

Cheshire East Borough Council Air Quality Action Plan 2020 to 2025

Cheshire East Borough Council (CEC) have Statutory duties under the Local Air Quality Management Framework to produce an Air Quality Action Plan. CEC have reviewed the previous 2018 to 2023 plan and wishes to update to 2020 to 2025 after a period of consultation.

As Air Quality in the town is important to the community, Middlewich Town Council have put together this information sheet to assist in the CEC Air Quality Consultation process.

As residents of Middlewich, it is important that we look at the effects of poor Air Quality in the Town and have a say through our views of how that is managed.

What causes poor air quality in the town.

Primarily exhaust emissions for vehicles and secondly fugitive emissions from industry. The increase in future housing developments can influence this.

What are in those exhaust and fugitive emission.

Two things Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and Particulate Matter (PM). Both are mostly invisible to the eye, however evidence of PM (soot) on windowsills especially on busy roads.

What are the effects of poor Air Quality?

The air we breathe enters the lungs and eventually into the blood stream. Poor Air Quality is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer. (reference CEC). Evidence from the World Health Organisation, UK Government, DEFRA, Environment Agency, and CEC highlights those health effects, both short and long term. There is statistical analysis of Fraction of Mortality Attributable to particulate air pollution for CEC on the Public Health England website.

How does Cheshire East Monitor Air Quality.

This is carried out in Middlewich using 'Diffusion Tubes' placed by CEC in areas they believe require monitoring. These tubes measure the deposits of NO₂. The tubes are removed on monthly basis and replaced with new ones. Those removed are analysed in a laboratory and the results recorded. Diffusion tubes are not precise and consequently bias correction has to take place to get a result. Additionally, the tubes are used to measure NO₂, not PM. That again is carried out by modelling. PM should be monitored directly

Do the Diffusion tubes cover all the relevant areas in Middlewich?

The Town Council carried out a detailed reviewed the CEC Monitoring and Methodology for Air Quality after CEC delivered a presentation at the Victoria Hall. The Town Council believes there are potential other 'Hot Spots' for example Wheelock Street and Hightown that should be monitored and the requirements to monitor PM.

Does the Town Council review Air Quality in Middlewich?

At a minimum a verbal report is delivered monthly at the External Committee where issued are raised, for example the removal of the three tubes from Booth Lane and Cledford Lane. This will be resolved through the appropriate channels. Additionally, a monthly review takes place of the Diffusion Tube data from CEC.

Should the residents and council take part in the Consultation process?

Poor Air Quality in Middlewich has the potential to affect the health of residents. Any changes to CEC Air Quality Management should be noted and through the consultation process if needed be challenged. Additionally, residents should have the opportunity to raise their concerns regarding Air Quality to CEC.

So, what are the changes and updates in the Cheshire East Borough Council Air Quality Action Plan 2020 to 2025. Primarily for the following reasons for the 2020 to 2025 Action plan are as follows:

- the declaration of two new Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's) and the revocation of seven existing AQMA's

AQMA's are declared if a local authority finds places where the national Air Quality Objectives are not likely to be achieved, likely to breach the annual mean concentration of NO₂, which is set as an Air Quality Standard of 40µg/m³ to be met by 31 December 2010. Note there is no direct reference to PM

Currently Middlewich has two Air Quality Management Areas, namely Lewin Street and Chester Road. These are still in place. Should there be more?

This revised Air Quality Action Plan also highlights existing measures and new initiatives. These measures fall into two categories:

- General action measures which aim at addressing air quality across the entire Borough
- and AQMA site specific measures to help tackle poor air quality in our AQMA's

CEC priorities are to tackle vehicular emissions by applying AQMA targeted measures as well as taking a holistic/integrated approach across Cheshire East. These measures include:

- development and planning,
- traffic management,
- alternative travel,
- active travel,
- low emission transportation,
- transportation,
- public awareness,
- green infrastructure.

The AQAP aims at reducing the NO₂ concentrations in these AQMA's as much as possible, with an overall goal of achieving compliance with the UK National Air Quality Objective.

The CEC Air Quality Action Plan 2020 to 2025 is a comprehensive document and full of detailed facts and analysis.

However, as a resident what are your thoughts regarding Air Quality in Middlewich, what are the questions or ideas that should be part of the consultation process.

Should there be more monitoring in the town in additional areas. Should there be a process of effective measurement of PM. Commitment for a suitable and sufficient bus service. Reduce the traffic congestion in Middlewich. How will the additional housing developments and additional vehicles affect Air Quality?

The Town Council will be discussing the draft document; however, residents' views are sort.

The CEC Air Quality Action Plan 2020 to 2025 can be found at [AQAP November 2020 \(cheshireeast.gov.uk\)](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/aqap)

