

## **London Cycling Campaign**

*12 August 2016*

*Lewisham Air Quality Action Plan 2016-2021 Residents Survey*

[https://lewisham-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/community\\_services/crsp/airquality-residents](https://lewisham-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/community_services/crsp/airquality-residents)

This response is made on behalf of the London Cycling Campaign (LCC), the capital's leading cycling organisation with more than 12,000 members and 40,000 supporters.

LCC welcomes the opportunity to comment on these plans and its response was developed with input from its Infrastructure Review Group. (Lewisham Cyclists, the local LCC group in the borough have submitted a separate response, and we echo their concerns in our own response below.)

We write to express our surprise and disappointment that Lewisham Council's survey does not include any apparent consideration of active travel, and enabling people to switch transport modes, as part of their considerations on air quality.

You list "emissions from transport" as one of five main areas to take action on and say "For example taking actions that encourage walking, cycling and the use of more low-emission vehicles." But there is nothing in your survey to follow up on this.

There are multiple questions on night-time deliveries, diesel, low and zero emissions motor vehicles – but not a single question on alternatives to motor vehicle transport – such as what might encourage or enable Lewisham residents and businesses to cycle, walk or use public transport more and their cars, vans etc. less.

In the same vein, your survey covers health issues directly related to pollution, and suggests a pollution warning app as a solution, but nowhere are there any questions relating to health, active travel and car transport reduction – all of which would play directly into TfL's emerging and influential "Healthy Streets" agenda. Car ownership and usage is increasingly emerging as a public health issue, and enabling cycling and walking as the key solutions.

This is a hugely missed opportunity – and we would like to see Lewisham Council recognise and rapidly develop policies and initiatives that actively a) enable more people of all ages and abilities to cycle and walk in comfort, safety and with convenience, b) encourage the shift of journeys from motor vehicle transport to public transport, cycling and walking. These policies and initiatives should be council "core business", not tacked on as an afterthought.