

# Integrated Impact Assessment (Final) – Summary Report

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## 1. Title of proposal

Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) for Salamander Street Air Quality Management Area.

## 2. What will change as a result of this proposal?

The Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) has been produced as part of our statutory duties required by the Local Air Quality Management framework. It outlines the action we will take to improve air quality in the Salamander Street Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) which has been declared for both the annual mean and 24-hour mean PM<sub>10</sub> objectives.

The plan sets out how the council and its partners will continue to build on the progress made on improving air quality in Edinburgh, with the aim of meeting and maintaining the statutory objectives for PM<sub>10</sub> which will allow the Salamander Street AQMA to be revoked as soon as conditions allow.

## 3. Briefly describe public involvement in this proposal to date and planned

The Environment Act 1995 provides the statutory basis for consultation and liaison in respect to AQAPs. The Scottish Government expects local authorities to continue to work closely and exchange data with other authorities, agencies, businesses and the local community to improve air quality.

A steering group has been involved in the development of the actions in the AQAP to date. Members include officers from all the relevant local authority departments and representative officers from key stakeholders including Scottish Government, NHS Health Board, SEPA and the largest landowner Forth Ports and Forth Green Free Port.

Politicians were engaged through political briefings prior to and during the statutory consultation period.

Schedule 11 of the 1995 Act requires local authorities to consult with the following, during the statutory consultation:

- Scottish Ministers
- SEPA
- All neighbouring local authorities
- Any National Park authority within or adjacent to the local authority area
- Other public authorities as appropriate
- Bodies appearing to the authority to be representative of persons with business interests in the area to which the review or action plan in question relates
- Such other bodies or persons as the authority considers appropriate

**4. Is the proposal considered strategic under the Fairer Scotland Duty?**

No

**5. Date of IIA**

25<sup>th</sup> March 2025

**6. Who was present at the IIA? Identify facilitator, lead officer, report writer and any employee representative present and main stakeholder (e.g. Council, NHS)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Date of IIA training</b>
Shauna Clarke (Lead officer & facilitator)	Environmental Health Officer	10-9-20
Derek Martin (report writer)	Higher Enforcement Officer	5-2-25
Karen Robertson	Senior Planning officer	
Greg McDougall	Senior Transport Officer	
Andrew Campbell	Environmental Health Officer	
Andrew Caldwell	Business Growth & Talent Development Lead	
Laura Marshall	Senior Planning officer (attending in the capacity of equality, diversity and rights advisor)	

## 7. Evidence available at the time of the IIA

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
<p>Data on populations in need – where available use disaggregated data</p>	<p><a href="#">Edinburgh By Numbers 2024</a></p> <p>Leith electoral ward, key facts: <a href="#">Scottish Government Statistics</a></p> <p>City Plan 2030 <a href="https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/29997/proposed-plan-written-statement">https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/29997/proposed-plan-written-statement</a></p> <p>Edinburgh School Catchment Zones: <a href="https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/catchmentmap">https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/catchmentmap</a></p>	<p>In the ten years to 2023, Edinburgh’s population grew by 8.4% from an estimated 482,850 to an estimated 523,250 people. In the same period Scotland’s population grew by 3.2%.</p> <p>The population of those age groups most vulnerable to the effects of air pollution, children (0-15) and older people (65+) made up 14.5% and 16.1% of the population of Edinburgh, respectively, in 2023.</p> <p>The number of people in the 65+ age group in 2023 was 84,000, an increase of 16.7% from 2013. There was no change in the population of the 0-15 age group.</p> <p>The population in the Leith electoral ward was 24,544 in 2021. The number of dwellings in the area increased by 11% between 2014 and 2021.</p> <p>There were 1,364 residential properties within the Salamander Street AQMA in 2019.</p> <p>There are two Primary Schools and one High School close to the AQMA and the catchment area may have students that live in or travel through the AQMA.</p>

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
Data on service uptake/access	City Plan 2030 <a href="https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/29997/proposed-plan-written-statement">https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/29997/proposed-plan-written-statement</a>	City Plan 2030s objectives for transport involve the expansion of active travel and public transport, as well as a reduction in car emissions and usage. These are citywide and will include those residents in the Salamander Street AQMA.
Data on socio-economic disadvantage e.g. low income, low wealth, material deprivation, area deprivation	Scottish Index for Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) <a href="https://simd.scot/">https://simd.scot/</a>  <a href="#">End Poverty Edinburgh Annual Report 2024</a>	The Great Junction Street data zone is within the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland. This area is immediately adjacent to the Salamander Street AQMA.  As of 2023, 17% of people and 20% of all children in Edinburgh were living in poverty. Child poverty is 30% in Leith.
Data on equality outcomes	<a href="https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/air/air-pollution-and-air-quality/">https://www.environment.gov.scot/our-environment/air/air-pollution-and-air-quality/</a>  Public Health Scotland: <a href="#">Outdoor air pollution and health</a>  <a href="#">Census 2022: Health</a>	Air pollution can affect everyone, but especially the most vulnerable – the very young, the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions. Air pollution is often worst in inner city deprived areas, worsening existing inequalities in local environment quality and human health  20.2% in the Leith Electoral Ward have a long-term health problem or disability that limits day-to-day activities to some degree.
Research/literature evidence	Cleaner Air For Scotland: <a href="https://www.gov.scot/">https://www.gov.scot/</a>	There is scientific consensus that exposure to air pollution is harmful to people's health.

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
	<p><a href="#">t/publications/cleaner-air-scotland-2-towards-better-place-everyone/</a></p> <p>Public Health Scotland: <a href="#">Outdoor air pollution and health</a></p> <p><a href="#">Environmental Standards Scotland: Air Quality Investigation Improvement Report</a></p> <p><a href="#">Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health: Every breath we take, the lifelong impact of air pollution</a></p> <p><a href="#">COMEAP: Cardiovascular disease and air pollution</a></p> <p><a href="#">COMEAP: Long term exposure to air pollution, effect on mortality.</a></p> <p><a href="#">Particulate Matter in Scotland – an assessment of the evidence, ambition</a></p>	<p>An estimated 1,800 to 2,700 deaths in Scotland are attributed to long-term exposure to air pollution</p> <p>The evidence points strongly to an association between long-term exposure to air pollution - including particulates - and effects on all-cause mortality.</p> <p>There is a clear association between both daily and long-term average concentrations of air pollutants and effects on the cardiovascular system. The heart, brain, hormone systems and immunity can all be harmed by air pollution.</p> <p>Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS) advise that the statutory objectives for PM should be tightened. Also, attention needs to</p>

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	<a href="#">and prospects, February 2024</a>	be broadened to other sectors - which is the case with the Salamander Street AQMA - rather than focusing solely on transport.
Public/patient/client experience information	LEZ Report on Public Consultations 2019: <a href="https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/30524/low-emission-zones-consultation-2019-summary-of-findings-scott-porter-2019">https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/30524/low-emission-zones-consultation-2019-summary-of-findings-scott-porter-2019</a>	Findings from the Edinburgh Low Emission Zone consultation in 2019 showed that clean air is important to all
Evidence of inclusive engagement of people who use the service and involvement findings	As above	As above
Evidence of unmet need		See above - range of evidence on public exposure to unacceptable levels of air pollution
Good practice guidelines	Local Air Quality Management Policy and Technical Guidance: <a href="https://www.scottishairquality.scot/laqm/technical-guidance">https://www.scottishairquality.scot/laqm/technical-guidance</a>  Cleaner Air for Scotland 2: <a href="https://www.gov.scot/publications/cleaner-air-scotland-2-towards-better-place-everyone/">https://www.gov.scot/publications/cleaner-air-scotland-2-towards-better-place-everyone/</a>	National air quality guidance and guidelines  The Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 strategy (2021) provides national policy support for a precautionary public health approach to air pollution.

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
	<p><a href="#">Institute of Air Quality management: Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction</a></p> <p>Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) in London: <a href="#">Practical Guide</a></p> <p>Greater London Authority: <a href="#">Supplementary Planning Guidance</a></p>	<p>Assessment guidance and site-specific mitigation measures</p> <p>Guidance on the London NRMM Low Emission Zone</p> <p>The control of dust and emissions during construction and demolition</p>
Carbon emissions generated/reduced data	<p><a href="#">Air Quality Expert Group (2020) Impacts of Net Zero Pathways on future Air Quality in the UK</a></p> <p><a href="#">2030 Climate Strategy</a></p>	<p>There is a link between emissions of greenhouse gases and poor air quality. The co-emission of greenhouse gases and short-lived air pollution is well established in some sectors, including fossil fuel electricity production, industrial manufacturing, space heating, transportation and agriculture. National and local commitments to a net zero greenhouse gas budget create major opportunities for delivering additional economic and environmental co-benefits including an improvement in ambient air quality, and vice versa.</p> <p>The 2030 Climate Strategy sets out a series of strategic actions across a number of priority areas which will help reduce pollution. In particular, supporting behaviour change, actions around accelerating energy efficiency in</p>

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
	<p><a href="#">Climate Ready Edinburgh Implementation Plan with appendices.pdf</a></p> <p>The Council's <a href="#">2024 Air Quality Action Plan</a></p>	<p>homes and buildings, developing sustainable heat and energy generation and reducing the need for fossil or solid fuels, as well as supporting business transition, should also reduce emissions of local pollutants.</p> <p>The Council has identified the importance to communicate the links between climate change and local air quality in order to support climate change policy.</p> <p>The 2024 AQAP discourages the uptake and use of biomass in commercial settings through Planning Policy to ensure no negative impacts on local air quality and to support the transition to low carbon technologies.</p>
Environmental data	<p>City of Edinburgh Council, Air Quality Annual Progress Report (APR), 2024: <a href="https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/12967/local-air-quality-management-reports">https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/12967/local-air-quality-management-reports</a></p> <p>Online data: <a href="https://www.scottishairquality.scot/latest/summary">https://www.scottishairquality.scot/latest/summary</a></p> <p><a href="#">Detailed Assessment of Particles for City of Edinburgh Council 2016</a></p>	<p>Monitoring of particulates is undertaken using near real-time analysers at eight monitoring stations in Edinburgh, with two of the stations in the Salamander Street AQMA: Tower Street and Salamander Street.</p> <p>The Salamander Street AQMA for PM<sub>10</sub> was declared in January 2017 following a detailed assessment of particles in Edinburgh. This suggested that</p>

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
	<p><a href="#">SEPA licence search</a></p> <p><a href="#">SEPA Environmental Performance Assessment Scheme</a></p> <p>Scottish inventory: <a href="#">National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory</a></p> <p><a href="#">London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory, 2019</a></p>	<p>activities within and adjacent to Leith Docks were a contributory factor to elevated PM<sub>10</sub> in the area.</p> <p>The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) administer Pollution Prevention and Control licences and Waste Management Licences for industry in and around the AQMA.</p> <p>SEPA are developing a performance Assessment Scheme to promote high levels of compliance and to make authorisation holders remedy non-compliance as quickly and as effectively as possible. It will also allow for continuous reporting rather than relying on year-end reporting.</p> <p>The Scottish air pollution inventory estimates that in 2021 the construction sector contributed 22% of total PM<sub>10</sub>.</p> <p>The London atmospheric emissions inventory estimates that in 2025 the construction sector will contribute 33% of total PM<sub>10</sub>, which includes emissions from construction dust and exhaust dust from Non-Road Mobile Machinery – NRMM (site machinery &amp; vehicles).</p>
Risk from cumulative impacts		The aim of the AQAP is to have a positive impact on public health by reducing particulate air pollution. Cumulative impacts e.g. long-term exposure to PM <sub>10</sub> in residential

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you with regard to different groups who may be affected and to the environmental impacts of your proposal
	<a href="#">City of Edinburgh Council Planning Portal</a>	<p>areas should be lowered with the planned actions.</p> <p>There is a risk from the cumulative impact of development. Extensive residential building (receptors) in and around the AQMA. In recent years there have been numerous developments under construction, consented or pending. This consists of 1,164 new dwellings and 837 student housing beds. Planning application reference numbers: 14/05127/FUL, 18/08206/FUL, 20/00465/FUL, 20/01313/FUL, 24/01798/FUL, 23/06745/FUL, 24/01341/PPP, 19/02778/FUL</p> <p>Risk of dust and increases in particulate matter during the demolition &amp; construction phases, as well as introducing new residential exposure (receptors). One site purely for social housing.</p>
Other (please specify)	N/A	N/A
Additional evidence required	No	For many recently completed residential developments and those under construction in the area, data such as population, deprivation and health will not be available in the time scale of this proposal.

**8. In summary, what impacts were identified and which groups will they affect?**

<b>Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights and Children’s Rights</b>	<b>Affected populations</b>
<p><b>Positive</b>            Air quality mainly affects vulnerable groups e.g. young/old, people with health problems hence improvements in air quality will be positive for these groups</p> <p>The proposed actions will improve air quality in the whole area and increase the quality of public space for people living in or travelling through the AQMA. Improvements in air quality will provide benefits for all, delivering a better environment which will help to promote a healthier lifestyle.</p> <p>The proposed actions should not differentially affect populations according to social/economic status. This will include those in social housing who may have no choice where they live and may be unable to move away from the area.</p> <p>Proposals that seek to reduce motorised traffic and encourage public transport and active travel (sustainable transport) will improve air quality and provide easier access to public transport. There are direct physical health benefits from people being more active (when travelling), as well as potential wellbeing and mental health benefits. The plan actively supports the council’s wider transport strategies and actions.</p> <p>The proposed forum with the council, housing developers and landowners to include engagement with the local community regarding concerns, pollution etc. will provide a forum for more direct communication between members of the public and the actions in their area that affect them. It will help to show that the council is carrying out duties in respect to delivering improvements in the environment of the city.</p>	<p>Older people, young people and children, people with health problems</p> <p>All population groups</p> <p>All population groups, Socio-economic disadvantaged</p> <p>All population groups,</p> <p>Local community</p>

<b>Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights and Children’s Rights</b>	<b>Affected populations</b>
<p><b>Negative</b></p> <p>Proposals that seek to reduce motorised traffic and encourage public transport and active travel may be detrimental to those people who rely on private transport. Also, any future planning proposals to curtail parking in commercial areas could have negative impacts to those working in the area and needs to be considered during e.g. development work for the City Plan 2040.</p> <p>The proposal to promote the Scottish Air Quality Know and Respond system via the Scottish Air Quality website to communicate air quality matters may be an issue for certain groups of people as regards ease of access; for instance, physical/learning disabilities, older people, equipment availability to access websites. However, the national website is already in place providing data and alerts to the citizens of Edinburgh and these proposals do not introduce anything new as regards data access.</p>	<p>Disabled, shift workers</p> <p>Older people, disabled, socio-economic disadvantaged</p>

<b>Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts</b>	<b>Affected populations</b>
<p><b>Positive</b></p> <p>Efficient use of the junction at the dock entrance and encouraging public transport and active travel will lead to fewer polluting emissions, in terms of local pollutants (nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter), as well as greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Traffic reduction is also likely to help reduce noise</p> <p>Action to use the AQAP as part of the evidence base to feed into the City Plan 2040 will help to reinforce the idea that air quality should be a significant factor when planning development in and around Leith Docks, as well as the city as a whole. This will also help to encourage improvements in air quality as the whole city develops.</p>	<p>All population groups but especially older people and children</p> <p>All population groups</p> <p>All population groups</p>

<b>Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts</b>	<b>Affected populations</b>
<p>Strengthening links between the council and SEPA will help to ensure licencing of industrial processes considers the special set of circumstances of operating within an AQMA, which can only be beneficial to the area and the surrounding environment.</p> <p>All actions are intended to reduce particulate matter which will reduce particles being deposited on soil or being washed into water courses. Particulate matter can contain potentially toxic materials, the reduction in foreign particles entering the biosphere may help to protect biodiversity, especially as Leith foreshore is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)</p> <p>Hotter drier summers predicted in the future due to climate change promote conditions for dust suspension. These proposals will help to mitigate the issue in the area.</p> <p>The action to engage businesses in/around Leith Docks as regards working practices to control dust generation may have additional co-benefits, in the encouragement and promotion of sustainable use of resources in other aspects of operations.</p>	<p>All population groups</p> <p>All population groups</p> <p>All population groups</p> <p>All population groups</p>
<p><b>Negative</b></p> <p>Dust suppression techniques employed by construction in the area or industrial processes in Leith Docks are likely to increase water consumption. However, increased consumption of water for dampening is preferable to dust generation which effects everyone in the area.</p>	<p>Business community</p>
<b>Economic</b>	<b>Affected populations</b>
<p><b>Positive</b></p> <p>A more pleasant environment will encourage greater use of public space, increasing footfall to the area which may provide opportunities for local businesses.</p>	<p>Local business community</p>

Economic	Affected populations
<p><b>Negative</b></p> <p>Proposals to engage with Forth Ports regarding changes in handling and storage of materials may introduce costs to Forth Ports and businesses using the docks.</p> <p>The proposed implementation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan for future development to include measures to control dust could incur costs. However, this is not viewed as prohibitive and should be good industry practice.</p>	<p>Business community</p>

**9. Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors and if so how will equality, human rights including children’s rights, environmental and sustainability issues be addressed?**

Yes. It is possible that some or part of the actions in the plan would be undertaken by contractors. Equality, human rights and environmental and sustainability issues would be addressed through the general terms and conditions of the Council’s contract requirements.

**10. Consider how you will communicate information about this policy/ service change to children and young people and those affected by sensory impairment, speech impairment, low level literacy or numeracy, learning difficulties or English as a second language? Please provide a summary of the communications plan.**

Some of the actions specifically relate to public communication led activity, therefore as they are developed detailed consideration will need to be given to specific needs.

**11. Is the plan, programme, strategy or policy likely to result in significant environmental effects, either positive or negative? If yes, it is likely that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be required and the impacts identified in the IIA should be included in this. See section 2.10 in the Guidance for further information.**

An SEA screening process was undertaken and as the Responsible Authority, City of Edinburgh Council are of the opinion that an SEA is not required. The screening exercise showed that the actions were likely to have slight positive impacts, but the effects were not expected to be significant. SEPA, Nature Scot and Historic Environment Scotland are of the same opinion and agreed that environmental impacts are unlikely to be significant.

**12. Additional Information and Evidence Required**

Additional evidence will be added to the IIA, if required, as it becomes available.

It should be noted that this IIA was completed in 2025 and therefore uses an older version of the IIA template compared to the updated version as of March 2026.

**13. Specific to this IIA only, what recommended actions have been, or will be, undertaken and by when? (these should be drawn from 7 – 11 above) Please complete:**

Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include financial implications, mitigating actions and risks of cumulative impacts)	Who will take them forward (name and job title)	Deadline for progressing	Review date
No specific actions identified as a result of the IIA			

**14. Are there any negative impacts in section 8 for which there are no identified mitigating actions?**

Possible increase in water consumption for use in dust suppression; however, this should be classed as good industry practice.

**15. How will you monitor how this proposal affects different groups, including people with protected characteristics?**

Actions will be monitored via the Annual Progress Report (APR) produced by the council as part of its statutory Local Air Quality Management duties. The APR is submitted to the Scottish Government, the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (UK Government) and the City of Edinburgh’s Transport and Environment Committee. Any issues will be picked up through this process.

**16. Sign off by Head of Service**

**Name**            **Deborah Paton**

**Date**            **18 May 2026**

## **17. Publication**

Completed and signed IIAs should be sent to:  
[integratedimpactassessments@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:integratedimpactassessments@edinburgh.gov.uk) to be published on the  
Council website [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/impactassessments](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/impactassessments)

**Edinburgh Integration Joint Board/Health and Social Care**  
[sarah.bryson@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.bryson@edinburgh.gov.uk) to be published at  
[www.edinburghhsc.scot/the-ijb/integrated-impact-assessments/](http://www.edinburghhsc.scot/the-ijb/integrated-impact-assessments/)