

24 April 2017

Dear West Midlands mayoral candidates

Air pollution is affecting the health of people right here in the West Midlands, 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 a real risk for those with a heart or lung condition, increasing the chance of being hospitalised or dying from an attack. In the West Midlands alone, it is estimated that 375,800 people have cardiovascular disease and 268,400 people have asthma.

From Wolverhampton to Coventry, legal limits of air pollution are broken in every single local authority in the West Midlands. 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 West Midlands 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 West Midlands and, if you do, we will be here to help you achieve it.

Yours sincerely

**Sarah Gray**

Service Development Manager, Midlands, British Lung Foundation

**Dr Alan Taylor**

Senior Lecturer in Leadership, Management and Service Development, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health, Coventry University

**Dr Louise Sewell**

Senior Lecturer in Occupational Therapy, Coventry University

**Dymphna Medlock**

Respiratory Clinical Nurse Specialist, University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire

**Claire Morrissey**

Solutions & Development Manager, Wolverhampton CCG

**Steve Barlow**

Health Protection Lead Practitioner, Public Health Wolverhampton City Council

**Dr Arvind Rajasekaran**

Consultant Respiratory Physician, Sandwell And West Birmingham NHS Hospitals Trust

**Dr Zongbo Shi**

Lecturer in Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham

**Professor Roy Harrison OBE**

Professor of Environmental Health, School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham

**Dr Alice Turner**

Director of R&D and Honorary Consultant Respiratory Physician, Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust

**Dr Juana-Mari Delgado Saborit**

Lecturer in Environmental Health, University of Birmingham

**John Davison**

Acting Chair, Living Streets Birmingham

**Kamran Fazil**

Chair, Footsteps

**Chris Crean**

Campaigner, Friends of the Earth West Midlands

**Karen Leach**

Joint Co-ordinator, Localise West Midlands

**Anna Bright**

Chief Executive, Sustainability West Midlands

**Kevin Chapman**

Chair, West Midlands Campaign for Better Transport

**Fran Elder**

Co-ordinator, Birmingham 20's Plenty

**Chris Terrell**

Chair, Wolves on Wheels Cycle Campaign Group

**David Cox**

Chair, Bike West Midlands Network

**Chris Lowe**

Chair, Push Bikes - The Birmingham Cycle Campaign

**Georgia Stokes**

Chief Executive, The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country

***Supported by:***

**Penny Woods**

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

**Xavier Brice**

CEO, Sustrans

**Leo Murray**

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**Danielle Paffard**

UK Divestment Campaigner, 350