

Committee:	Date:
Health and Wellbeing Board	31 Jan 2014
Subject: Report on Air Pollution	Public
Report of: Environmental Policy Officer, Markets and Consumer Protection	For Decision
Summary	
<p>Air quality in the City does not meet health based targets and consequently the City Corporation Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) has identified air quality as a key priority.</p> <p>Many City policies support action to reduce air pollution and the City Corporation has an Air Quality Strategy outlining action that is being taken. An assessment has been undertaken, by independent consultants, to consider what additional action the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) can take to support a reduction in air pollution, leading to an improvement in the health and wellbeing of City residents and workers.</p> <p>The assessment suggests that the HWBB can act to reduce air pollution by considering the scale of the problem, appraising the air pollution benefits of City policies, helping identify important areas for action, embedding knowledge, providing guidance and encouraging the commissioning of information and other services.</p>	
Recommendation	
Members are asked to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the recommendations in the attached report in Paragraph 8 	

Main Report

Background

1. Levels of air pollution in the City do not meet health based targets for nitrogen dioxide and fine particles (PM₁₀). These two pollutants can have both short term and long term effects on health, with children and the elderly being most vulnerable. Air pollution in London is associated with cardiovascular and cardiopulmonary disease, lung cancer and respiratory disease.
2. Public Health England has conducted a Health Impact Assessment of the effects of PM_{2.5} on public health. In London, air pollution is the 5th of 12 ranked causes of mortality risk.
3. The City Corporation held a public consultation event as a framework to identify issues which would form the priorities in the Joint Health and

Wellbeing Strategy in 2011-2012. Air pollution was ranked as the third highest public health concern for City residents.

4. As a consequence, the City of London JHWS has identified improving air quality as a key priority to improve the health and wellbeing of City residents and workers.

Current Position

5. Many City Corporation policies support action to reduce air pollution. The Sustainable Community Strategy and the Corporate Plan, between them, include both an overall goal to improve air pollution and 11 more specific goals that support improving air pollution. These include promoting the City's competitiveness with cleaner cities like New York, encouraging excellence in building innovation and design, and improving public health.
6. The City Corporation has an Air Quality Strategy, which was published in 2011. The strategy outlines specific action that is being taken to improve air quality. The City Corporation has a statutory obligation to produce this strategy and actions are led by the Department of Markets and Consumer Protection.
7. As air quality is a key priority in the City JHWS, a report has been produced which considers what additional action the Health and Wellbeing Board can take to assist in improving air quality and the subsequent health of residents and workers in the City. The report, which has been produced by independent consultants, is attached as Appendix A. It will be presented to the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee, for information. The assessment has been funded by a Department of the Environment Food and Rural Affairs air quality grant and the Mayor of London's Air Quality Fund.

Proposals

8. The report recommends that the HWBB considers taking the following action:
 - Ensure that the City's Health and Wellbeing Profile (JSNA) reflects the severity of poor air quality as a public health issue.
 - Consider how the City of London Corporation can influence neighbouring authorities and the Greater London Authority (in particular Transport for London) so that more action is taken to reduce the public health effects of air pollution.
 - Consider how the HWBB can help to reinforce, and enforce, Development Control policies on air pollution, and where necessary comment on new developments.
 - Consider how the HWBB can advise on, and review, Development Control policies, as and when new evidence around the best practice for mitigating against the health effects of poor air quality develops.
 - Advocate that changes in the urban realm which could affect people's exposure to poor air quality, such as the introduction of new public

spaces and on street seating, are assessed for changes in the levels of exposure.

- Consider recommending that air pollution concentrations and effects become a performance indicator in the next review of the Local Implementation Plan.
- Conduct a rapid Health Impact Assessment on the Local Implementation Plan of the Mayor's Transport Strategy, similar to the one carried out on the Local Plan.
- Assess the air quality implications of the proposals contained within the Area Enhancement Strategies and identify which urban enhancement interventions are the most beneficial from a public health perspective.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. Improving air quality supports Corporate Plan policy KPP3:

- Engaging with London and national government on key issues of concern to our communities: Mayor of London – environment, air quality.

It also supports the following aims of the City Together Strategy:

- 'to support our communities', specifically to 'encourage healthy lifestyles and protect and improve City communities' health and wellbeing'
- 'protect, promote and enhance our environment', specifically to 'identify local air pollution hot spots'.

Implications

10. The financial and legal implications of any action recommended by the HWBB to improve air quality in the City would need to be considered.

Conclusion

11. Air pollution in London is at a level that causes harm to human health and air quality has been highlighted as a priority in the City JHWS.

12. The City Corporation has a number of policies that support action to improve air quality in the Square Mile. There are a number of additional actions that the Health and Wellbeing Board can take to help to both improve air quality, and reduce the exposure to high levels of pollution of City residents and workers, leading to an improvement in public health.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Report to the City of London Health and Wellbeing Board on Air Pollution

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