

County Council Meeting – 8 December 2022**Question to Councillor Tagg
Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure
and Climate Change****By Councillor Pritchard**

Question

According to the most recent Air Quality Annual Status Report, at 5.3% Tamworth has the highest percentage of deaths attributable to airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5µm or less (PM2.5) within Staffordshire for adults over 30.

Obviously, a transition to EV vehicles would greatly benefit residents living next to busy roads. Could the Leader of the Council outline to me what the authority is doing to reduce PM2.5 rates in the air, as well as drive the rollout of on-street EV charging points in Tamworth?

Reply

Promotion of active travel and undertaking work to tackle air pollution are fundamental roles of the Council's Connectivity Team. I am aware that a third bid for [Air Aware](#) funding to the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs has been submitted. If successful, the Council will continue the fantastic work of this initiative and collaboratively work with colleagues at Tamworth BC to promote campaigns to reduce the number of single person journeys and to support people to walk and cycle more.

I am also pleased to hear that through an Active Travel Fund, £343,000 has been allocated this financial year to deliver improvements for walking and cycling in Amington. In line with Staffordshire's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, proposals to deliver a School Street, wider footways and traffic management measures are proposed.

A public EV charging infrastructure strategy for Staffordshire is due to be presented to Cabinet in January for adoption. The Strategy offers a great opportunity to develop a network of charge points and encourage the uptake of EVs across the county. I recognise that for residents without the ability to charge EVs off-street, a number of alternative options to home charging will be important in enabling a transition to EV use. The Council has a key role to play, and through working together with Tamworth BC

and local businesses, facilities at the rate and scale of delivery that the market requires will be rolled out. All these measures will contribute to the Council achieving carbon net zero by 2050 and improving the quality of life for residents through a reduction of noise and air quality impacts.

