



Department  
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Food & Rural Affairs

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10 February 2023

Dear Andrew,

### **Air Quality Grant Scheme 2022-23 Award**

I am writing to congratulate you and your constituency for the successful application to this year's award of Defra's Air Quality Grant Scheme.

Defra's Air Quality Grant Programme provides funding to local authorities to carry out projects in local communities to tackle air pollution and reduce emissions affecting schools, businesses, and residents. We are pleased to announce that we have this week awarded £10.7 million to local authorities. This raises the total awarded through the programme since 2010 to nearly £53 million.

We received a high number of quality applications this year. After a rigorous evaluation process your constituency was one of 44 local authorities that submitted an application for a project that was successful in being selected for funding. This project will play a valuable part in delivering air quality improvements and reducing the impact of air pollution on people's health. This year we have focused on projects which reduce air pollutant exceedances, especially in those areas that are projected to remain in exceedance of the UK's legal targets; projects improving knowledge and information about air quality and steps individuals can take to reduce their exposure to air pollution; and projects addressing particulate matter, which is the pollutant most harmful to human health.

For the full list of successful applicants please see the attached Annex.

Since 2010 we have seen significant improvements in air quality; fine particulate matter has fallen by 18%, emissions of nitrogen oxides have fallen by 44% and sulphur dioxide by 70%. We are committed to improving air quality and doing more to protect people and the environment from the effects of air pollution. In January 2023, we launched our Environmental Improvement Plan setting out, amongst other things, our challenge to local authorities to improve air quality and new interim targets to reduce levels of fine particulate matter. Funding from this year's Air Quality Grant scheme will help to support local authorities in meeting these commitments.

If you have any questions on the Air Quality Grant scheme or wish to discuss it further, then please contact my office on [ps.rebecca.pow@defra.gov.uk](mailto:ps.rebecca.pow@defra.gov.uk).



**REBECCA POW MP**