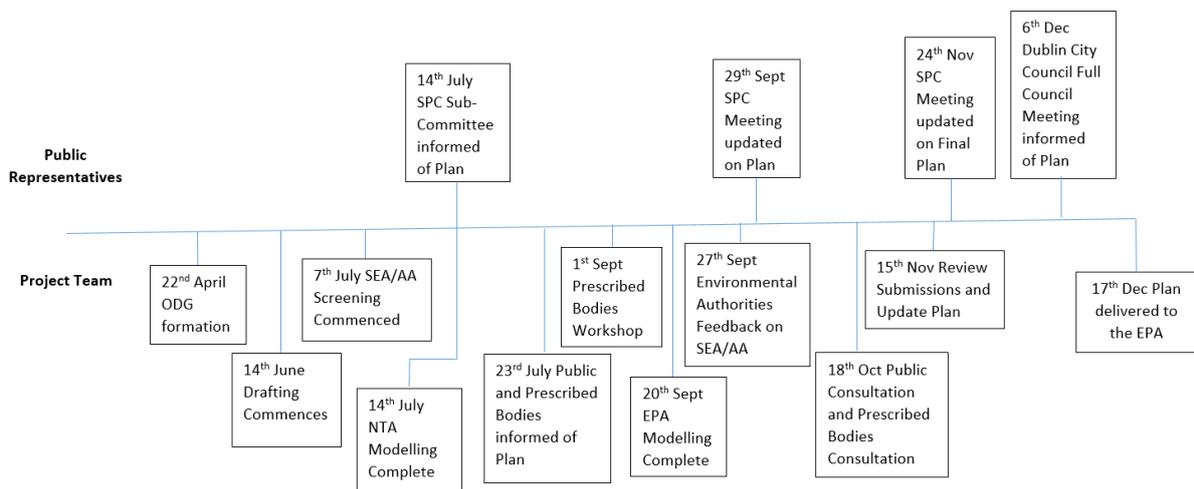


Environment and Transportation Department,  
 Block 2, Floor 6,  
 Civic Offices,  
 Dublin 8.

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021.

**To Each Member of the  
 Environment Strategic Policy Committee**

## Report on Air Quality Plan for NO<sub>2</sub>



The Project Timeline above shows the interactions between the Project Team and Public Representatives (above the line) as well as other parties (below the line)

## Background

Ireland is obliged to implement EU Directive [2008/50/EC](#) on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (also referred to as the CAFÉ Directive). Among other things, this Directive involves carrying out air quality monitoring for a number of specified air pollutants at a network of air quality monitoring stations throughout the country. These requirements were transposed into national legislation in Ireland by the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (S.I.180/2011).

In 2019, there was an exceedance of the annual permissible limit value for one of these pollutants – nitrogen dioxide - at a single monitoring station in Dublin. There were no other exceedances recorded elsewhere for nitrogen dioxide or any other specified air pollutant during 2019. According to the European Environment Agency’s air quality viewer Dublin ranks 38<sup>th</sup> of the 300 plus cities monitored in Europe in terms of Air Quality, as shown in Appendix A.

Under the national legislation, if this occurs the relevant local authorities are obliged to prepare an air quality plan to identify the root causes and formulate measures to address the exceedance of that pollutant for submission to the EU within two years of the exceedance being reported. In this case, the Air Quality Plan must therefore specifically relate to nitrogen dioxide and must address the exceedance in question. The relevant local authorities in this case are those that make up *Agglomeration A - the Dublin Conurbation*. This consists of the functional areas of Dublin City Council, South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire – Rathdown Council and most of Fingal County Council.

The Air Quality Plan currently being prepared is required to include a range of information as set out in schedule 15 of the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011. In summary, the Plan will provide an overview of the reasons for and purpose of preparing the plan (as above); then provide a contextual overview of the area covered by the plan in terms of physical geography, demography, population and climate.

The plan will then describe the policies and legislation dealing with air quality in Ireland and address the origin, occurrence and health impacts of nitrogen dioxide.

As part of the preparation of the plan, air quality modelling was undertaken at the location of the exceedance, this work will be presented as well as the range of proposed measures, and actions that will help bring the nitrogen dioxide levels back into compliance with the legal limit values.

Under the National Ambient Air Monitoring Programme (NAAMP), a number of national monitoring stations have been established in the Dublin region as shown in Appendix B.

By way of background, the annual average results for nitrogen dioxide for these monitoring stations are shown in Appendix C.

## Timeline for Project Delivery

### Progress to Date

The project commenced in April 2021, when an Organisational Drafting Group (ODG) was established from across the four Dublin Local Authorities and this was followed by the appointment of project management support for the project in May 2021.

Initially the ODG worked with the NTA Traffic Modelling group to identify a range of traffic scenarios based around the recommendations of the Five Cities Demand Management Study Report, which was commissioned by the Department of Transport and was aimed at informing transport demand management policy measures at local and national level. Model data was extracted from the NTA's Eastern Regional Traffic Model for the relevant scenarios and provided to the EPA who commenced the air quality modelling on 26<sup>th</sup> July and a final report on the modelling was received from them on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

The drafting process for the plan commenced on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and to date an initial working draft has been prepared which is being reviewed internally and which now needs to be updated for the work received from the EPA before the proposed measures can be finalised and conclusions and recommendations drafted.

In addition to the above the project team procured consultants to complete a screening for an Appropriate Assessment and a Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Plan. These screening

assessments have been completed and the reports been submitted to the relevant Environmental Authorities identified in the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 for their comments before a final determination on the screening assessment is made. The closing date for feedback from the Environmental Authorities is the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

On 14<sup>th</sup> July, a presentation on the need for the plan and progress to date was given to the Air Quality Subcommittee of the Strategic Policy Committee.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> July, the public were informed through social and print media of the preparation, by the four Dublin Local Authorities, of the Air Quality Plan to improve levels of NO<sub>2</sub>.

A meeting/workshop was held on 1 September for the Prescribed bodies, under the act, which was well attended. Progress on the process was discussed and was well received by the group and an ambitious plan was encouraged by all present.

Further public and Prescribed Bodies consultation on the draft Plan will also take place in October 2021, see below.

### Proposed Measures

There are a number of proposed measures being considered in the plan and they are broadly split into three areas, Local Authority Measures, National – Government Level Measures and those involving National Agencies in cooperation with Local Authorities. The impact of the proposed measures are expected to range from short to long term. While the draft plan and set of measures within it are still being reviewed and finalised, it is envisaged that they will cover the following key topics:-

#### Local Authority Measures

- 15 Minute Neighbourhoods (or similar concept)
- Public, Residential and Workplace Parking regulations
- Ongoing Active travel Programme
- Electric vehicle charging

#### National – Government Level Measures

- National Clean Air Strategy
- Air Quality enabling legislation
- Clean Air zones/ Low Emission Zones
- Flexible working

#### National Agencies in cooperation with Local Authorities

- Air Quality Monitoring and Modelling
- Air Quality Citizen Engagement
- Behavioural Change Campaigns to cleaner fleets

- Research

Obviously, the draft report and measures contained within it will be reviewed for all submissions received after the public and prescribed bodies consultation process is complete.

### Moving Forward

An ambitious timeline will see the completed plan being delivered to the EPA by 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Before then it is proposed to complete a formal period of Public and Prescribed Bodies consultation on the draft plan. In order to meet this EPA delivery deadline it is vital that this period of Public and Stakeholder/Prescribed Bodies Consultation is commenced by the week of 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The consultation periods will be four weeks and will run concurrently. These will be followed by three weeks to review submissions and prepare the submission reports, after which the Air Quality Plan will be finalised.

As well as this report to the September meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee a post consultation update will be given to the November meeting after which the plan will be finalised before being brought before the Dublin City Council Full Council Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021 for information and noting in respect of its delivery to the EPA on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

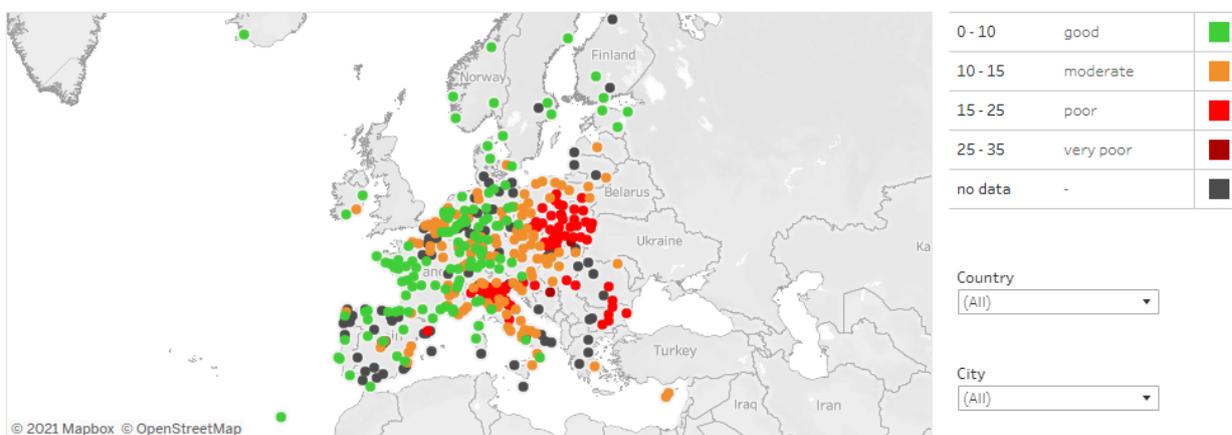
I therefore recommend that the Strategic Policy Committee endorses the proposal to put the Air Quality Plan out to Public Consultation

**Liam Bergin**  
**Executive Manager**

## Appendix A

### How clean is the air in my city?

based on the levels of fine particulate matter measured in the air in cities in 2019 and 2020



### Air in European cities – from the cleanest to the most polluted

City name	Country	Rank	Fine particulate matter in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Population of the city
Dublin	Ireland	38	8.1	1,263,035
Santiago de Compostela	Spain	39	8.1	96,795
Nimes	France	40	8.2	233,271
Enschede	Netherlands	41	8.2	156,004
Saint-Etienne	France	42	8.2	373,538
Breda	Netherlands	43	8.2	176,005
Saint-Nazaire	France	44	8.2	117,472
Freiburg im Breisgau	Germany	45	8.3	212,101
Darmstadt	Germany	46	8.3	143,779
Luxembourg	Luxembourg	47	8.3	96,248
Anncy	France	48	8.3	139,358
Niort	France	49	8.3	102,189
Lübeck	Germany	50	8.4	213,465
Sintra	Portugal	51	8.5	366,470

Further information can be found [here](#).

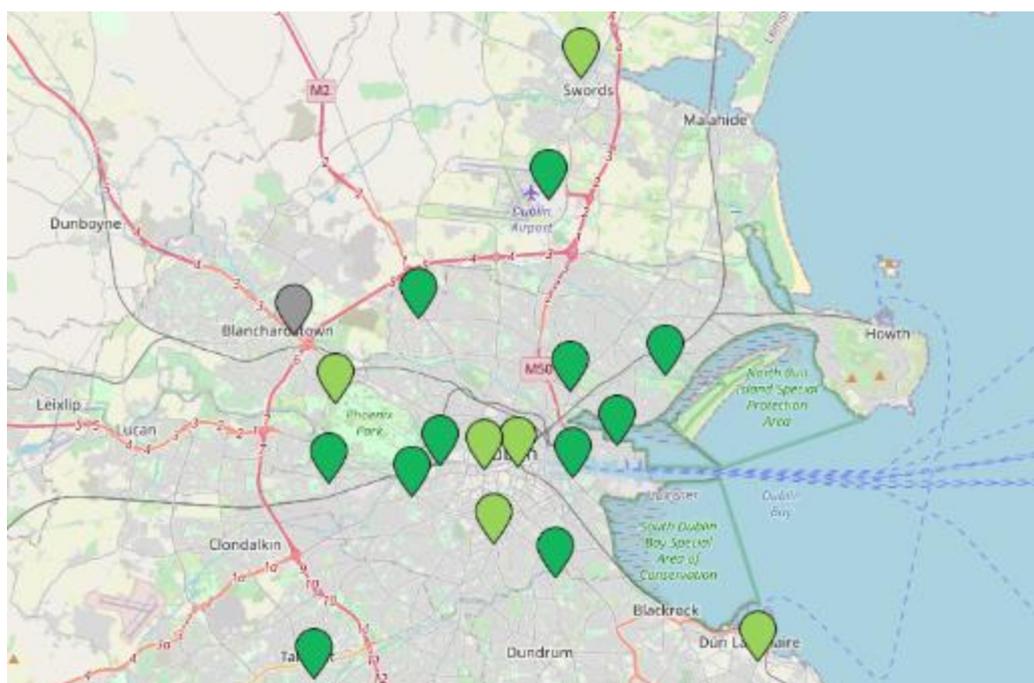
European Environment Agency – European City Air Quality Viewer

## Appendix B

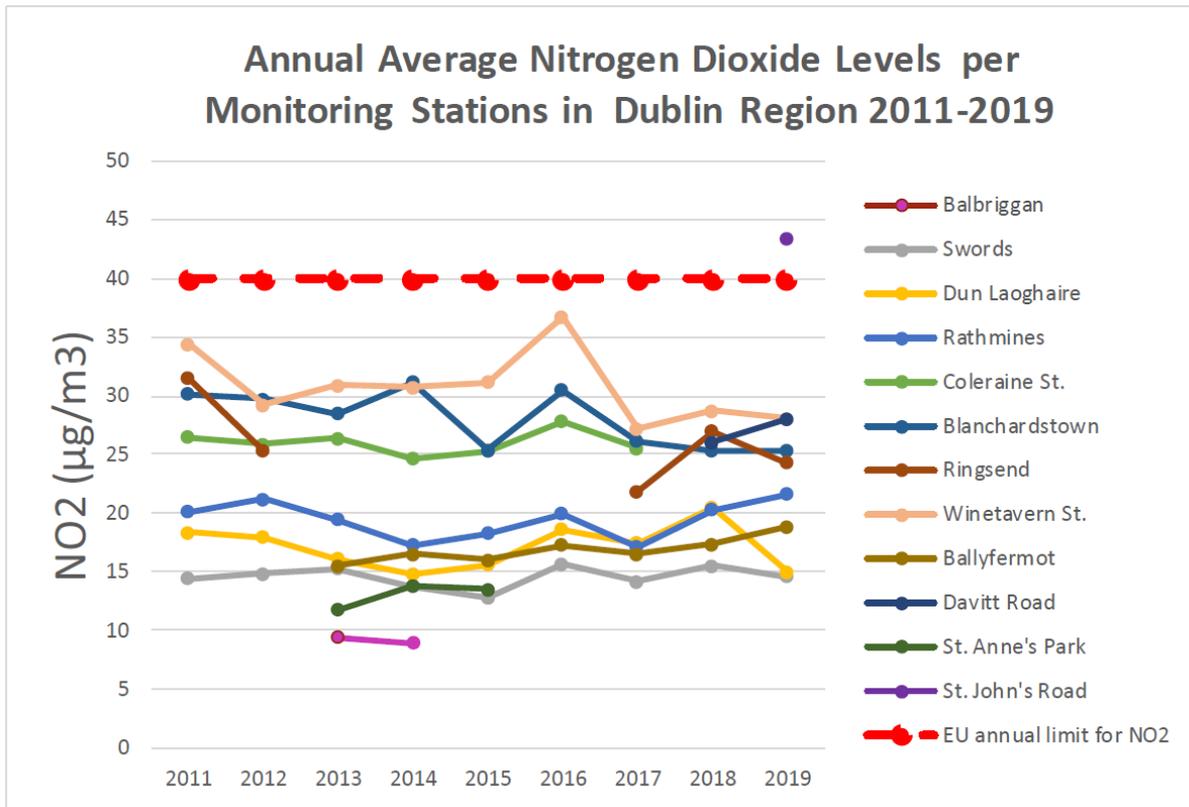
### Location of Monitoring Stations

<u>Location</u>	<u>Pollutants Monitored</u>
Ballyfermot Library –Dublin 10	Particulate (PM10 &2.5), Nitrogen dioxide
Blanchardstown –Dublin 15	Particulate (PM10 &2.5), Nitrogen dioxide
-Davitt Rd Inchicore Dublin 8	Particulate (PM10 &2.5), Nitrogen dioxide
Dublin Airport Swords Dublin	Particulate (PM10 &2.5), Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Sulphur dioxide
Dublin Port – Dublin 1	Particulate (PM10 &2.5), Nitrogen dioxide, Sulphur dioxide
Dun Laoghaire Co Dublin	Particulate (PM10 &2.5), Nitrogen dioxide
Pearse St Dublin 2	Nitrogen dioxide. Ozone
Ringsend Dublin 4	Particulate (PM10 &2.5), Nitrogen dioxide, Sulphur dioxide
Rathmines Dublin 6	Particulate (PM10 &2.5), Nitrogen dioxide, Sulphur dioxide , Ozone
St Johns Rd West D8	Particulate (PM10 &2.5), Nitrogen dioxide
Swords Co Dublin	Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone
Tallaght Dublin 4	Particulate (PM10 &2.5), Nitrogen dioxide
Winetavern St Dublin 8	Nitrogen dioxide, Sulphur dioxide, Carbon monoxide, Particulate (PM10)0
St John’s Road West	Particulate (PM10 &2.5), Nitrogen dioxide

The geographic distribution of these monitoring stations can be seen on the map below – this can be viewed in more detail [here](#).



## Appendix C



Stations	Years								
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Balbriggan			9.38	8.90					
Swords	14.41	14.86	15.31	13.78	12.80	15.67	14.22	15.51	14.60
Dun Laoghaire	18.33	17.98	16.07	14.80	15.61	18.59	17.44	20.47	15.01
Rathmines	20.10	21.20	19.45	17.26	18.27	19.95	17.10	20.32	21.58
Coleraine St.	26.45	25.85	26.42	24.63	25.27	27.79	25.55		
Blanchardstown	30.14	29.71	28.47	31.11	25.37	30.43	26.17	25.31	25.31
Ringsend	31.47	25.25					21.86	26.96	24.32
Winetavern St.	34.36	29.21	30.91	30.73	31.12	36.71	27.20	28.75	28.02
Ballyfermot			15.5	16.5	16.0	17.3	16.5	17.4	18.8
Davitt Road								26.05	28.02
St. Anne's Park			11.75	13.80	13.50				
St. John's Road									43.43

Annual Average NO<sub>2</sub> Levels