigan and includes officers from across the council, including

traffic management, fleet management, planning, major projects, environmental health and public health.

Our Air Quality actions contribute to the Greater Manchester Air Quality Action Plan whereby the 10 Greater Manchester councils and Transport for Greater Manchester are collectively working to reduce the emission of pollutants and improve air quality.

The key priorities across Greater Manchester are:

- **Reduce traffic** by encouraging modal shift from private vehicle use to public transport, cycling and walking
- **Increase efficiency** of traffic movement by reducing congestion and stop-start travel to achieve a smoother emissions profile and overall lower emissions, especially at peak hours
- **Improve fleet** by incentivising the replacement of older vehicles with newer, lower-emission vehicles.