

TELEGRAPH NEWS

SHEFFIELD UNLIKELY TO BE BELOW LEGAL POLLUTION LIMIT UNTIL 2020 'AT THE EARLIEST'

Poor air quality linked to hospital admissions

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Sheffield's poor air quality is closely associated with hospital admissions for heart disease and breathing problems, a new report has said.

Analysis which has gone before Sheffield Council's Health and Wellbeing Board said there is a 'strong correlation' between hospital admissions for circulatory and heart diseases, and average levels of pollution in different areas of the city.

Poorer parts of Sheffield and communities living by busy roads are among the worst-affected by the problem.

Dr Olufunke Adedeji, a public health consultant, said pollution is a 'major public health issue for the city', with an estimated 300 to 500 people dying prematurely each year due to poor air quality.

The report said: "Air quality is worse along busy road corridors and in the more disadvantaged areas. Poor air quality is therefore a significant contributor to health inequalities in the city."

It added: "Analysis of Sheffield's hospital admissions for 'circulatory diseases' and for coronary heart disease also both show a strong correlation with the annual average concentration of small particulate matter in the relevant neighbourhoods."

Sheffield is currently missing EU air quality targets and

the report said it is 'not likely' to be below the legal limit until 2020 at the earliest.

The report said road transport is the largest single contributor to Sheffield's nitrogen dioxide emissions and without 'significant investment',

Funding bid for green vehicles

Sheffield has been shortlisted for a share of a £35m fund to promote the use of ultra-low emission vehicles.

It is one of 12 cities in the running for the national scheme, with the winners due to be announced in the autumn. If successful, money will be spent on providing cleaner buses and taxis in the city.

pollution limits will continue to be breached in Sheffield for the foreseeable future.

It added: "The success of the air quality action plan is dependent on a major shift away from the use of diesel fuel in the urban area of Sheffield."

The report said funding is needed for ultra-low emission vehicles to help tackle the problem.

Sheffield Council has been running an Air Aware campaign aimed at city drivers, with electronic signs around the city promoting the idea of driving less and not using diesel cars if possible.

Drivers are also being encouraged to make sure their tyres are properly inflated to help them reduce their fuel consumption.

Pointing the way into city Quarter

Sheffield's Antiques Quarter near Abbeydale Road has been put on the map with new brown signs to illustrate its cultural significance.

Information points are also set to be established, along with art projects including mosaics, lettering and murals on key buildings and gable ends. Banners are also being created.



Brown signs have been put up

Re-enactments at popular festival

Plans have been confirmed for the return of one of Sheffield's biggest annual festivals.

The Lowedges Festival in Greenhill Park will happen on Sunday, August 9.

This year re-enactments that have featured at Norfolk Park's Sheffield Fayre in the past will be included in the Lowedges event. Email stephen_rich@hotmail.co.uk to book a stall at the festival.

Community groups can replace buses

Community groups in Sheffield can now replace their minibuses after winning government money.

Pitsmoor and Shiregreen Community Transport, Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind in the city centre, Sheffield Dial a Ride in Uppertorpe and Totley-based Transport 17 have all secured a slice of the funds. The winners each receive a nine- to 16-seater minibus tailored to their needs.