



Sandbach Town Council welcomes Cheshire East restating its statutory obligations and objectives; with the following comments.

The policy notes vehicles are a significant impact on air quality in Cheshire East but does not specify focus on considerations on air quality in Cheshire East's obvious heavy traffic locations and its M6 corridor; and uniquely to Sandbach areas where substantial residential areas sit right next to the M6 and our town which is intersected by busy roads passing through residential areas.

The council policy omits to commit specifically how air quality policy will offer any support to a targeted strategy to reduce or limit traffic pollution by means of speed limits or weight limits to reduce or limit the source of NO₂ and CO₂ and particulate from cars in areas suffering deterioration in air quality that does not breach national guidance.

As current CE strategy seems not to consider this at all we welcome the proposal to

'Promote greater consistency across a range of policy areas for the achievement of improved local air quality, including Spatial Planning, Development Management, Highways and Strategic Infrastructure',

and note that to date Highways and Strategic Infrastructure has regrettably failed to be very visible in revisiting past decisions in respect of air quality where it has been obviously deteriorating but does not breach a national limit. Reductions in air quality does potentially impact well being policies of the council.

We believe Cheshire East Departments have apparently taken a view that national limits are available headroom that allow emissions increase and therefore improvement is not required if these are not breached. We refer specifically to Middlewich Road (station 283) and Old Mill Road (unmonitored) where developments and future developments are and will increase traffic with continuing reductions in air quality and vehicle pollution.

We hope you will consider these points and move the policy beyond statutory Air Quality requirements but proactively managing predictable consequential air quality deteriorations as a means to achieve not only a healthier living environment but a contribution to local and national Net zero goals.

As a council we are happy to offer any help and support to Cheshire East we can in improving Air Quality.

Kind regards,

Planning, Environments and Consultations Committee on behalf of Sandbach Town Council

