

# Tameside Peer Review Healthy Spaces Clean Air

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Place and External Relations Scrutiny  
November 2019

# Air Quality – setting the scene

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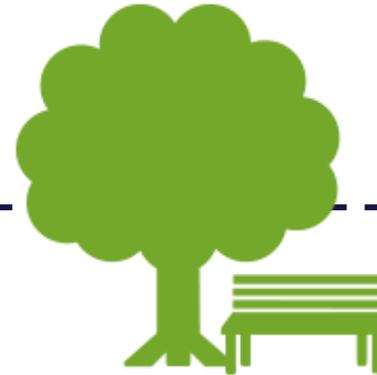
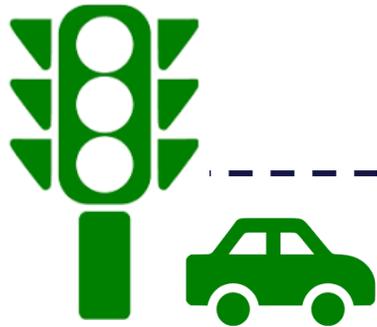
- **Air quality is the biggest environmental health risk in the UK, shortening lives and contributing to chronic illness**
- The current threat to health from poor air quality is largely from motor vehicle emissions - nitrogen dioxide (NOX), volatile organic matter (VOCs) and Particulate Matter (PM 10 and PM 2.5)
- An estimated 1.6 million life years will be lost in Greater Manchester in the coming century due to poor quality air (King's College London)
- The total NHS and social care cost due to PM2.5 and NO2 combined in 2017 was estimated to be £42.88m
- The Government's [Clean Air Strategy](#), sets out how the UK will meet international commitments to reduce emissions of five damaging air pollutants between 2020 and 2030
- The immediate air quality challenge is to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides in the areas where concentrations of these harmful gases currently exceeding legal limits.

# Scale of the challenge locally

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- Air pollution is having a significant impact on the health of people in Tameside, and contributes to 1,200 deaths each year in Greater Manchester
- At a regional level approximately 150 roads across Greater Manchester are exceeding legal limits of harmful nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) with **15 roads** exceeding legal limits in 2018 in Tameside
- On average one third of monitoring sites in Tameside exceeded the legal monitoring levels in 2016
- In line with the national picture, road traffic emissions producing nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), along major roads are the main source of pollution linked to compliance with air quality standards in Tameside
- 1 in 3 journeys under 1km are done in a car in Tameside – a challenge and an **opportunity**

# Creating healthy spaces is a collective effort



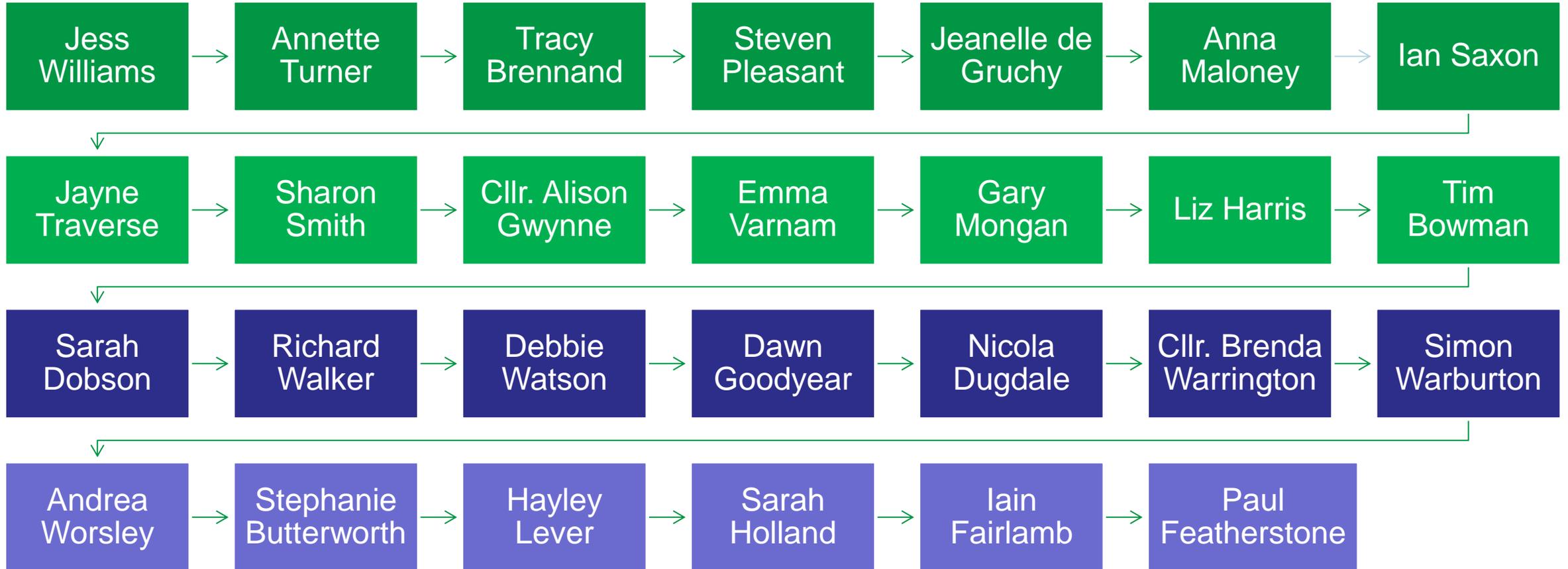
No one single organisation and intervention will improve air quality. Instead it will take a collective effort an action at a system level within Tameside to improve air quality

# Peer Review: 22nd – 25th July

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- **Method:** Telephone and face-to-face discussions
- **Scope:** to understand what more Tameside could do to improve air quality at a place-based level.
- **Phases:**
  1. Desk Research
  2. Identifying key lines of enquiry:
    - Understanding the strategic drivers for change in Tameside
    - Exploring the link between clean air and contribution of other portfolio areas
    - Capability and capacity requirements
  3. Twenty seven semi-structured interviews with senior system leaders

# Interviewees



# Strengths

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- Strong engagement across the local system with key stakeholders and partners
- Commitment and recognition that creating healthy spaces and places is a **collective responsibility**, across services and organisations e.g. schools, CCG, planning and leisure
- Strong and committed leadership
- **Mandate for action** through the Corporate Plan with Air Quality and active travel a priority
- NHS Long Term Plan opportunities through social prescribing and air pollution ambitions
- Strong partnerships and pooled budgets between the Council and CCG
- New approaches to physical activity and collaboration between public health and planning and new development – driven by strong leadership.

# Challenges

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- Piecemeal approach to clean air and healthy spaces with no systematic approach in place
- No secure funding streams and/or unsustainable pockets of funding on a project by project basis
- Impact of national policy driving regression - austerity and London clean air zones leading to high polluting vehicles being shifted north and no funding to incentivise change
- Significant challenges with the cost of cleaner technology
- Capacity and capability gap - limited resources to dedicate to healthy spaces and skills gap to address legacy issues related to car centric planning
- Limited policy levers to drive change at scale – privatised and inefficient public bus network.

# Recommendations

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1. Increase collaboration between teams
2. Agree a system narrative and vision, with clear goals, a system level plan and strengthened governance and leadership
3. Build on existing system-wide strategies and opportunities
4. Learn from and build on good practice in other areas
5. Strengthen data and intelligence, research and innovation
6. Engage the community
7. Focus on high-impact areas and quick wins

# Six service level areas where you can make the biggest impact

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1

Schools

2

Workforce

3

Traffic and  
Highways

4

Leading by  
example  
(Procurement)

5

Working with  
communities and  
existing assets

6

Design and  
Planning

# Next Steps

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- Present the findings at key boards and meetings for feedback and discussion
- Agree on an approach to take forward the recommendations and actions identified in this report

# Discussion

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- What are your views on the findings and recommendations?
- What would the key priorities of elected members be to improve healthy spaces in Tameside?