

Further information on the Air Quality Action Plan is available on the Council website:

[www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/AirQuality](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/AirQuality)

or can be obtained by contacting:

**Environmental Protection**

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**Air Quality Monitor, Union Street**



# Air Quality Action Plan

2011 Summary

**PURPOSE OF THIS LEAFLET**

Aberdeen City Council declared part of the City Centre an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in June 2001. An Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) was published in July 2006 outlining measures to improve air quality in the designated area. Two further AQMAs; one for the Anderson Drive/Haudagain roundabout corridor and Wellington Road (Queen Elizabeth Bridge/Balnagask Road) were declared in November 2008.

Aberdeen City Council's Air Quality Action Plan (AQPA) 2011 details a series of measures to improve air quality in Aberdeen, particularly in the three designated Air Quality management Areas (AQMAs). The 2011 Action Plan supercedes the 2006 Plan and was produced following a public consultation process in 2010. This leaflet summarises the key points from the Action Plan.

The full Action Plan is available on the Council website:

[www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/AirQuality](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/AirQuality)

Printed copies are available in the City's libraries or you can contact the Environmental Protection Team at the following address:

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**5 PLANNING AND POLICIES**

Both short and long term air quality and wider environmental improvements can be achieved through appropriate planning and development control both in Aberdeen City and the wider Grampian area. Air quality will be considered during the development of all future relevant planning policies and will be a material consideration in the determination of individual planning applications. The Council will also:

- Require an air quality assessment for all major developments as part of the planning process
- Publish Supplementary Planning Guidance for developers on air quality
- Integrate the Air Quality Action Plan with other policies including the Local and Regional Transport Strategies
- Review car parking policies

**6 NON TRANSPORT MEASURES**

Although road traffic is primarily responsible for the areas of poor area quality in Aberdeen, domestic and commercial premises and Aberdeen Harbour also contribute both to NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> emissions and greenhouse gases. The Council will:

- Provide information on measures to improve emissions and energy efficiency in the home
- Implement measures to control new biomass installation
- Consider emissions from Aberdeen Harbour
- Plant trees that have a positive air quality impact

**Actions**

The Council will develop integrated plans and policies to minimise the air quality impact of new development and improve the transport network in the future.

**Actions**

The Council will assess and monitor emissions from other industrial, commercial and domestic sources and ensure appropriate controls are adopted to minimise the impact on air quality.

### Air Quality Action Plan Measures

The majority of measures within the Action Plan aim to reduce the impact of road traffic since vehicle emissions are the main cause of air quality problems in Aberdeen. These measures have been grouped into six categories. Actions included within each of the categories are listed in the leaflet.

The Council will monitor each measure to determine the progress achieved and any associated improvement in air quality. The Plan will additionally be reviewed and updated to account for changes in Council policies, funding and pollution levels.

### 4 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

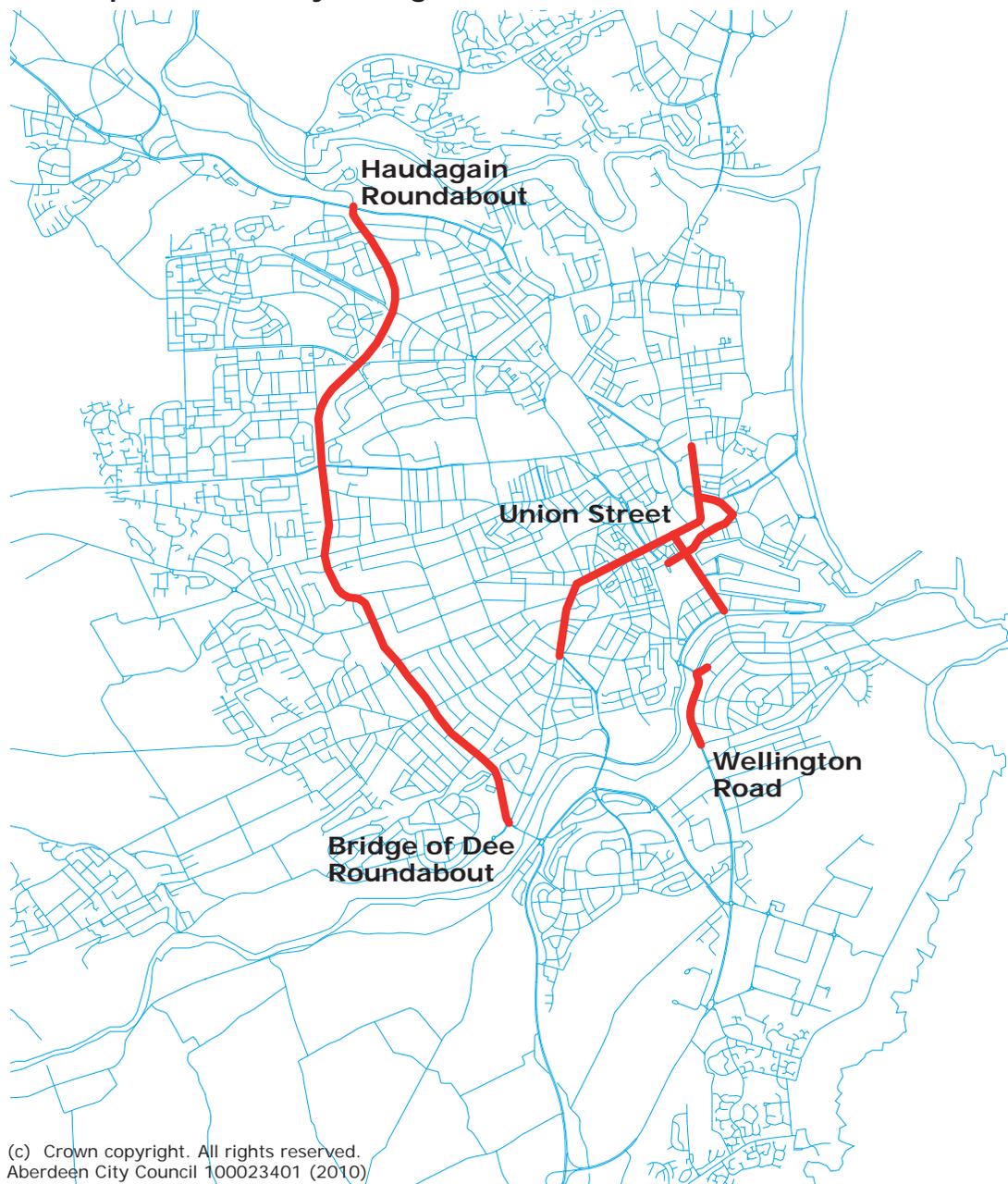
Bus and freight vehicles are responsible for the greatest proportion of emissions in Aberdeen, although cars contribute significantly to congestion. Greater partnership working, via existing Bus and Freight Quality Partnerships have the potential to significantly increase bus patronage, improve freight distribution and improve air quality. The Council will additionally consider:

- HGV priority measures
- Development of a Commercial Vehicle Delivery Strategy (including the consideration of routing delivery restrictions and timing)
- High Occupancy Vehicle Lane on Stonehaven Road

#### Actions

The Council will continue to develop its Intelligent Transport System to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion and improve links with freight and commercial vehicle operators.

Map 1 - Air Quality Management Areas



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**WHAT IS THE PROBLEM ?**

Poor air quality is a widespread problem affecting many large cities, including Aberdeen. Elevated levels of pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) can impact on human health by aggravating existing respiratory and cardiovascular illness and other medical conditions, including asthma. Road traffic is the main source of the raised pollution levels in Aberdeen (90% of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions on Market Street and Haudagain roundabout are caused by road traffic), although domestic and commercial sources, including Aberdeen Harbour, contribute to the problem.

Monitoring and modelling of air quality has confirmed levels of NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub> exceed national air quality objectives. The Council is required to produce and implement an Air Quality Action Plan that will improve the air quality in the three AQMAs:

- City Centre (including Union Street, Market Street, Virginia Street, Commerce Street and parts of Holburn Street, Guild Street and King Street)
- Anderson Drive (the whole of Anderson Drive and the area around Haudagain roundabout)
- Wellington Road (Queen Elizabeth II Bridge to Balnagask Road)

**1 MODAL SHIFT AND INFLUENCING TRAVEL CHOICE**

Many people do not realise air quality is a problem in Aberdeen and that current pollution levels can impact on health. Car ownership and use is high and a low number of residents use the bus, cycle or walk. The Council will promote and encourage modal shift through:

- Increased awareness of air quality issues in Aberdeen
- Improved bus services
- Development of travel plans by businesses
- Improved cycling and walking provision
- Provision of car clubs/car pool schemes
- Provision of additional Park and Rides including the A90 Charleston Interchange and Dyce

**Actions**

The Council will increase public awareness of air quality issues and encourage modal shift by providing improved travel options.

**2 LOWER EMISSIONS AND CLEANER VEHICLES**

Hybrid, electric and other low polluting private vehicles can have an important role in reducing emissions. The Council will, within the current economic climate, cut emissions from its own fleet where possible and promote the uptake of greener vehicles. The Council will also:

- Consider the feasibility of a Low Emission Zone (LEZ) in the City Centre
- Undertake vehicle emission testing
- Undertake the enforcement of vehicle idling powers and provide "No Idling" street signage

**Actions**

The Council will demonstrate best practice in the purchase and operation of its own fleet and encourage bus and taxi operators, businesses and car owners to operate cleaner vehicles.

**WHAT IS A LOW EMISSIONS ZONE (LEZ) ?**

A Low Emissions Zone (LEZ) is a geographically defined area where the most polluting vehicles are restricted, deterred or discouraged from access and use.

**3 ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE**

The construction of new roads may improve air quality by the removal of traffic from congested areas, however this may be offset by a deterioration in air quality along new routes. Road building may also encourage greater car usage and cause an increase in greenhouse gas emissions. Air quality modelling of several of the proposed infrastructure measures, such as the Third Don Crossing, did not predict an overall positive effect on air quality, however the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR) and Union Street pedestrianisation will improve air quality in the AQMAs.

**Actions**

The Council will consider road building/junction alterations that will reduce congestion and improve air quality.