

A 'Clean Air Zone' for York city centre

June 2018

Clean Air Zone Survey

We would like to hear your views on proposals to introduce a new Clean Air Zone for the area of York within and including the inner ring road.

Unlike other parts of the country where a Clean Air Zone is a mandatory requirement, City of York Council is proactively looking to introduce a Clean Air Zone. This will help to reduce the amount of traffic pollutants in York's city centre, which are mainly caused by diesel vehicles. These high levels of emissions can be harmful to your health.

We are looking at many ways to improve air quality in the city centre. One of these options is by working with bus operators to apply the proposed Clean Air Zone to local bus services. We know (through York's Third Air Quality Action Plan) that local bus services make up three per cent of the traffic but cause 27 per cent of the main pollutants in York.

By limiting the number of worst polluting diesel buses which can travel through the Clean Air Zone, this will reduce the amount of harmful pollutants to achieve big benefits.

We do understand, however, that the city's local bus services play a vital role in bringing people into York to work, shop or enjoy the many visitor attractions and amenities so it's important that we hear your views on these proposed changes through this survey. To find out more about which bus services could be affected, or for more background on this proposal, visit:

<http://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=733&MId=10195>

Why we need to reduce air pollution

We don't always see it but air pollution harms our health. Evidence shows that spending time in areas with high levels of air pollution can worsen asthma symptoms, damage lung function and cause other health problems such as heart attacks, strokes and low birth weight. This ill health means time off work and school and a cost to the NHS and our

economy. Poor air quality is also linked to about 40,000 early deaths in the UK every year.

City of York Council has a legal duty to improve air quality to protect health.

What are we already doing?

City of York Council already has several long term policies in place to manage traffic levels and reduce pollution. These aim to:

- Reduce the total number of vehicle trips - by encouraging walking, cycling and public transport use
- Reduce taxi emissions - by mandating emissions standards for taxis operators
- Increase electric vehicle take up by providing electric vehicle charging points, converting some buses from diesel to electric and transferring goods from HGVs to bicycles or lower emission vehicles
- Limit further pollution – by encouraging low emission developments
- Prevent unnecessary pollution by tackling vehicle idling
- Lead by example – by reducing pollution from council vehicles

City of York Council has already assisted bus operators to obtain grants for new electric Tour and Park & Ride buses. We now need to take further steps to reduce emissions from the rest of the local bus fleet.

Clean Air Zone Proposal

The council is proposing to introduce a Clean Air Zone (CAZ). This will require any individual bus operating on a public local bus service, into the Clean Air Zone, five or more times per day to be ultra low emission bus standard.

Ultra low emission buses (ULEBs) are those that have no exhaust emissions (e.g. electric buses) or have significantly reduced pollution emissions such as Euro VI diesel buses, gas powered and electric hybrid buses.

If you want to find out more about air quality in York visit www.jorair.co.uk.

To find out more about sustainable travel in York visit www.itravelyork.info

Next steps

The Council will consider responses to this consultation and a further report will be presented to a meeting of the Council's Executive later in 2018.

Questions about a Clean Air Zone for buses

1) Do you support the proposed Clean Air Zone (CAZ) for local buses operating in to York city centre?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

2) Do you agree that buses operating in to the city centre fewer than 5 times per day should be exempt from mandatory emission controls?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

3) Do you agree with the proposed area for the CAZ (within and including the inner ring road)?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

4) a) Do you think the timetable for introducing a bus based CAZ in York by 2020 is realistic?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

b) If your answer to question 4a above is 'no', when do you think would be a realistic timetable for introduction?

5) Who should be responsible for providing cleaner buses in York?
(Please select one or more of the following)

- Private bus companies
- City of York Council
- Central government
- Bus users (via increased fares)

6) How would you usually describe yourself (please tick all that apply)

- I am a York resident
- I am not a York resident
- I work for a local transport operator (including bus, taxi)
- I work in York city centre
- I am a CYC employee
- I have a health condition which affected by poor air quality
- I am responding on behalf of an organisation (*Please name*)

7) How concerned are you about current air quality in York?

- Very concerned
- Slightly concerned
- Not at all concerned
- I have no opinion on air quality

8) Do you think that the proposed CAZ should only apply to local bus services?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please use this space to give any reasons or additional information to support your answers above or any other comments you have about the CAZ proposal.