

Improving air quality



Poor air quality in Lambeth is detrimental to health, particularly for older people, children, those with heart and lung conditions and those living in areas with higher levels of deprivation.

Planning policies need to address air pollution caused by the construction and operation of residential and commercial buildings in the borough. Developers should mitigate the negative impacts of their developments on air quality. This needs to work alongside other policies that contribute to improving air quality, such as on transport, green infrastructure and waste.



What you told us

- Poor air quality is a concern across many parts of Lambeth.
- Major developments, developments in areas of poor air quality and developments that could increase road traffic on busy roads should be accompanied by an Air Quality Assessment.
- Measures that would improve air quality include tree planting and more green infrastructure, encouraging public transport and making car use more difficult, and enclosing construction sites in order to contain emissions.

What our evidence tells us

- The entire borough is an Air Quality Management Area due to nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM₁₀) emissions exceeding acceptable limits.
- There are five Air Quality Focus Areas in Lambeth due to their high levels of pollution and human exposure, all lying across major transport corridors. These are the A23 from Brixton to Streatham; Kennington Oval/Camberwell New Road (A202)/ Kennington Park Road (A3); Vauxhall Cross; Clapham Road (A3); and Waterloo Road.
- The main sources of emissions in the borough are road transport, residential and commercial buildings and construction sites.
- Poor air quality has greater negative impacts on vulnerable people such as the old, young and those with health conditions.





Improving air quality

What we are proposing to do

- We think the new London Plan policy on air quality sets out a good approach for Lambeth – so we propose to use this to assess planning applications in the borough.
- The new London Plan policy requires Air Quality Assessments for all major developments and requires all developments to be at least Air Quality Neutral. Developments in Opportunity Areas like Waterloo and Vauxhall must be Air Quality Positive.
- Other Local Plan policies on transport, environment, green infrastructure and waste will also contribute to improving air quality in the borough.
- Make developers aware of Lambeth's Air Quality Focus Areas and the location of 'sensitive receptors' like schools, nurseries and old people's homes, so these are taken into account when they design developments.

Your chance to shape Lambeth's future

Find out how to have your say on the Draft Revised Lambeth Local Plan at lambeth.gov.uk/draftrevisedlocalplan2018

Comments should be made between 22 October and 17 December 2018.

