

Cabinet Meeting: Monday, 14 April 2025

Question from: Jane Pugh

Question to: _____ Councillor Durrans, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Public Services and Communities

QUESTION

Sowerby Bridge has higher levels of respiratory conditions such as Asthma and COPD and Sowerby Bridge was declared an Air Quality Management Area in 2006 since when NO₂ levels have never been compliant with Air Quality Objectives.

The CMBC Air quality Annual Status Report 2024 only has data up to and including the end of 2023. As the public should be able to access, to be aware of current levels of PM₁₀'s, PM 2.5's and NO₂, how can members of the public find out what the air pollution levels are in Sowerby Bridge.

Response

The Annual Status Report (ASR) is produced in accordance with DEFRA's annual reporting requirements. The report is produced annually as the NO₂ data is analysed over a 12 month period to allow for annual mean pollutant concentrations to be identified.

The DEFRA UK AIR website <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/air-pollution/>

provides air quality forecasts issued on a national scale but can also be searched by postcode. Forecasts are a prediction of the Daily Air Quality Index at each of 5800 locations over the UK.

Air pollution is described on a scale of 1-10 where 1 corresponds to 'Low' pollution and 10 corresponds to 'Very High' pollution using the Daily Air Quality Index (DAQI). The DAQI also provides health advice and recommended actions for short term exposure to air pollution.

Calderdale has been active in a West Yorkshire wide project which has meant five PM_{2.5} sensors have been installed across the borough in January 2025. As part of the project a live public portal is being developed which will allow residents to access the data from the real time monitors in the coming few months. This portal will be advertised on the Council's web pages for air quality and will allow residents to view the air quality data live.

The data from the real time monitors located in Sowerby Bridge, Hebden Bridge and Salterhebble all record live data, however this is handled through a third party company and publishing this data live is not something for which the Council currently pays.