







Air quality in Fife

Good air quality is essential for our health. It also helps make Fife a pleasant place to live, work and visit.

Like all Scottish councils, we have a legal duty to monitor the air quality in our area to make sure it meets health related objectives set by the Scottish Government. Where these objectives are not being met, we must take action.

Fife's air quality is generally good, however some areas have higher levels of air pollutants than others. This is mainly due to the volume of traffic on the roads.

Air quality in the Bonnygate

Our monitoring results have shown that, while the air quality in Cupar is generally good, levels of two pollutants, nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and fine particles (PM₁₀), were found to exceed air quality objectives in the Bonnygate area.

The high volume of traffic in the narrow section of the Bonnygate has led to the increased levels of these pollutants in the area.

What we are doing

We are already acting to improve air quality in the area. After declaring the Bonnygate area an Air Quality Management Area in 2008 we produced a draft Action Plan detailing our proposals for improving the local air quality. The boundary of this area is shown on the map overleaf.

We also held a series of workshops and produced a questionnaire to get the views of the local public and businesses. We have now produced our final Action Plan taking into account your views and the comments we received.

The final Action Plan gives details of the measures we will use to improve the air quality in the Bonnygate.

Proposed measures

The measures have been grouped in to five main actions:

Action	Proposed measure
Increase awareness of local air quality.	 Air Quality Management Area awareness signs. Provide information relating to air quality and travel options.
Improve traffic flow in Bonnygate.	 Implement new Urban Traffic Management and Control system and make changes to pedestrian crossings. Parking Management and Control.
Work in partnership with local operators to reduce emissions from different vehicle types.	 Target reductions in emissions from the Council fleet and contract vehicles. Target reductions in emissions from buses. Target localised emissions from freight operations.
Link the Action Plan to other Council policies/strategies seeking to reduce emissions.	 Improve links with Local Transport Strategy/Area Transport Plan. Improve air quality links with Local Planning and Development Framework. Integrate air quality with other Council Strategies. Review and support proposed infrastructure changes that will contribute to delivering improvements in local air quality.
Work with local businesses and large institutions.	Travel Plans for large institutions and businesses.Promote cycling and walking.

Fife Council is already pressing ahead with these measures and in some cases we've already undertaken these.

This includes:

- Installation of new pedestrian crossings in Bonnygate linked to a new traffic management system.
- Continued procurement by the Council of low emission vehicles and assessment of alternative fuels and technologies.
- Continued implementation of Council's Travel and School Travel Plans.
- Increased awareness of air quality issues by improving our air quality web pages.

We will also be producing annual progress reports which will detail how we are working towards improving air quality in the Bonnygate. These will be published online at www.fifedirect.org.uk/airquality.

Want to find out more?

Further details about all the measures can be found in the full Action Plan document.

You can view this document online at www.fifedirect.org.uk/airquality. You can request a paper copy by calling 01592 583141 or e-mailing air.quality@fife.gov.uk