

# Air Quality Update November 2023



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Northamptonshire  
Council**

# Annual Status Report for 2022

- **Statutory duty**: to monitor and produce the ASR every year
- NO<sub>2</sub> monitored in NNC diffusion tubes in 107 locations
- All locations are below the limit value, highest value was 33 µg/m<sup>-3</sup>
- 2022 concentrations are below pre-pandemic levels
- DEFRA have approved the report
- PM<sub>10</sub> & PM<sub>2.5</sub> are not measured
  - Nearest monitoring station is in Northampton
  - PM<sub>2.5</sub> 10 µg/m<sup>-3</sup> - legal limit 20 µg/m<sup>-3</sup>

# Annual Status Report for 2022

- **Noted:** Voi Scooter project which successfully expanded electric scooter use which in 2022 replaced 201,812 car trips car trips.
- **Noted:** Support for the East Northamptonshire Greenway Project to reduce emissions.
- **Praise:** for the Local Air Quality Strategy being developed

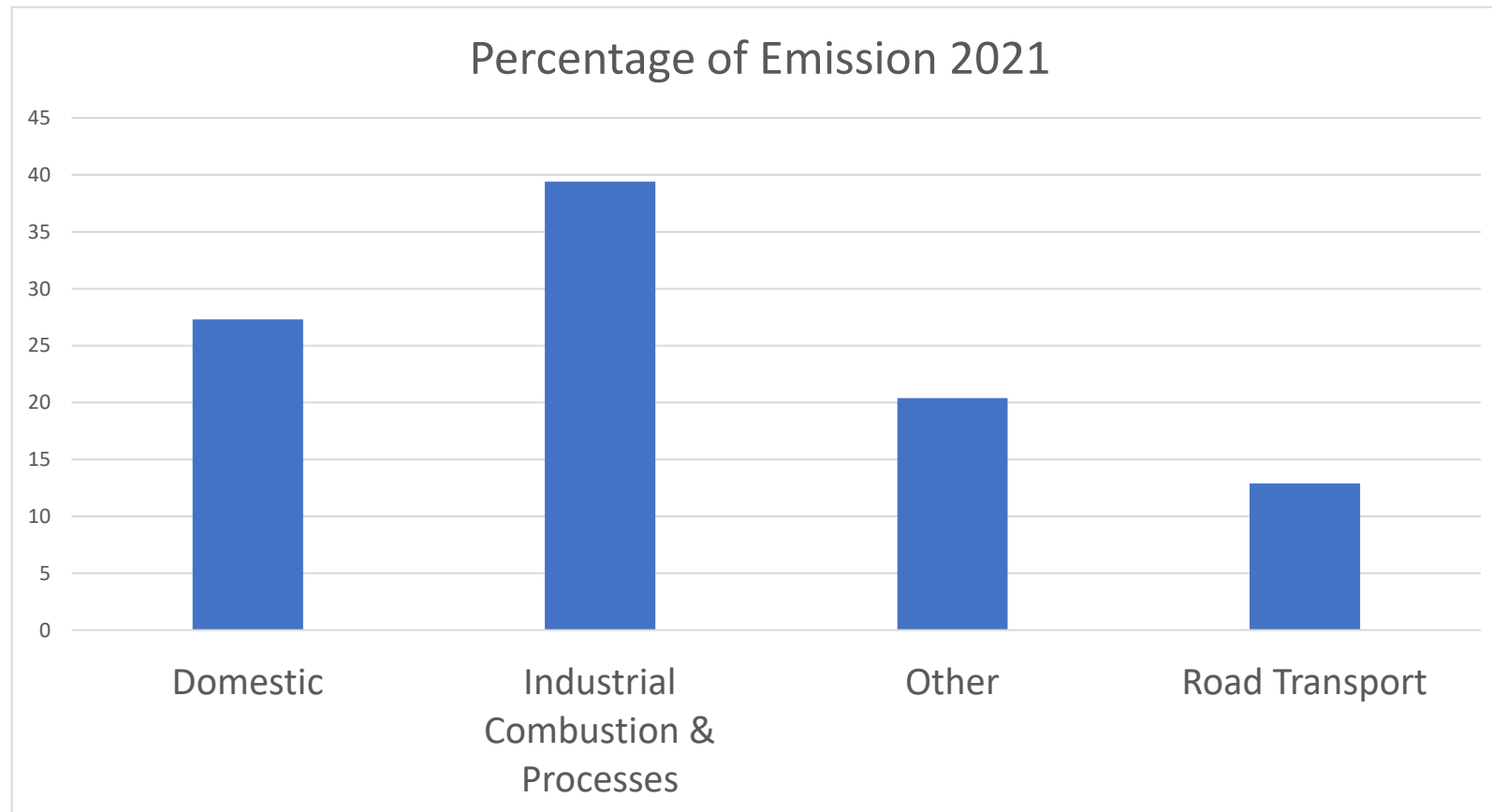
# Air Quality Strategy for England

**Statutory duty:** DEFRA must publish an AQS for England every 5 years

- All local authorities are **expected** to take proactive action to improve air quality
- Local Authorities are **encouraged** to publish a Local Air Quality Strategy
- Directors of Public Health **should** be involved in producing Local Air Quality Strategy

# AQS for England PM2.5 & Smoke Control

DEFRA is legally responsible for reducing PM2.5 concentrations



**Other**  
Europe  
Pollen  
Sea spray  
Naturally  
occurring dust

# AQS for England PM2.5 & Smoke Control

Should the council adopt, extend or revoke Smoke Control Areas in North Northamptonshire;

1. Revoke the current smoke control orders and adopt a new order for the whole of North Northamptonshire making the whole area a smoke control area.
2. Revoke the current smoke control orders and issue new smoke control orders for all towns in North Northamptonshire.

Without monitoring data we cannot legally justify these options

# AQS for England PM2.5 & Smoke Control

Should the council adopt, extend or revoke Smoke Control Areas in North Northamptonshire;

1. Do nothing – retain the Corby smoke control areas.

This is the recommended option

2. Revoke the Corby smoke control areas.

Revoking the Smoke Control Order needs justification



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# AQS for England PM2.5 & Smoke Control

**For any current or new smoke control areas, should the council implement civil penalties in smoke control areas for breaches?**

CPNs currently used in Housing offences and Immigration offences

1. Implement civil penalties in smoke control areas.

Review this option at a later date when other LAs have implemented it

2. Use existing powers.

This is the recommended option



# AQS for England Vehicle Idling

Should the council adopt FPNs/CPNs for vehicle idling ?

Schools

Fixed Penalty Notices require perpetrators details

Penalty Charge Notices do not – public highway only and requires a TMO

- Parking Officers issue
- Low volume of offences
- No increase in staffing numbers is required

# AQS for England - Indoor Air Quality

## Should the Council include Indoor Air Quality in the Local Air Quality Strategy?

Local authority front line, public health, environmental and planning professionals **should** be familiar with best practice on indoor air quality, including around ventilation.

Where social housing is provided by local authorities, guidance to tenants on ventilation **could** be provided.

DEFRA will be providing guidance on mould and damp, this will have implications for:

- Housing policy
- Include in JSNA?
- Social care guidance

# Local AQ Strategy for North Northants



LOCAL AIR  
QUALITY STRATEGY

- DEFRA requested all Local Authorities publish a Local AQ Strategy
- Currently being finalised – internal consultation
- External consultation in early 2024
- Requires cross-department collaboration

# Public Health Measures

- Air quality is integrated into the JSNA
- Working together to raise awareness of the health impacts of air pollution
- \*Future: as knowledge about the adverse health effects of PM2.5 is disseminated by DEFRA we will work together to inform Health Practitioners in Primary and Secondary health care.

# Planning Measures

- Air Quality is embedded in NNC's Strategic Plan
- Environmental Protection is consulted on planning applications
- The adoption of the AQ SPD will ensure a unified approach across all former districts

# Sustainable Transport Measures

- Many of the projects and policies adopted by our Transport team align with reducing air pollution
- Increasing NetZero vehicle uptake and infrastructure
- Active travel – Greenway project – Cycling and Walking Infrastructure
- Public transport improvement schemes
- Traffic management schemes – Smart & Connected Corby



# Carbon Reduction Measures

- Carbon Management Plan
- Climate Change Strategy
- Electric Scooter project
- Starship Robots project

# Taxi Licensing Measures

- 31 March 2025:
  - new and replacement taxis must be Euro 6
  - All new applications must be hybrid/NetZero
- 1 January 2031:
  - Only hybrid/NetZero vehicles can be licensed



# Particulate Pollution Measures

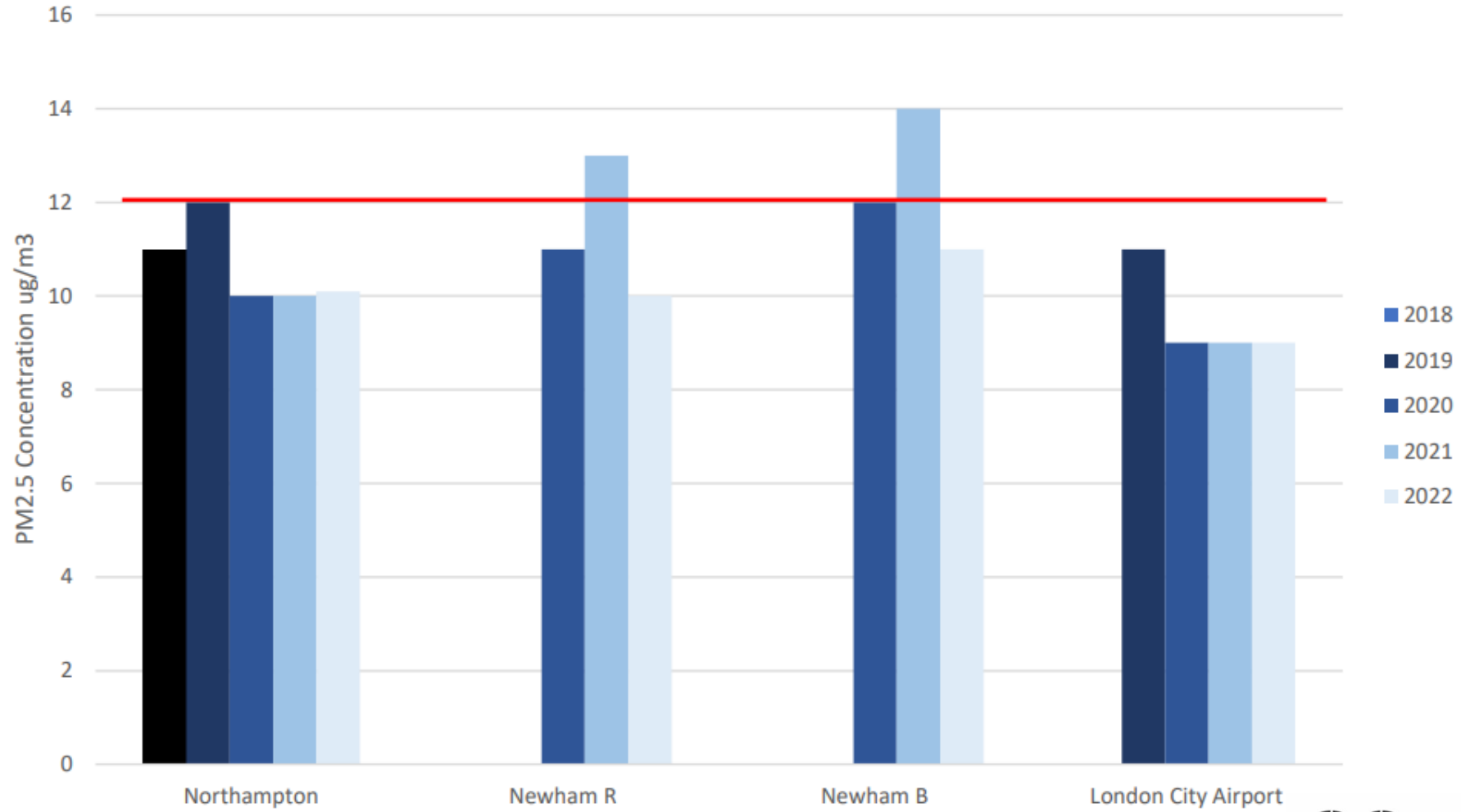
- Corby Smoke Control Area
  - Restrict sale of non-compliant fuels
  - Approved appliance or fuel only
  
- Construction
  - Any development which creates dust





# PM2.5 Automatic Monitoring

AMS PM2.5 Monitoring Results 2018-2022



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# AQ Supplementary Planning Document



AIRQUALITY  
& EMISSIONS  
Technical Planning Guidance



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- Wellingborough adopted the East Midlands consortium of Local Authorities AQ SPD
- → AQ has moved forward so needed to be updated
- To include all of NNC area
- Going to consultation in early 2024
- 6 week consultation period

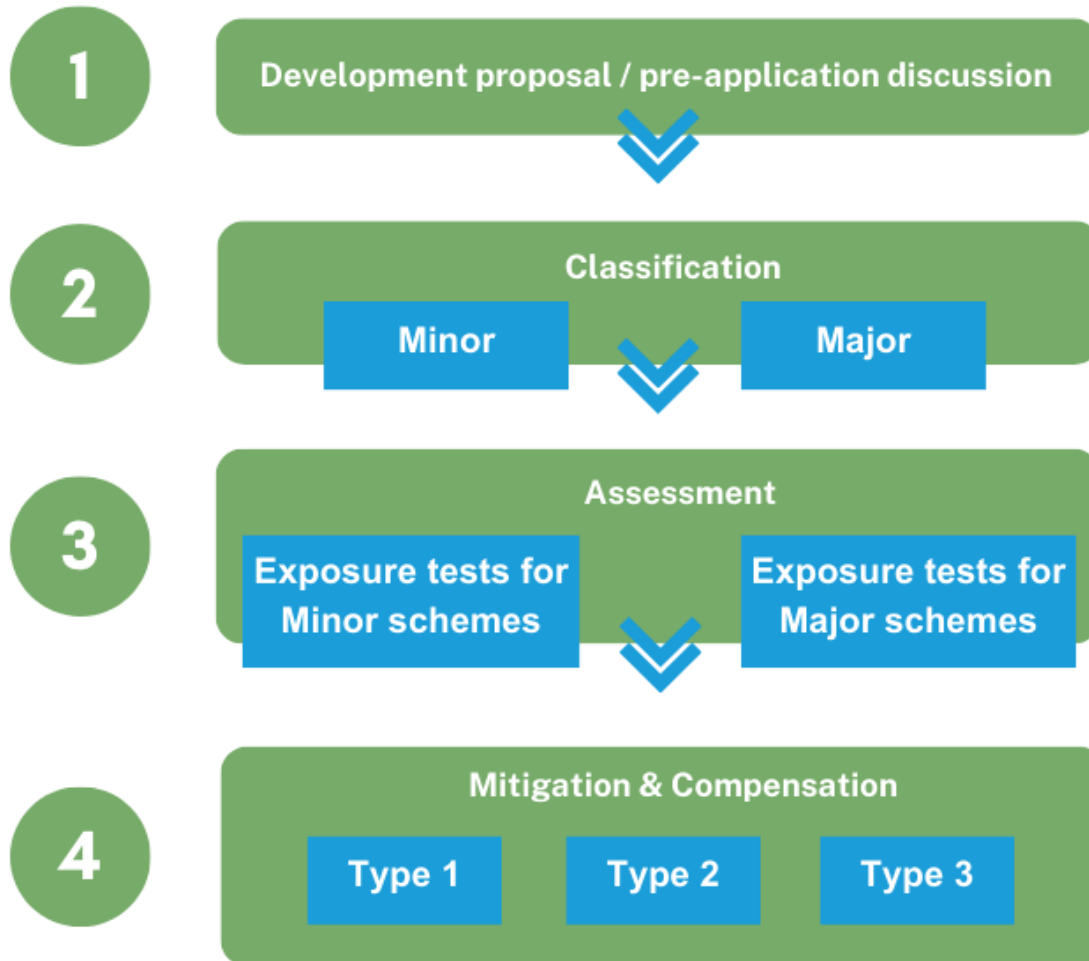
[LINK Draft Air Quality SPD](#)



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# AQ SPD

## Air Quality Assessment Process



- Now aligns with Planning Scheme classification
  - Minor
  - Major
- AQ modelling **only** for Large Scale Major applications (EIAs)
- Minor/Major – Type 1 & 2
- Large Scale Major – Type 3

# AQ SPD Mitigation

- Construction dust mitigation statement
- Zero emissions recharging infrastructure (building regs)
- Cycle parking facilities (transport policy)
- Low NOx gas boilers
- Outdoor space located away from busy roads
- Green infrastructure and planting
- Large Scale Major developments offset emissions through s106

# Lot 2 DEFRA AQ Grant Scheme 2023-2024

- **DEFRA focus on PM2.5**
- Improve our understanding of PM2.5 concentrations in NNC
- Limit value reducing from 20  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^{-3}$  to 12  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^{-3}$  by 2028
  
- Application submitted in September 2023
- Successful LAs notified in early 2024
- Unsuccessful – we get useful feedback for a bid in 2024-2025

[LINK DEFRA Lot 2 Air Quality Grant Bid](#)

# Lot 2 DEFRA AQ Grant Scheme

- NNC application to be managed by Ricardo
- 4 year project
- 10 air quality sensors monitoring PM2.5, PM10 and NO2 over a one year period
- 40 locations will be monitored
- In residential areas, schools, hospitals and care homes.

# Lot 2 DEFRA AQ Grant Scheme

- A bespoke website will be created to raise public awareness about air pollution
  - Sensor data presented
  - Monthly information posts about reducing pollutants i.e. domestic burning
  - Monthly social media posts
  
- Sensor data accuracy  $\pm 50\%$

# Any questions?



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