

3.11 The A2 also carries significant volumes of heavy goods vehicles. The road network in Swale is such that the A2 provides the only practical E-W link to certain parts of the Borough, such as between Sittingbourne and Faversham. Goods traffic is forced to use the road to access businesses operating from these areas. The A2 is an ancient route, single carriageway and unsuitable as a through route, for heavy vehicles in particular. In settlements along the route it has houses and other buildings close to the road, creating a canyon effect. This accentuates the problem of pollution by trapping the pollutants between the houses, thus worsening the problem for residents. This problem has led to the designation of 5 separate Air Quality Management Areas along sections of the A2 where the pollution thresholds had been, or were anticipated to be, exceeded.

3.12 Vehicle emissions can seriously affect the health of those exposed to this pollution. It is linked to increased incidence of lung cancer and heart disease. Also linked to low birthweight babies where mothers in the AQMAs have smaller children with less developed lungs for life. Addressing this is a key aim of this FMP through the various actions proposed to reduce freight vehicle emissions, directly or indirectly. These health impacts also need to be taken into account in the location of new development as this will affect how many people are exposed to the emissions, for example in new housing developments.

and CAUSED BY new
housing developments