



BREATH OF FRESH AIR IN DISTRICT

A clean bill of health has been given to the air quality in the Folkestone & Hythe district for the sixth year running.

The 2021 air quality annual report states that no incidences of high levels of nitrogen dioxide gas were detected at monitoring sites during 2020.

The report, which has been accepted by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, means that the district is meeting the government's air quality objectives and as a local authority is not required to declare any Air Quality Management Areas.

The biggest source of nitrogen dioxide is emissions from cars and lorries and levels are measured by the council at 20 roadside locations across the district. Four of the sites are also measured for benzene and the air quality level was not exceeded during the year or in previous years.

Cllr Lesley Whybrow, Cabinet member for the Environment, said: "To receive yet another report with no exceptions should be very reassuring for our residents.

"We know that the 12 months reported on have been an exception due to the decrease in traffic volumes, as a result of the pandemic, so it is not our intention to sit back or feel complacent.

"To maintain a good standard of air quality it is up to us all to look at other forms of transport where possible. Walking or cycling if we can, lift sharing, using public transport and considering making the change to electric vehicles."

It was announced at the end of October that F&HDC is one of seven local authorities to have partnered with Kent County Council to deliver one of the largest networks of electric vehicle charging points.