

Dear Councillors

This is a matter of urgency regarding coronavirus and public health. The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Air Pollution has released a strategy document regarding air pollution in the UK. <https://appgaq.files.wordpress.com/2020/05/clean-air-exit-strategy.pdf>

Derby City Council **must** implement urgent transport changes **now** to keep air pollution at safe levels or risk a second peak of the virus. More information is below plus a link to the news article on the report.

**Please will you raise this as a matter of urgency with the council. Especially as Derby City Council will need to revise the draft air quality strategy which was written pre-COVID-**

**19. [https://www.derby.gov.uk/media/derbycitycouncil/contentassets/documents/environmentalprotection/ED11928\\_Derby%202019%20AQAP\\_Draft\\_Issue%208%20Final.pdf](https://www.derby.gov.uk/media/derbycitycouncil/contentassets/documents/environmentalprotection/ED11928_Derby%202019%20AQAP_Draft_Issue%208%20Final.pdf)**

"Air pollution must be kept at low levels to help avoid a second peak of coronavirus infections, according to a cross-party report from MPs.

There is growing evidence from around the world linking exposure to dirty air and increased infections and deaths from Covid-19. Lockdowns cut air pollution levels in many places, but the MPs said measures were needed to ensure it remains low.

The report is based on evidence from scientists, businesses and local authorities and proposes a series of actions, including the continuation of home working, increased cycle lanes and training, more frequent public transport services to avoid crowding and the phasing out of wood and coal burning in homes. It also urges the rollout of clean air zones, currently delayed by the pandemic, and a scrappage scheme for dirty vehicles.

The launch of the report also revealed new evidence of a biological mechanism that could explain how air pollution increases Covid-19 infections and the suggestion that pollution could help explain why certain minority ethnic groups have been more affected by the virus.

We need a wide-ranging air quality response as we emerge from lockdown and not an accentuated Covid-19 second peak because people get into their cars instead of using public transport or working from home," said MP Geraint Davies, chair of the all-party parliamentary group on air pollution.

"Some proposals can be introduced immediately and will help to ensure that a second peak does not overwhelm the NHS," he said. "All will deliver cleaner air over subsequent years to help to ensure better public health and greater resilience against future pandemics."

[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/may/29/cut-air-pollution-avoid-second-coronavirus-peak-mps-urge?CMP=Share\\_AndroidApp\\_Copy\\_to\\_clipboard&fbclid=IwAR2Y5Nwty6hHu4rdAafZL LjQIppdv0BogS3u1nhVGK2q6WhkWu1mdh9HEjU](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/may/29/cut-air-pollution-avoid-second-coronavirus-peak-mps-urge?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Copy_to_clipboard&fbclid=IwAR2Y5Nwty6hHu4rdAafZL LjQIppdv0BogS3u1nhVGK2q6WhkWu1mdh9HEjU)