

Westminster's Air Quality Programme 2021

Maximising opportunities to reduce air pollution in the city post pandemic

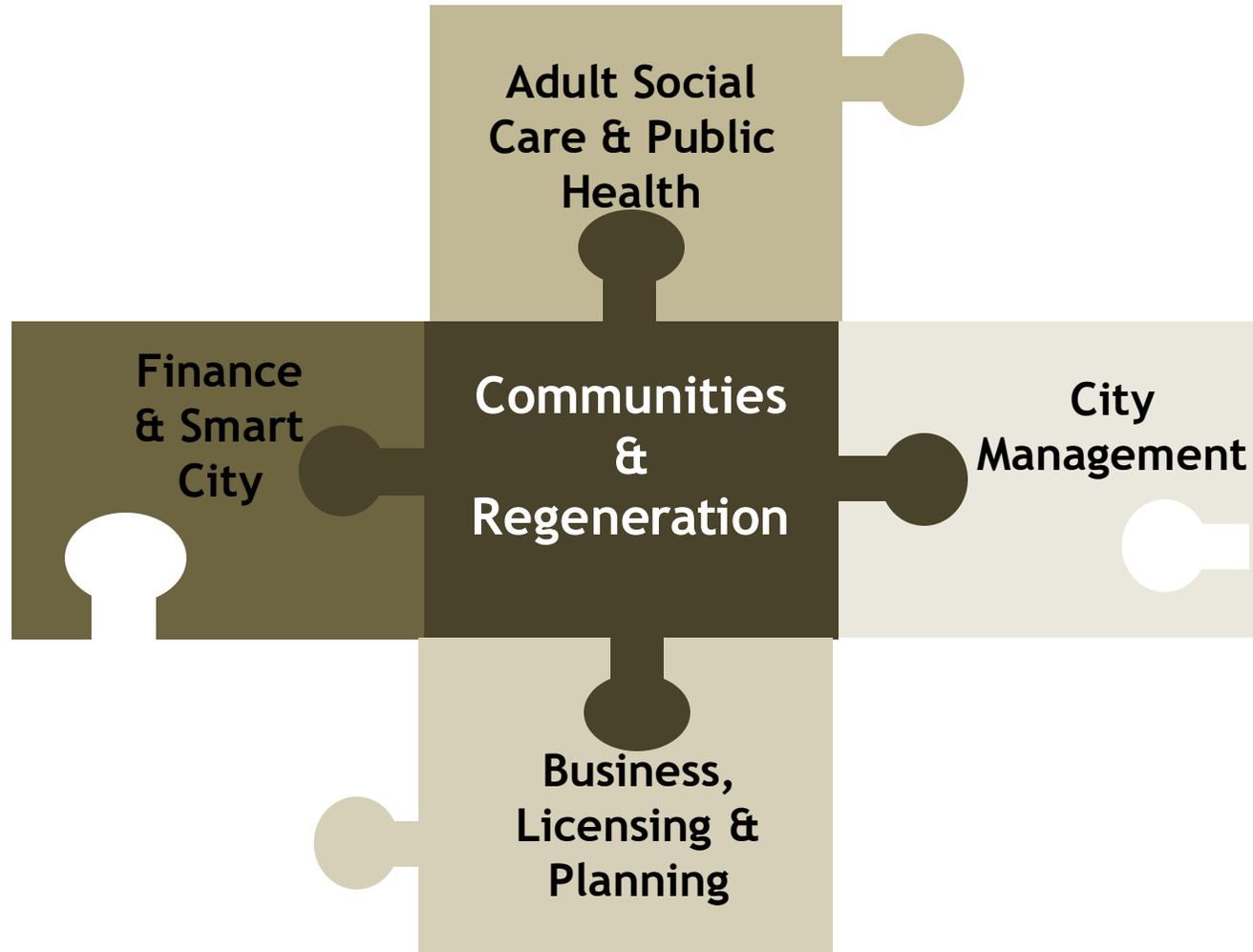
The City for All Vision



Leading the way in tackling climate change and improving air quality

- ▶ A world leading carbon neutral local authority with the capability and innovation to eliminate emissions from the council's estate and services, delivering a zero carbon city by 2040 and a greener and cleaner Westminster where residents, communities and businesses can thrive and be resilient to the impacts of climate change.
- ▶ Exceeding national and international standards in air quality by reducing emissions from buildings and transport through technological innovation and working with communities.

Air quality is embedded across portfolios



Delivering on local, regional and national targets and ambitions

- ▶ **City for All** - A global destination by improving air quality and providing excellent open spaces for the health and wellbeing of our residents, visitors and workers, and maintaining the highest standards in street cleanliness.
- ▶ **GLA** - for London to have the best air quality of any major world city by 2050, going beyond the legal requirements to protect human health and minimise inequalities - London Environment Strategy 2018
- ▶ **Defra** - Reduce Nox emissions by 73% and PM2.5 by 46% by 2030 (against a 2005 baseline)' - National Clean Air Strategy 2019

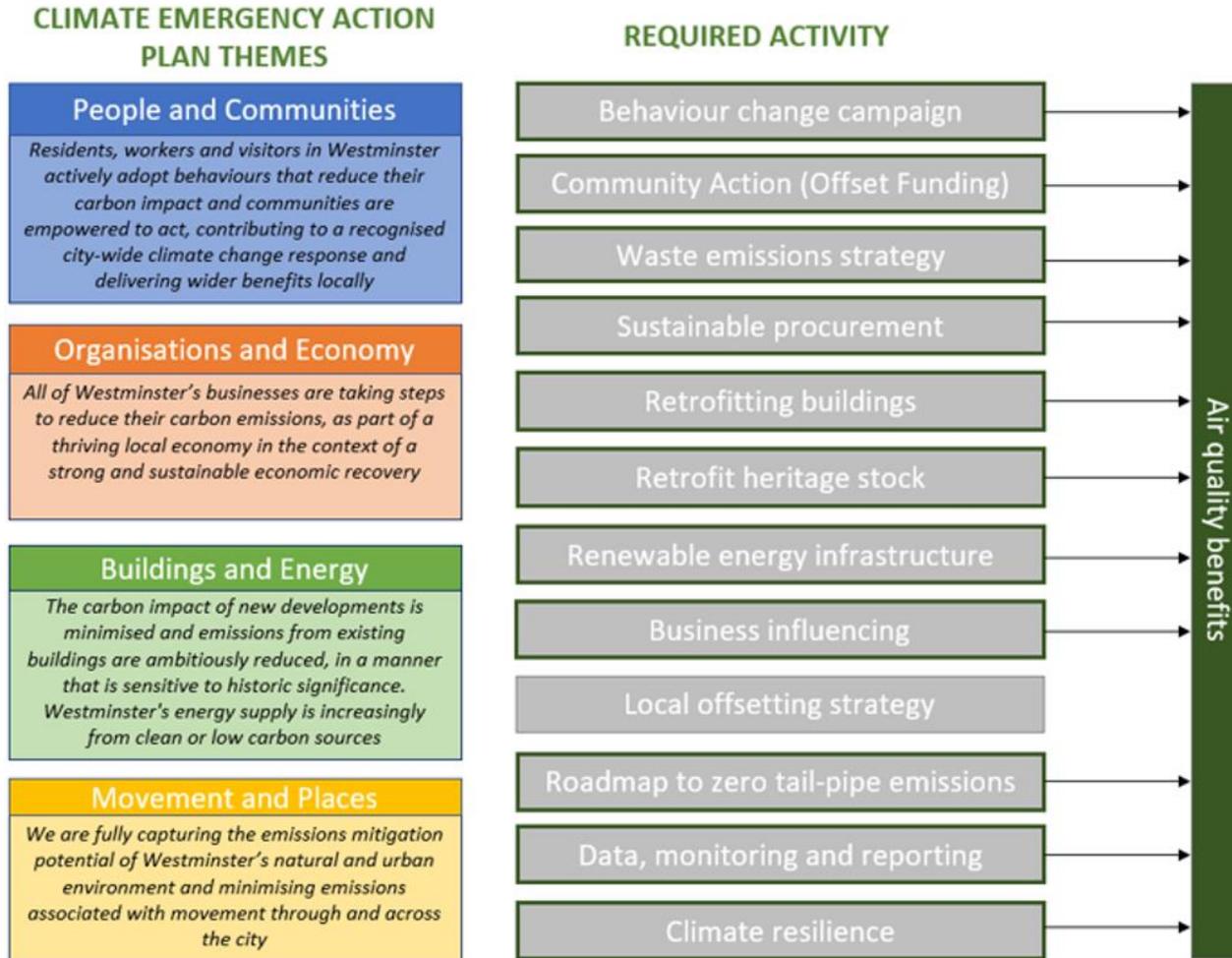
Air Quality Delivery to date includes

- ▶ Air Quality Action Plan (2019 - 2023)
- ▶ City Plan (2019 - 2040)
- ▶ Environment SPD (public consultation finishes 28th June)
- ▶ Code of Construction Practice 2021 (public consultation finishes 28 July)
- ▶ Installation of 1000 electric vehicle charging points
- ▶ Review of resident parking policy (developing an emissions based charging model)
- ▶ Roll out of city wide Diesel Surcharge
- ▶ Clean Air Villages project
- ▶ Breathe London project
- ▶ Healthy Streets Everyday programme
- ▶ Active Streets programme
- ▶ Activities to support Clean Air Day 2021
- ▶ Schools Clean Air Fund (ongoing)

Policies that deliver the strategic air quality objectives

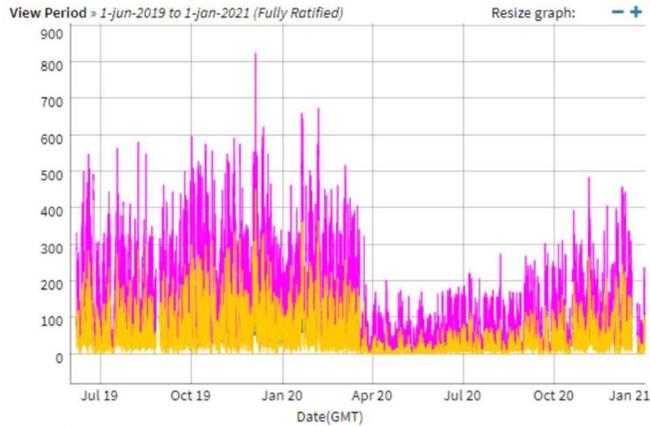


Integrating Air Quality into the Climate Emergency programme

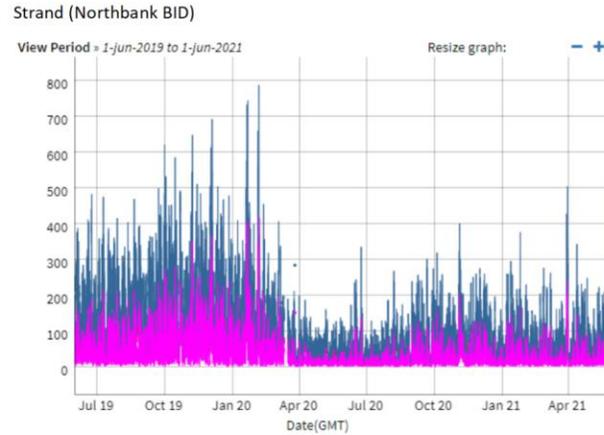


Air Quality during lockdown

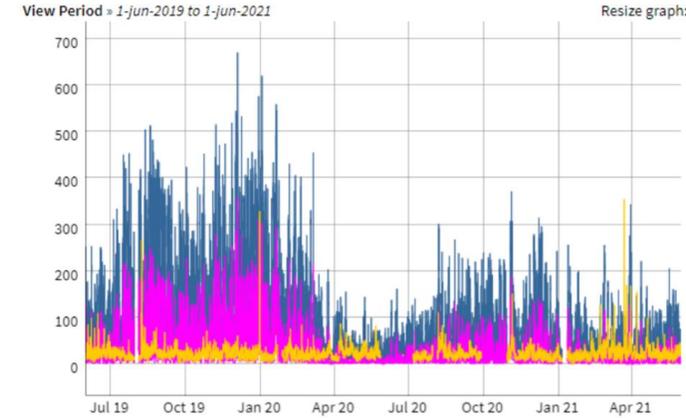
Marylebone Road



The Strand



Oxford Street



Key: pink - oxides of nitrogen, blue - nitrogen dioxide, yellow - particulate matter (PM10), red - nitric oxide

- ▶ Appendix A provides detailed information on the impact of lockdown on air quality in Westminster
- ▶ The data shows that the level of air pollutants reduced significantly at the beginning of lockdown and has risen steadily over the past 18 months
- ▶ **But new research from the University of Birmingham suggests the effect of lockdown may have been overstated when removing the effects of weather and seasonal changes highlighting that radical action is needed to improve air quality.**

Air Quality Programme 2021



The Air Quality Programme for 2021 is seeking to

- ▶ maximise air quality improvements seen during the lockdown, and
- ▶ maintain the momentum for change post pandemic

And to learn from national and international best practice

- ▶ Milan - Strade Aperte Plan, creating 35 km of cycle routes
- ▶ Birmingham - Clean Air Zone for private cars
- ▶ Barcelona - Superilles , utilising a grid structure to minimise through traffic

That have wider benefits not only for air quality but also physical and mental health and wellbeing, reducing noise pollution and increasing green infrastructure

Current Activity: Air Quality Monitoring



Monitoring is carried out in different ways across the city as different technologies provide different types of datasets and different methods are suited to different tasks.

- ▶ **Ten automatic monitoring stations** - part of the London-wide monitoring system, and Westminster's statutory monitoring network. They are highly accurate (and expensive) 'reference method' monitors that provide data in **15 minute intervals for a wide range of pollutants**
- ▶ Since 2020 we also have a **city-wide diffusion tube monitoring network** (approx. 20 locations), which provides **low cost monthly readings for NO2 across the city**.
- ▶ Trialling new **medium cost 'indicative' sensor technologies**, such as through the Breathe London programme, which aims to **provide real time pollution data at a much lower cost than reference method monitors**.

Current Activity: Air Quality Status Report



- ▶ Annual report that is produced to meet the requirements of the London Local Air Quality Management statutory process (Defra/GLA)
- ▶ Officers currently finalising the draft report for 2020 for sign off by the GLA
- ▶ The report sets out details on
 - ▶ Air Quality Monitoring,
 - ▶ Actions to improve Air Quality and
 - ▶ an update on Planning and New Sources of Emissions
- ▶ Publication Date - August 2021

Current Activity: Updated Code of Construction Practice

Detailed guidance that sets out standards and procedures that developers in the city must adhere to when doing construction in the city. Improved standards in the document include,

- Community liaison - stronger requirements for large scale developments to provide ongoing information and communications channels to the local community and local stakeholders, through regular email newsletters and dedicated project websites. Major developments are also required to work with other ‘overlapping’ developments to reduce potential cumulative impacts.
- Sensitive receptors - the council is now able to ‘upgrade’ projects to require stronger mitigation from developers in areas where there are higher than average incidences of public health concerns such as asthma and Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The council also reserves the right to ‘upgrade’ projects based on their proximity to sites such as schools/nurseries, care homes and other healthcare uses.
- Noise - the CoCP updates and strengthens previous wording around noisy working and hours of working and embeds a number of new best practice guidance published since the 2016 version of the Code.
- Dust / air pollution - the new CoCP goes beyond requirements made by the GLA and by any other London borough in our standards for emissions from construction equipment (Non Road Mobile Machinery), and in the ‘trigger levels’ we require for monitoring dust emissions on site. These standards have been developed in conjunction with the GLA and are an example of the new Code’s ‘best in class’ status in many areas.
- Live hoardings - the CoCP includes a new requirement for major developments to use green hoardings where practicable.

Current Activity: Environment SPD

Detailed guidance that sets out how policies in the City Plan will be implemented

- ▶ Explains when ‘air quality neutral’ and ‘air quality positive’ approaches are required in development proposals
- ▶ Outlines requirements of Air Quality Assessments
- ▶ Gives examples of appropriate mitigations to meet standards:
 - ▶ Green infrastructure
 - ▶ Managing energy demand and use of low emission technologies
 - ▶ Filtration, ventilation, etc.

Current Activity: Review of the Air Quality Action Plan

Westminster City Council is required to produce an Air Quality Action Plan as part of its duty to London Local Air Quality Management.

Part 1 sets out the context incorporating the council's statutory requirements as an Air Quality Management Area.

Part 2 is the Action Plan - 88 individual actions that the council will undertake to support air quality improvement in the city across five themes

- ▶ **Monitoring Air Quality** - to continue to monitor air quality across the city to continually assess our compliance with Air Quality Limit Values and against World Health Organisation targets
- **Reducing emissions from transport** - to implement a range of measures to reduce emissions from transport sources throughout the city, to continue to be the leading local authority for Electric Vehicle Charging infrastructure and to continue to support major policy interventions to reduce emissions from transport sources
- **Reducing emissions from buildings and new development** - to mitigate and minimise emissions from both existing buildings and from new development using a combination of policy, partnership working and specific projects and interventions that will support creating a net zero emission city by 2040
- **Awareness raising** - to continue to research and implement wide ranging behaviour change and awareness raising projects around air quality to inform and educate our stakeholders, and
- **Lobbying and partnership working** - to call for more action from where necessary from regional and national government

Current Activity: Aviation Impact from Heathrow

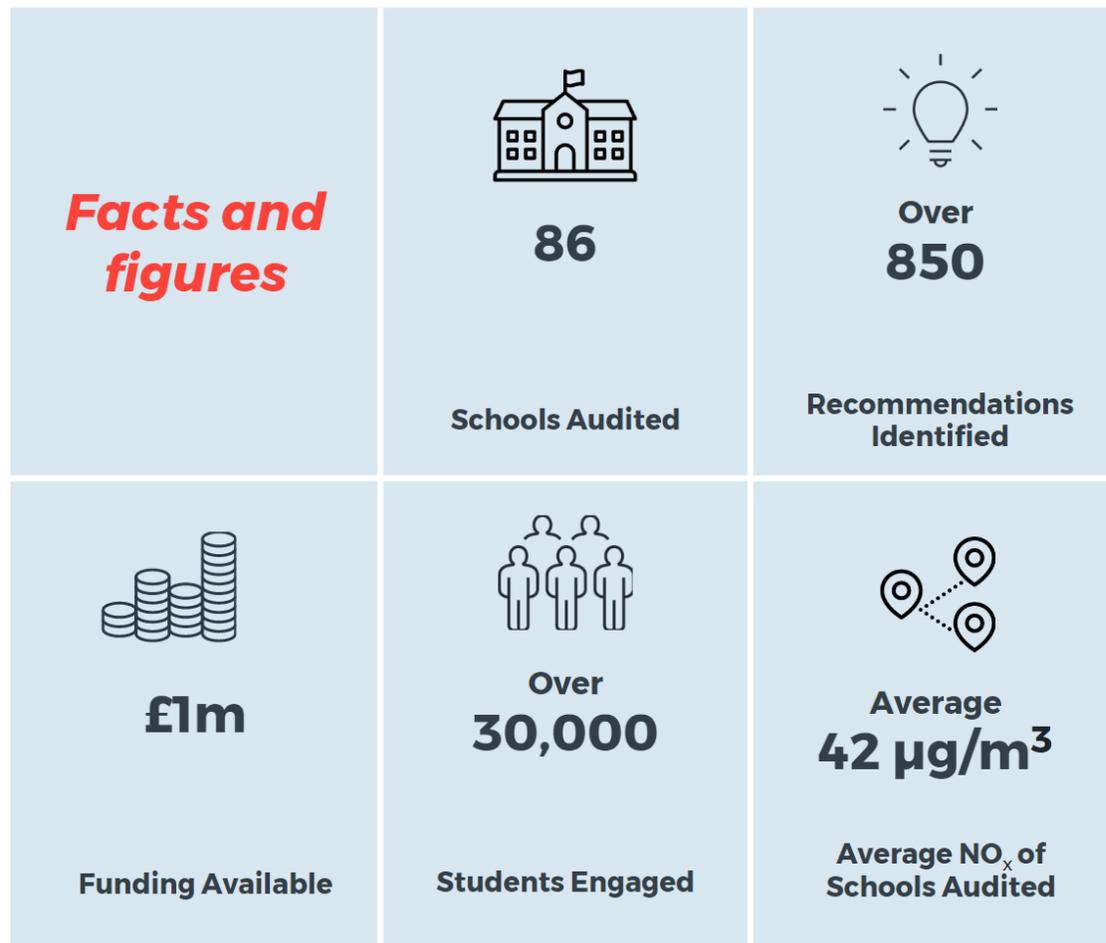


- ▶ In Spring 2019 Heathrow consulted on proposals for the potential introduction of Independent Parallel Approaches 'IPA' at the airport.
- ▶ IPAs are used when the airport is experiencing delays. Sometimes there is a need to land aircraft on both runways. IPAs is considered a way of making the arrivals process more efficient when this happens by utilising new flight paths from the holding stacks to the final approach; in effect allowing more aircraft to land using both runways.
- ▶ IPAs have the potential to increase the number of flights across Westminster and may impact on air quality and noise pollution
- ▶ On 16 December 2020 - the Supreme Court overturned the February judgment that a third runway at Heathrow Airport was unlawful. This means the project can now seek a development consent order, a type of planning permission for nationally significant infrastructure.

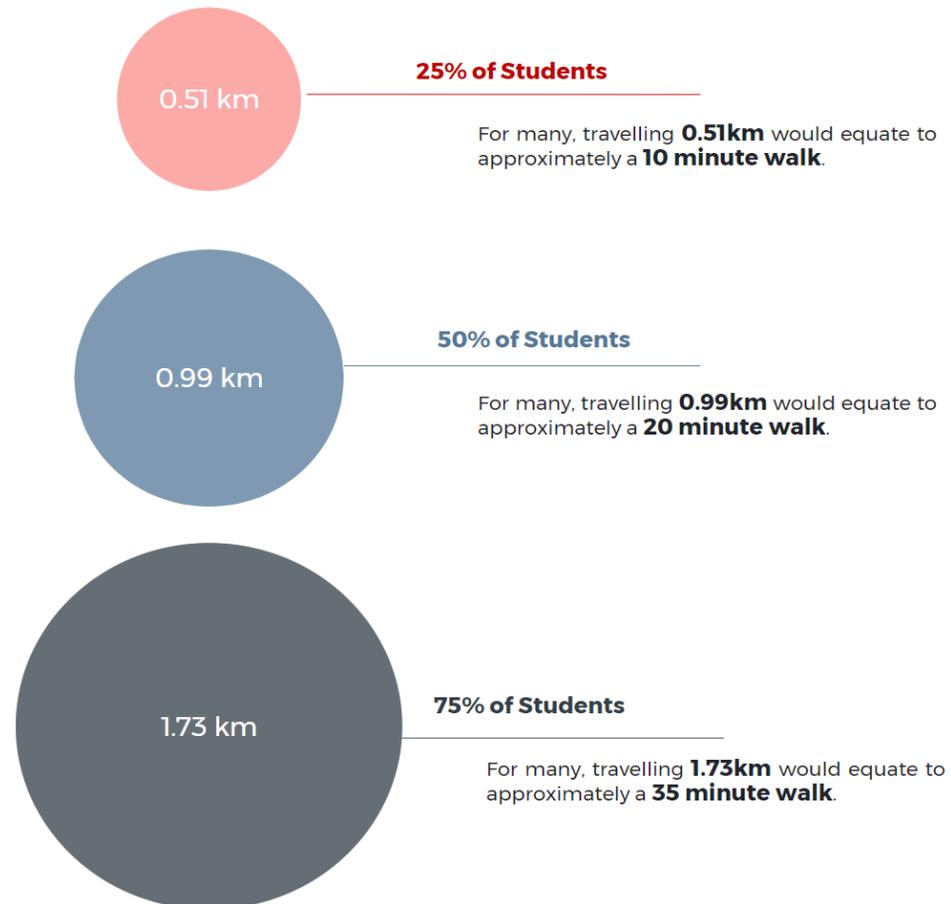
Current Activity: Rail Impact of Locomotive Diesel

- ▶ Marylebone Station is the only London station that is not serviced by any electrified lines, so only has diesel trains
- ▶ Emissions from rail are only a small part of the wider emissions picture in Westminster and in London as a whole. However, localised emissions caused by rail can be very high
- ▶ Westminster provided technical support to Chilterns Railways (who were working in partnership with JCDecaux and BNP Paribas) in advance of them installing air purifiers around Marylebone Station in 2019.
- ▶ Westminster are continuing to lobby for and support the electrification of UK rail lines

Current Activity: Schools Clean Air Fund



Schools Clean Air Fund - Student Catchment areas



Current Activity: Health and Wellbeing Board

- ▶ Air Quality is on the agenda for the Health and Wellbeing Board in September
- ▶ Consideration of the government's response to the death of Ella Adoo-Kissi Debrah will be discussed alongside opportunities to collaborate with the NHS and other partners to:
 - ❖ Continue to increase public awareness about air pollution
 - ❖ Embed health and wellbeing outcomes in our air quality objectives
 - ❖ Build on the positive outcomes of the SCAF and other projects