

24 April 2017

Dear Liverpool City Region mayoral candidates

Air pollution is affecting the health of people right here in Liverpool, from the womb to old age. It also affects the youngest, the oldest and the poorest most. It is linked to premature births and stunted lung growth in children and is a real risk for those with a heart or lung condition, increasing the chance of being hospitalised or dying from an attack. In the Liverpool City Region alone, it is estimated that 225,400 people have cardiovascular heart disease and around 42,800 people have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

From Wirral to St Helens, legal limits of air pollution are broken in every single local authority in the Liverpool City Region. But, it doesn't have to be like this. We have the technology and the tools to clean our air. Now we need our leaders to act.

We ask you, as our potential future mayor, to put the health of our communities first. Please use all your new powers and influence to ensure the Liverpool City Region meets legal limits for air pollution as soon as possible and no later than 2020. Clean Air Zones can take the dirtiest vehicles out of the most polluted places and should be supported by action and investment to help more of us use public transport, walk and cycle. This will make our road transport network cleaner, safer and more efficient.

Dealing with this public health problem is also an opportunity to create jobs and update our economy by developing clean technology and industry. Will you join other leaders throughout the country in calling on the Government to introduce a new Clean Air Act for the 21st Century, enshrining the right to breathe clean air into UK law and ensuring the UK becomes a world leader in clean technology solutions?

Our region needs a strong leader with a strong vision. You can create a vision for a healthier, sustainable and prosperous Liverpool and, if you do, we will be here to help you achieve it.

Yours sincerely,

Katie Merrick

Service Development Manager, North West, British Lung Foundation

Dr. Ed Gaynor

General Practitioner - Cancer Clinical Lead, Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group

Dr Nicola Stevenson

Consultant Physician (Respiratory & General Medicine) Wirral University Teaching Trust

Dr Justine Hadcroft

Respiratory Consultant, Liverpool Heart & Chest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Dr John Blakey

Clinical Group Chair, North West Severe Asthma Network

Dr Sally Jones

Consultant Respiratory Physician, Royal Liverpool University Hospital

Dave Marteau

Exercise Physiologist, Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Ann Stanton

Clerical Assistant, Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Denise Williams, COPD

Pulmonary Rehabilitation and Oxygen Service Manager, Wirral University Teaching Hospital

Linda Johns

Interstitial Lung Disease Nurse Specialist, Liverpool Heart & Chest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Jamie Rylance

Senior Clinical Lecturer in Respiratory Medicine, Honorary Consultant in Respiratory Medicine, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM)

Dr Gerry Davies, BM PhD FRCP DTM&H

Reader in Infection Pharmacology, Institutes of Global Health & Translational Medicine, University of Liverpool

Professor Steve Allen

Professor of Pediatrics, Honorary Consultant Paediatrician at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM)

Paul McNamara

Professor of Child Health, University of Liverpool, Honorary Consultant in Respiratory Paediatric Medicine, Alder Hey Children's Hospital

Dr MG (Calum) Semple, PhD FRCPE FRCPCH

Senior Lecturer in Child Health at University of Liverpool, Consultant Respiratory Paediatrician, Alder Hey Children's Hospital

Dr Ian Sinha

Consultant Paediatric Respiratory physician, Alder Hey Children's hospital

Conal Devitt

Volunteer, South Sefton Breathe Easy Group

Doreen Russell

Manager Clinical Physiology Services, Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital

Dr Andrea Collins

Senior Clinical Research Fellow in Respiratory Infection, Liverpool Heart & Chest Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust

Ian Campbell

Secretary, Wirral Pedestrians Association

Stephen Sykes

Chair, Merseyside Environmental Trust

Stanley Cox

Chair, British Lung Foundation Breath Easy Liverpool North Group

Michael King

Co-ordinator, Liverpool Friends of the Earth

Eleanor Foster

Campaign Manager, Liverpool Pedestrians Association

Alan Johnson

Chair, Merseyside Cycling Campaign

Supported by:

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CEO, British Lung Foundation

Stephen Joseph

Chief Executive, Campaign for Better Transport

James Thornton

CEO, ClientEarth

Paul Tuohy

CEO, Cycling UK

Craig Bennett

CEO, Friends of the Earth England Wales and Northern Ireland

Robbie Young

Vice-President (Society and Citizenship), National Union of Students

Joe Irvin

CEO, Living Streets

Professor Stephen Holgate

Special Adviser on Air Quality to the Royal College of Physicians, MRC Clinical Professor of Immunopharmacology

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