

Improving Air Quality In York

Background

- Local authorities (LAs) must assess air quality in their areas to determine if health-based objectives are likely to be achieved in 'relevant locations' (Environment Act 1995)
- Where an exceedance of an objective is found, a LA must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and prepare an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to deliver air quality improvements.
- The recent Environment Act 2021 introduced new standards for PM_{2.5} and strengthened provision to tackle pollution from domestic solid fuel burning

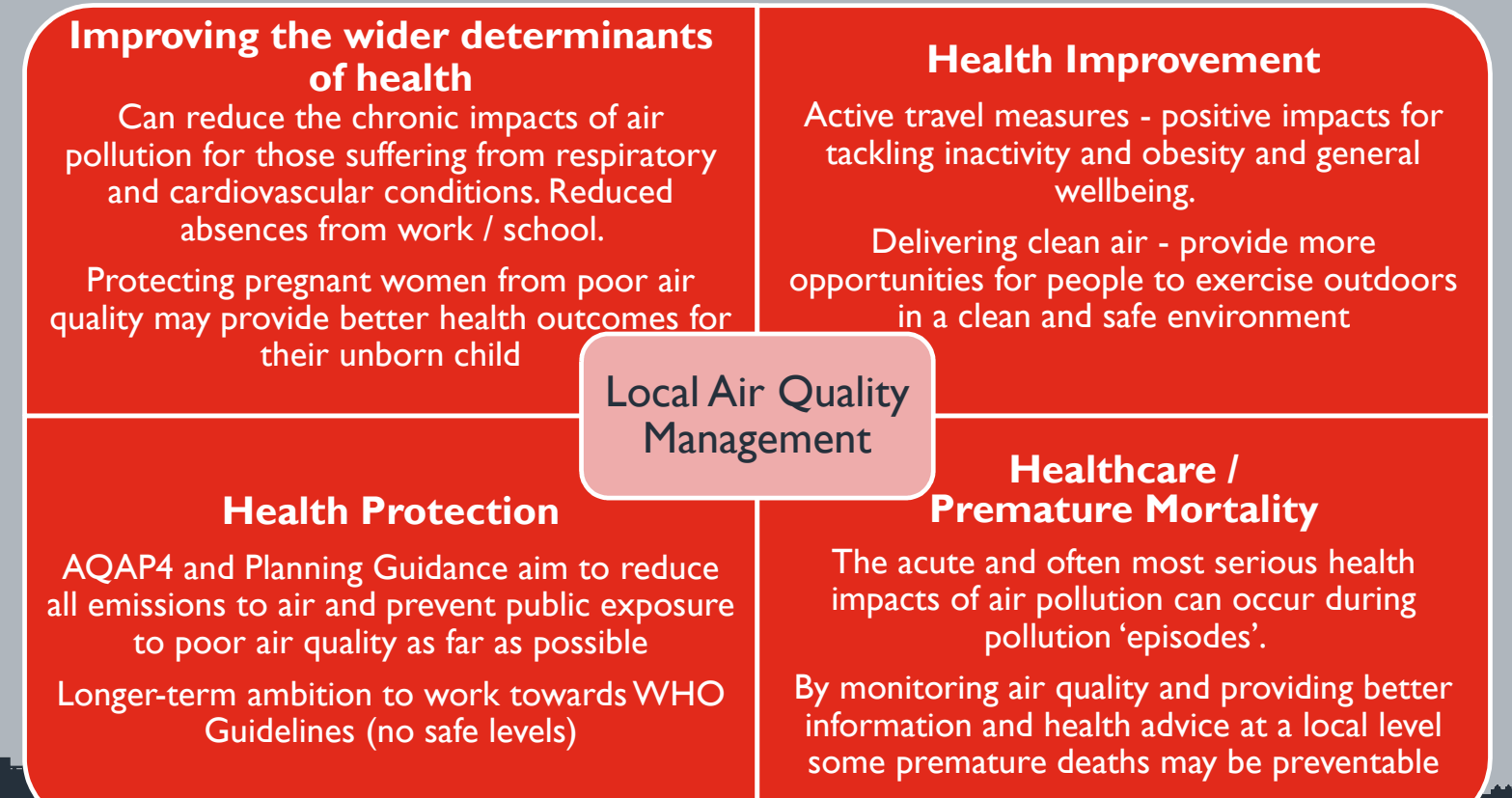
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Air Pollution – a shared concern

- Public Health Outcomes Framework indicator 'D01' shows 4.6% of deaths in York in 2022 attributable to long-term exposure to air pollution (specifically PM_{2.5}). This is 1 in 22 deaths.
- The mortality burden of air pollution (based on both PM_{2.5} and NO₂) in the UK, is equivalent to 29,000 to 43,000 deaths
- Nationally air pollution has been linked to respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses, cancer, premature births, low birth weights and autism.

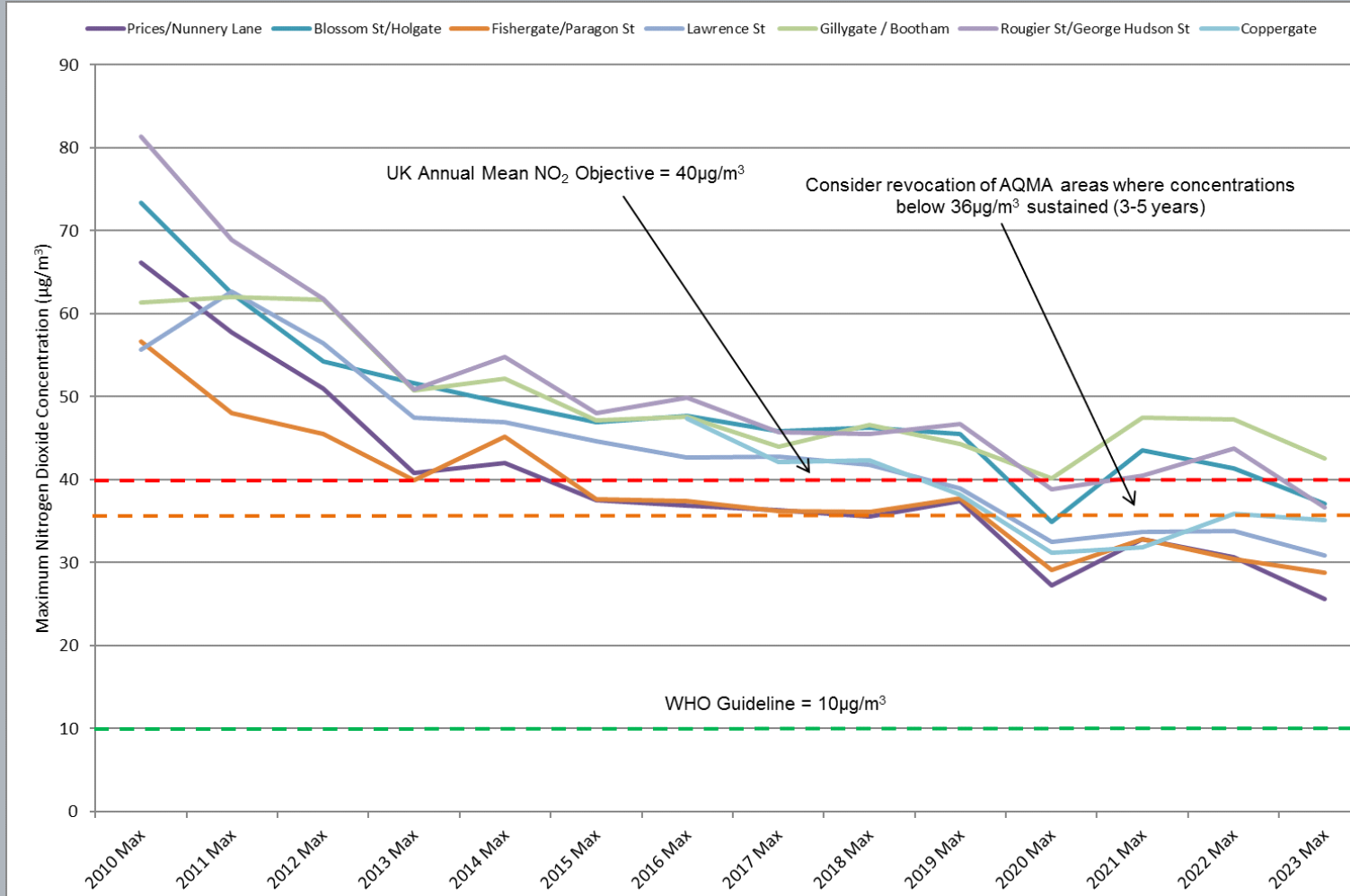
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Improving Air Quality and Public Health – Mutual Benefits



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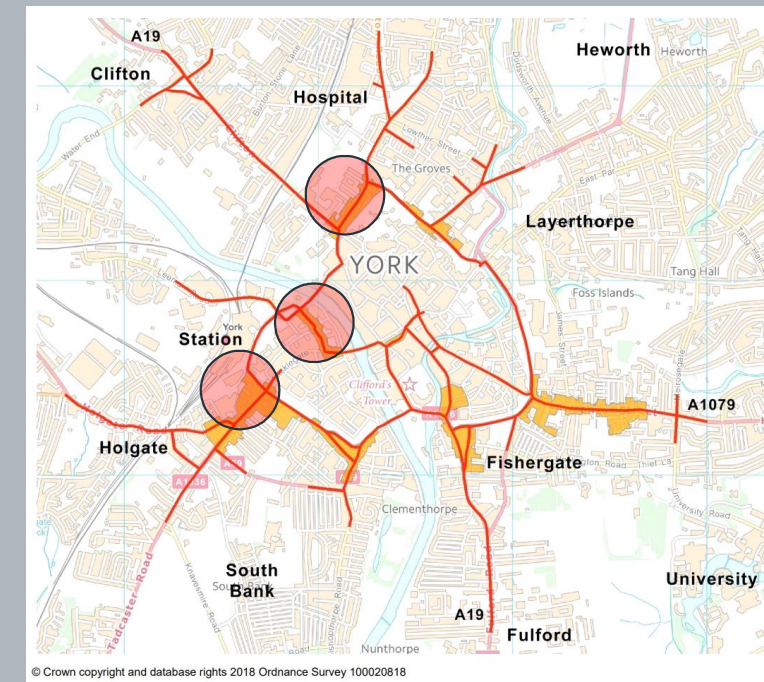
Current Air Quality (NO₂)



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Current Air Quality

- CYC has declared an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and has a statutory duty to improve air quality in this area



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Action to date

- AQAP1 (2003) / AQAP2 (2006) focussed on reducing vehicle trips / encouraging modal shift
- AQAP3 (2015) acknowledged that modal shift alone would not deliver improvements needed
- Source apportionment work demonstrated disproportionate impact from buses and other large diesel vehicles



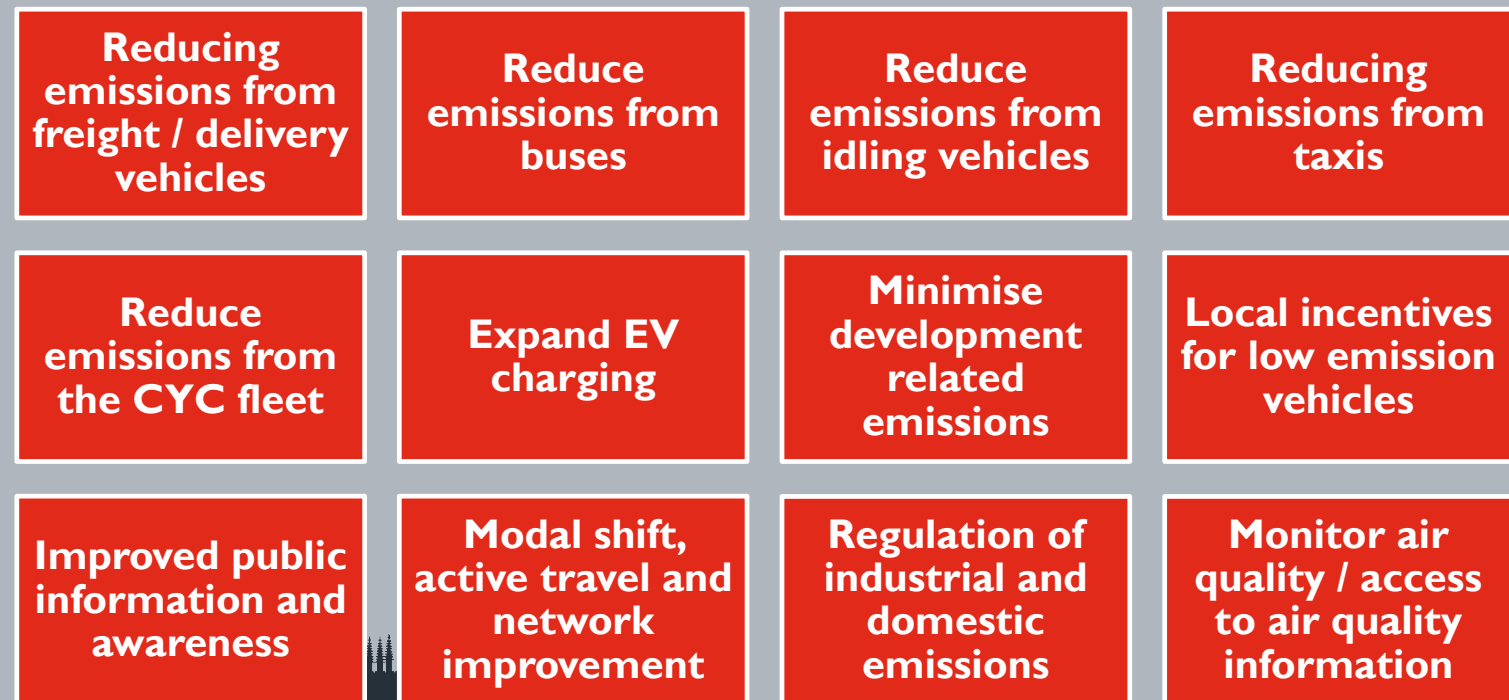
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Air Quality Action Plan 4

- Updated Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP4) covers 5-year period
- Ambition to go beyond health-based National Air Quality Objectives in all areas and work towards meeting WHO Guidelines
- Will aim to reduce all emissions, including particulate pollution, to improve public health
- 12 key priority areas with CYC commitments and specific measures / targets / indicators across each area

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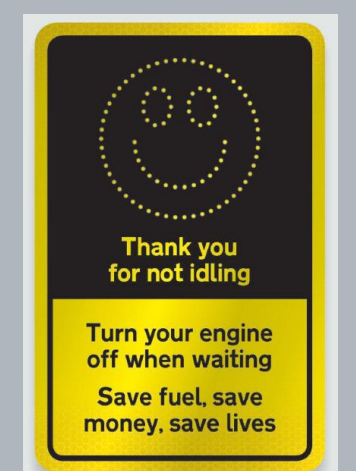
AQAP4 Priority Areas



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Kick the Habit

- Encourage drivers to:
 - Think about vehicle idling and the impact this has on health
 - Change the way people feel about idling (make socially unacceptable)
 - Change behaviour with more people turning off their engines



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Fuel for Thought

- Raise awareness of the dangers of burning wood and other solid fuels in the home.
- For those reliant on burning solid fuels, highlight how they can do so more cleanly / efficiently
- Links between burning, PM_{2.5} and health

www.york.gov.uk/fuelforthought



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York Air Alert

- Air pollution forecasting and alert platform
- Advanced warning of when air pollution is expected to be higher than usual, up to 3 days ahead. Health advice, depending on the level of pollution.
- Street level forecasts and air quality alerts by text, email or voicemail for different areas of York

airqualityalerts.york.gov.uk



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Buses

- Electric bus fleet, supported by funding from DfT's ZEBRA scheme. Electric buses cover over half the bus-miles operated in the city, including entire P&R service
- Each bus will significantly reduce NO_x and PM emissions and save up to 60 tonnes of carbon emissions a year
- First York depot will shortly be one of the first outside London to be fully electric (86 vehicles)

Ambition

- Pursue an all-electric zero emission bus fleet for all services operating predominantly in York urban area (including tour buses)



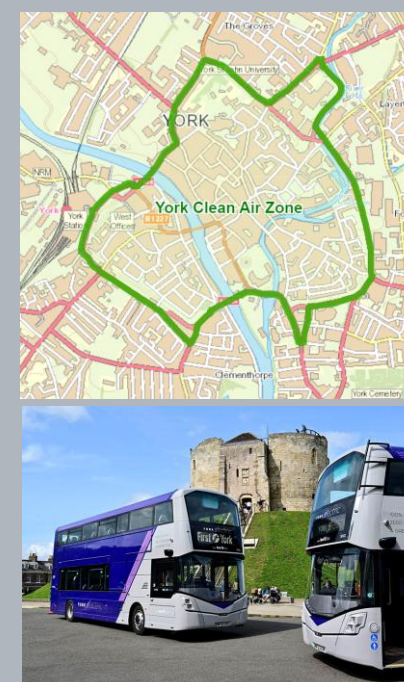
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Clean Air Zone (CAZ)

- Clean Air Zone (CAZ) for buses launched January 2020.
- Buses making 5 or more entrances to the CAZ per day required to be minimum Euro VI equivalent or electric.
- £1.65m allocated by CYC to 5 bus operators to help replace/retrofit 93 buses to CAZ compliant standards

Ambition

- Review CAZ standards for buses and expand CAZ area
- Upgrade currently CAZ exempt services to electric (or Euro VI for inter-urban / rural services)
- Consider extension of CAZ to other vehicle types



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Planning and Development

- Local Low Emission Planning Guidance outlining design and mitigation expectations on new developments
- Local standards for EV charging provision
- Requirement for Construction Environmental Management Plans / Idling Management Plans

Ambition

- Continue to assess and mitigate emissions from new development to reduce air quality impacts
- Update and strengthen local planning guidance to facilitate transition away from fossil fuel heating sources
- Consider emission requirements for Non-Road Mobile Machinery



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Freight / HGVs

- Provision of advice to fleet operators through delivery of an 'ECO Stars' Fleet Recognition Scheme
- Obtained DEFRA funding for feasibility study and pilot to reduce emissions from freight vehicles
- Freight forum established

Ambition

- Continue to work with partners to evaluate low emission delivery modes
- Pilot 'micro-consolidation' centre for light commercial goods



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Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging

- Pioneered Public EV charging network in 2013
- Launched Public EV charging strategy in 2020
- Opened 2 Hyper-Hub sites with ultra-rapid charging points
- Requirement for EV charge points in new developments and CYC car parks

Ambition

- Roll-out further fast and rapid charge points
- Further two Hyper-Hubs planned
- Updated Public EV Charging Strategy by 2025



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Low Emission Taxis

- Low Emission Taxi Grant Scheme - 39% of York taxi fleet are now low emission (electric or hybrid)
- Requirement for new hackney carriage licences to be granted to fully electric or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles
- Education / awareness around engine idling

Ambition

- New Taxi Licensing Policy, specifies type / age of vehicle that will now be licensed
- Further grant funding for taxi upgrades
- Explore opportunities for non-CYC taxis



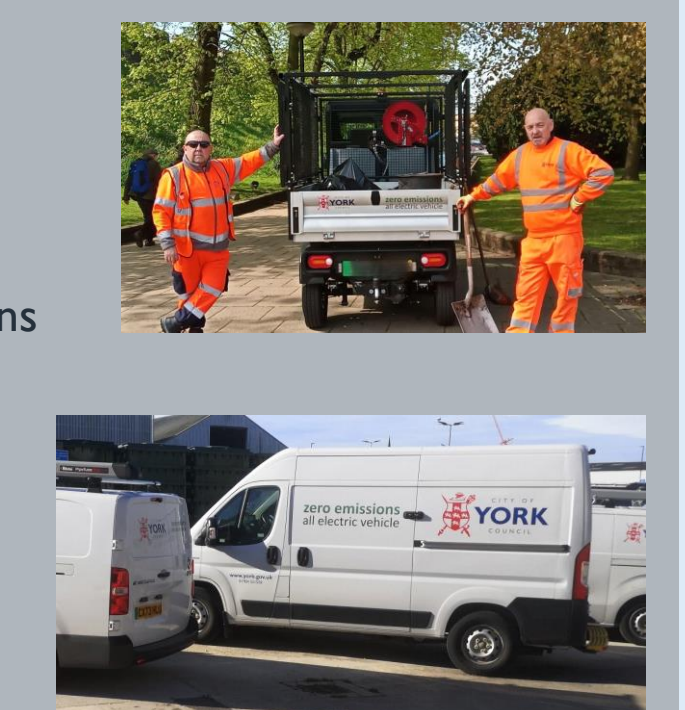
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CYC Fleet Vehicles

- Transition to fully electric fleet (under 3.5t)
- Low emission car club vehicles
- Programme of driver training, incorporating eco-driving elements.
- New telematics system for reducing emissions and improving vehicle and driver efficiency

Ambition

- Fully electric fleet (under 3.5t)
- Trials of specialist low emission fleet vehicles (over 3.5t)



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