



Suggested responses to the Sheffield and Rotherham Clean Air Zone consultation

Background to the consultation

Sheffield City Council and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council have been required by the UK Government to produce a plan to show how they will meet legal limits of air pollution in the shortest time possible. This requirement comes after a number of successful legal challenges against the UK Government by ClientEarth following ministers' failure to meet legal limits by the original deadline of 2010. The Councils' final air quality plan must meet legal tests set out by the High Court and more information on this can be found [here](#).

Sheffield City Council is currently consulting on the Councils' joint draft proposals until **Sunday 25 August**. Limited information has been provided on the [Clean Air Zone Consultation - Survey for Citizens webpage](#). Responses are being encouraged through the online survey but you can also email your response to cleanair@sheffield.gov.uk.

Unfortunately, the Councils' draft proposals do not go far enough. They don't even give any clear indication of when the measures put forward might bring air pollution levels within legal limits.

Your views really matter and we want as many of you to respond to as many questions as possible in order to encourage the Councils to be more ambitious for the sake of people's health. We know that responding to consultations can be difficult for some so we have produced this brief guide to help you ask the Councils to produce better plans.

We have provided suggested responses to five questions in [Sheffield City Council's Clean Air Zone consultation](#) which we think are key to sending a message to the Councils that the options under consideration do not go far or fast enough. This should take you between 5-10 minutes or a bit longer if you respond to all the other questions.

Remember, the deadline to make your voice heard about Sheffield and Rotherham's clean air plans is **Sunday 25 August**.

How to use this guide

Please respond to all questions, if you can, in the way that best reflects your views. The following are suggested responses for questions **5, 7, 13, 15, 19 and 20**, which you are welcome to use or adapt to reflect your own views. We have also provided advice for selecting your response to questions **3 and 22**.

Question 3

Please respond to this question in the way that best reflects your own views. However, it would be helpful to send a message to Sheffield City Council and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council that its residents feel strongly that that tackling air pollution should be a priority.

Question 5

We suggest selecting *'Neither agree nor disagree'* for this question if you are not opposed to the concepts of Clean Air Zones or vehicle bans but would like to see the actual proposals put forward by the Councils improved.

Question 7

You can use or adapt the following suggested text into the text box:

I don't think the Councils' proposals go far enough. The Councils should be adopting measures that are designed to ensure that legal limits are met in the shortest time possible at all locations across Sheffield and Rotherham. The Clean Air Zone boundary should surround the right area; be big enough to urgently tackle all locations suffering from illegal pollution levels and avoid the risk of problems being caused in other areas by the displacement of polluting vehicles. The class C Clean Air Zone put forward as part of this consultation will not deliver compliance with legal limits quickly enough, with illegal levels of pollution set to continue beyond 2021. I want the Councils to go further, by assessing the impact of all technologically feasible measures, including bigger and stronger Clean Air Zone options as part of a wider package of measures. The Councils should be committing to doing all they can to meet legal limits of air pollution in the shortest time possible, as well as reducing people's exposure as quickly as possible.

Question 13

We suggest selecting *'Should be subject to a CAZ charge'* for all six options listed to ensure that action is taken on all relevant sources of pollution. This will help contribute to reduce air pollution in the shortest time possible.

Question 15

You can use or adapt the following suggested text into the text box:

I don't think the Councils' proposals go far enough. The Councils should be adopting measures designed to ensure that legal limits are met in the shortest time possible at all locations across Sheffield and Rotherham. The class C Clean Air Zone proposed by the Councils would mean that illegal levels of pollution are likely to persist past 2021. I want the Councils to go further to protect the health of people in Sheffield and Rotherham, by assessing Clean Air Zone options that urgently address all sources of pollution, including private cars. In order to guarantee the greatest and fastest reduction in emissions, charges should be set at levels that are most likely to discourage the most polluting vehicles from entering the Clean Air Zone, based on the most robust analysis available. The Councils should also look to keep charging levels under regular review to ensure that they are working effectively as a deterrent and adjust them as necessary. In addition to deterring the most polluting vehicles from entering the Clean Air Zone, the Councils should be working with the UK Government to ensure that there is help and support for people on low incomes and small businesses to move on to cleaner forms of transport.

Question 19

We suggest selecting 'to a great extent' in response to this question. Our position is that restricting the most polluting private cars should be introduced if necessary to reduce air pollution in the shortest time possible.

Question 20

You can use or adapt the following suggested text into the text box:

I am disappointed by the Councils' proposals and by the lack of information provided in support of these. I do not believe that they will be enough to meet legal limits of air pollution in the shortest time possible and are therefore not prioritising people's health. I would like to see the Councils developing more ambitious proposals that address all the key sources of pollution, including private cars. This could include a bigger and better Clean Air Zone alongside a package of measures so that we can have fewer and cleaner vehicles on our roads. I would also like to see the Councils working with the UK Government to ensure there is help and support for people on low incomes and small businesses to move on to cleaner forms of transport.

Finally, I am disappointed by the Councils' proposals to decommission the Clean Air Zone in 2025. To maximise health benefits and set a long term path towards a cleaner and healthier city, the Councils should instead be considering how the Clean Air Zone could be strengthened, setting a path towards a zero emissions future.

Question 22

Please respond to this question in the way that best reflects your own views. However, our position is that the Councils have not provided relevant key information as part of the public consultation. They have not clearly described the major sources of pollution in Sheffield and Rotherham, nor have they indicated when the proposals they have put forward would deliver compliance with legal limits.

Thank you

Finally, do encourage your family, friends and colleagues to [respond to the consultation](#) by sharing this guide with them. The deadline to make your voice heard is **Sunday 25 August**.



The Clean Air Parents' Network is supported by the British Lung Foundation and ClientEarth. We are calling on all levels of government to take action to tackle illegal and harmful levels of air pollution to protect the health of people across the UK www.cleanairparents.org.uk