

Air Quality Strategy - Executive Summary

This strategy outlines the approaches that Surrey Heath Borough Council (SHBC) will take between April 2026 and March 2029 to manage and improve local air quality.

The Strategy has been developed in recognition of the legal requirement on the local authority to achieve and maintain the Air Quality Objectives under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, as amended by the Environment Act 2021, and to meet the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process. Following the revocation of the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), SHBC is required to develop a local air quality strategy.

This Strategy supports SHBC's 2024 – 2028 Strategy and the vision for 2030 to protect our environment and promote healthier communities. Recognising the strong links between air quality and climate change, the implementation of this strategy would contribute to the SHBC's 2024 Climate Change Action Plan.

Over the next three years, our strategic priorities for improvement actions are:

- Ongoing monitoring and assessment of local air quality
- Reduce emissions to air through regulatory controls
- Collaborating with partners to improve air quality and reduce the impact on climate change
- Raising awareness within communities to encourage behaviour changes that improve air quality

Specific actions to support these priorities are detailed in the strategy.

This document serves as an interim strategy. Under the Local Government Reorganisation, Surrey Heath is set to become part of West Surrey Council in April 2027, which presents a significant opportunity to bring together key functions including local transport and highways, public health, planning, and environmental services within a single organisation. It is anticipated that the priorities and actions set out in this Strategy will help inform and shape the future unitary approach to improve air quality in local areas.