

**Blackpool Air Quality Strategy**

**Reference: DN620685**

**SPECIFICATION**

1. **Introduction**

Blackpool Council requires a suitably qualified and experienced consultant to develop a 10 year Air Quality Strategy for Blackpool that also focuses on wider outcomes. The Air Quality Strategy should explore the effects of air pollution towards all aspects of life in Blackpool, taking into consideration the social, economic and environmental implications of air pollution, and propose ways to address these issues.

In June 2019, Blackpool Council declared a climate emergency and committed to making the council’s activities net zero by 2030. This strategy will directly contribute to the delivery of the council’s Climate Emergency declaration and is established as part of the [Climate Emergency Action Plan](https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Planning-environment-and-community/Documents/Climate/C1682-Climate-Emergency-Action-Plan-Accessible.pdf) as action 16 ‘Develop Air Quality Strategy’ for Blackpool.

The Air Quality Strategy is also designed to sit alongside and compliment other strategic documentation within the Blackpool Council portfolio such as the:

* Local Transport Plan
* Tree Strategy
* Upcoming Town Centre Strategy
* Upcoming Electric Vehicle Strategy
* Physical Activity Strategy
* Healthy Weight Strategy
* Green infrastructure Strategy
* Tobacco Strategy

1. **Objective**

The overall objective of the strategy is to improve air quality in Blackpool and reduce the effects of air pollution on public health and the environment.

1. **National context**

Councils have statutory responsibilities under the Environment Act 1995 for Local Air Quality Management (LAQM). Local authorities must monitor, assess and take action to improve local air quality. Where a local authority identifies areas of non-compliance with the nationally set air quality objectives, and there is relevant public exposure, the council must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and draw up an action plan detailing remedial measures to address the problem.

Nationally, outdoor air pollution has decreased considerably in recent decades, due to a combination of legislation and technological advances. In January 2019, the UK Government published the [Clean Air Strategy 2019](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/770715/clean-air-strategy-2019.pdf) which sets out the Government’s plans for dealing with all sources of air pollution.

1. **Local Context**

Blackpool is a large seaside town located on the Fylde Coast in the county of Lancashire, North West England. Blackpool is fortunate in being sited on the Irish Sea coast with strong prevailing westerly winds serving to disperse a good measure of air pollutants generated. Despite this, tube based monitoring has demonstrated pollution issues requiring policy action to be taken (please note the successful consultant will have access to the diffusion tube data).

In the absence of heavy manufacturing industry, most of Blackpool’s emissions are from residences, commercial and retail property, and transport. Air quality in Blackpool is largely dominated by traffic emissions; the M55 terminates at the boundary of Blackpool, bringing traffic from the M6 efficiently into Blackpool. Large amounts of tourist traffic can often lead to congestion, particularly during peak seasons. The other main roads in Blackpool are the A583, A5073 and A5230 which lead off the M55, the A587 and the A584 which runs along the seafront.

Blackpool has one monitoring station that reports data on levels of NOx and PM10 into the Automatic Urban and Rural Network (AURN). There are also other non-automated monitoring sites in the town to monitor NO2 concentrations across the borough.

Blackpool Council has one Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) which is located around central Blackpool and has been in place since 2005. In this area, NO2 levels exceed the stipulated limits on occasion and individuals may be exposed to harmful levels of pollution.

Blackpool ranks as the most deprived authority in England, with 24.7% of the population living in income deprived households. The impacts of air pollution are disproportionate, with the greatest burden of air pollution often falling on the most deprived communities and the most vulnerable individuals. It is often (though not always) the most deprived communities that live closest to the busiest roads, therefore increasing their exposure to air pollution. Health effects of air pollution may be worse for people in deprived areas due to higher rates of existing cardiovascular and lung diseases, and interacting impacts of wider determinants of health e.g. housing.

Despite the challenges, Blackpool Council is already working towards raising awareness of, and promoting less polluting forms of travel. Examples include the expansion of the tram network to encourage public transport use and the installation of electric vehicle charging points in public car parks across Blackpool.

1. **Purpose of the Blackpool Air Quality Strategy**

The objectives of the Air Quality Strategy are to:

* Outline a vision to improve air quality in Blackpool;
* Gain a stronger understanding of air quality issues within Blackpool;
* Understand how Council activity currently influences air quality and identify areas whereby the Council, or by working in partnership with key stakeholders can take action to directly reduce emissions and/ or enable others to reduce their emissions ;
* Provide high quality information and guidance on local air quality to individuals, companies, and organisations which align with other strategic documents and that all stakeholders can buy into;
* Consider the disproportionate effects of air pollution across socio-economic groups;
* Suggest a relevant range of interventions based on the nature of the sites identified as potentially experiencing air quality issues;
* Outline mitigation methods that will reduce the effects of air pollution on human health and the environment;
* Promote sustainable modes of travel;
* Address the CO2 equivalents of some of the other air pollutants to minimise their impact on climate change;
* Act as a basis for bidding for future funding opportunities to assist with Air Quality initiatives.

1. **Requirements**

We expect the provider to deliver the following as part of the brief:

1. **Data Analysis**

The types of datasets that we would expect bidders to utilise or develop to inform the strategy for Blackpool include, but are not limited to:

* Air pollution levels in Blackpool (the provider will have access to diffusion tube data);
* The types of air pollutants in Blackpool;
* The sources of air pollutants in Blackpool;
* The impacts of poor air quality on public health;
* The environmental impacts of air pollution;
* PESTELGO (political, economic, societal, technological, environmental, legal, governmental and organisational) analysis.

1. **Stakeholder Engagement**

* Identify and involve key stakeholders including internal (Blackpool Council and wholly owned companies) and external parties (businesses and the community), including (but not limited to) Public Health, Highways and Traffic, and Blackpool Transport.
* Facilitate workshops to engage stakeholders, gather information on any factors that would affect the Air Quality strategy and suggest strategies for addressing these.
* Public engagement on the draft strategy will be undertaken by Infusion Research in order to ascertain whether residents and local stakeholders agree with the strategy, or whether they wish to provide other recommendations. The consultant will be able to provide their input on the survey questions asked. The consultant is expected to help reflect on the findings after the engagement period and make changes in line with the comments received.

1. **Strategic Direction**

* Identify and agree with Blackpool Council the Air Quality Strategy’s key objectives;
* Ensure Air Quality policies and priorities align with other local and national strategies;
* Enable behavior change through public education and encouraging people to take personal responsibility for changing their own behaviors to positively impact air pollution levels;
* Review current planned projects to determine what the impact on air quality would be and advise on amendments or alternatives to these to air quality remains at an agreed level of quality;
* Consider the necessary amendments that arise out of Blackpool’s town wide consultation on the draft strategy;
* Produce a final Strategy document outlining a set of Air Quality priorities, with a SMART action plan, costed where appropriate, clear targets and review periods.

1. **Delivery and Timescales**

We expect the provider to deliver a 10 year Air Quality Strategy for Blackpool. Although the requirements section outlines the steps that the successful bidder should follow in developing the council’s Air Quality strategy, this is not an exhaustive list. We welcome prospective contractors’ input through their proposal, where there may be further elements that need to be included.

Outline indicative timescales for production of the document are as follows:

* Early September 2022 – Literature and Policy review
* Mid-September 2022 – Develop quantitative evidence base and analysis
* Early October 2022 – Stakeholder Workshops
* Late October 2022 – Draft Air Quality Strategy and Action Plan
* Early-November 2022 – Consultation of Draft Strategy
* December 2022 - January 2023– Final Air Quality Strategy and Action Plan

1. **Strategy ownership**

The Air Quality Strategy is designed to sit alongside other strategic documentation within the Blackpool Council portfolio and will be led by the Council’s Environment Protection Team.

1. **Insurance**

* Employer’s (Compulsory) Liability Insurance = £5,000,000 (Five Million Pounds);
* Public Liability Insurance = £5,000,000 (Five Million Pounds);
* Professional Indemnity Insurance = £2,000,000 (Two Million Pounds).

1. **Industry Accreditations**

Chartered Institute of Environmental Health is preferred but not essential.

1. **Budget**

This is a fixed price of £15k.