

<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Port Health & Environmental Services	15 July 2014
Health and Wellbeing Board	19 July 2014
<b>Subject:</b> Air quality update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Markets and Consumer Protection	<b>For Decision</b>
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>This report outlines future key policy areas for the City Corporation in relation to air quality. The suggested policy areas relate to taxis, the proposed Ultra Low Emission Zone, traffic management, local energy generation and public health. These will be developed further, together with additional measures, and the City's Air Quality Strategy will be revised accordingly.</p> <p>Reference is also made to the Annual report that has been submitted to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and an update is also provided on the current projects being undertaken in the City.</p> <p>Two events in relation to air quality are being planned, the first of which is a reception at Mansion House on 29 July hosted the Lord Mayor, with the Mayor of London also attending.</p> <p>A range of other developments have led to a Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee Inquiry, and the response on behalf of the City Corporation is attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>Members are asked to endorse the actions being taken to address poor air quality in the City and the five key areas (paragraph 3) that have been identified for inclusion in the revised Air Quality Strategy.</p>	

## Main Report

### **Background**

1. At the December 2013 meeting of the Supporting London Senior Officers' group, a presentation was given on the problems associated with poor air quality in London, and what the City is doing to tackle the issue. It was agreed that the City Corporation has a role to play on a London-wide basis, and that a further paper should be submitted within six months to outline key policy areas, and to identify events that the City could lead on to improve air quality in London. This report updates your Committee on these issues.

2. There have been a number of other recent developments. The European Commission published [‘Clean Air Policy Package’](#) proposals in December 2013, which includes possible new air quality targets. In February 2014 the Commission also announced its decision to start [financial penalty action against the UK](#). In April there was a well-publicised smog over London and [Public Health England published data on increased mortality from air pollution](#) — these have led to a new Parliamentary Select Committee Inquiry – see paragraph 25 below.

### Current Position

3. [The City Air Quality Strategy 2011 – 2105](#) is under review and five key areas have been identified that will be included in the new document. These will all be developed further, together with a range of additional measures, and be included in the revised strategy, the first draft of which will be prepared and submitted to your Committee by November 2014.
  - I. **Taxis** are the general responsibility of TfL, but we propose to consider what additional action can be taken to reduce emissions from taxis, and how we can support and encourage the take up of low and zero emission taxis in London.
  - II. The proposed **Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ)** for central London: we propose to liaise with the Mayor of London to ensure the proposals for the ULEZ will be sufficient to meet the air quality limits in the city and consider what action the City can take to support the implementation of an effective ULEZ. It is possible that adjoining local authorities will seek to extend the boundaries of the ULEZ and the implications of any such proposal on the City would need to be assessed.
  - III.
  - IV. **Traffic management**: we propose to consider what additional action can be taken to reduce and restrict the amount and type of vehicles in the Square Mile and what additional action can be taken to further increase the number of trips taken by cycle or by walking.
  - V. **Local energy generation**: we propose to develop a policy on the use of standby generators to produce non-emergency electricity and develop a position on the use of combined heat and power and alternative fuels such as biofuel and biomass.
  - VI. **Public health**: we propose to incorporate air quality improvements and reducing public exposure into key plans and policies, and ensure that the joint Health and Wellbeing Profile, and the City Supplement, adequately reflect the recent evidence about the severity of poor air quality as a public health issue.

## Annual Report

4. Each year, the City Corporation must submit a report to the Department of the Environment Food and Rural Affairs detailing current levels of pollution and progress in taking action to reduce levels of pollution, as detailed in the City of London Air Quality Strategy. The full report is available on the City Corporation web site at:  
<http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/business/environmental-health/environmental-protection/air-quality/Pages/air-quality-reports.aspx>.
5. The report details pollution levels during 2013, and compares this to previous years. Nitrogen dioxide levels continue to be high in the City, with the annual mean objective during 2013 being exceeded at all automatic monitoring sites. Particularly high levels were seen at Walbrook Wharf and Beech Street roadside sites, with exceedences of the hourly mean objective. Both the annual mean and 24-hour mean objectives for PM<sub>10</sub> were breached at Upper Thames Street. This location has not met the 24-hour mean objective since monitoring started in 2008 and has been close to the annual objective during this time. Beech Street saw a decrease in the number of days the 24-hr average PM<sub>10</sub> objective was exceeded.

## Update on current projects

6. The City Corporation continues to make good progress with actions contained within the air quality strategy, in addition to a number of other actions which have been added since the strategy was published in 2011.
7. Following the success of a trial of additional street washing in Beech Street to reduce the concentration of PM<sub>10</sub> levels, a programme of additional washing was implemented during 2013. The result was to reduce the number of days that PM<sub>10</sub> levels did not meet the 24 hour objective and as a consequence, air quality in Beech Street complied with both the annual average and 24 hour average limit value for 2013. The 24 hour objective had not been met at this location in 2012 or 2011. The reduction in number of days that did not meet the limit value was not reflected at other sites, so it is likely to be as a direct result of the additional washing.
8. The City Corporation is collaborating with Sir John Cass primary school to improve both local air quality and work with the school children to raise awareness. Over 150 air quality plants have been installed, as well as green ivy screens. Detailed monitoring is underway around the school and an entire school engagement programme has commenced. This is part of the Greater London Authority Schools Clean Air Zones Programme.
9. The City Corporation is leading on an air quality engagement project with Bart's Health NHS Trust to improve local air quality, reduce emissions associated with Bart's activity and raise awareness amongst vulnerable people.
10. The City Corporation continues to engage with the business community to get their help for improving air quality and raising public awareness through the CityAir programme. 18 City businesses attended a lunchtime event to receive

certificates outlining their commitment to taking action. The event was hosted by Nomura International plc and your Chairman presented the certificates.

11. The City Corporation is installing new and improved taxi ranks in consultation with the taxi trade to help to reduce the amount of plying for hire by taxis in the Square Mile. The ranks will be publicised locally and taxi drivers encouraged to use them.
12. The City Corporation will be assessing the impact on air quality of local 'timed closure zones' and will roll out if successful.
13. The City Corporation continues to take action to deal with idling vehicle engines. Areas that have a problem with delivery vehicles leaving engines on have been targeted by delivering letters by hand to all businesses in the area asking them to ensure drivers of delivery vehicles turn their engines off. Other drivers are approached as officers see them as they walk around the City. Signs asking drivers to turn engines off have been erected in various areas of concern in the City. Civil Enforcement Officers speak to drivers with their engines running and ask them to turn the engine off.
14. The City Corporation runs a national annual Sustainable City air quality award to recognise organisations that have taken action to improve air quality. The City Corporation also runs an annual Considerate Contractors Environment award to encourage innovation in the construction and demolition industry. In addition to the two awards above, 2013 saw the first Clean City award for air quality awarded to City businesses that are taking action to reduce emissions of air pollutants. This will be an annual award.
15. The City Corporation is working closely with Sir Robert McAlpine's to establish what more can be done within the construction and demolition industry to reduce emissions associated with development, in particular controls over emissions from non-road mobile machinery.
16. An analysis has been undertaken of how the Health and Wellbeing Board can assist in improving air quality and reducing public exposure. A report was presented to the Board in January 2014 and recommendations are being implemented. These include running workshops for staff, which have been completed, carrying out a rapid health impact assessment of the Local Implementation Plan and incorporating public health into the revised Air Quality Strategy.
17. The City Corporation has its own Smart Phone App 'CityAir', which provides advice to users when pollution levels are high. It also recommends action to reduce personal exposure and has a function to guide users along low pollution routes.
18. The City Corporation has been working with a network of residents to monitor local air quality around the Barbican. Over 70 residents are involved in the scheme and they are monitoring nitrogen dioxide, PM2.5 personal exposure and ozone. A similar scheme has commenced with the residents in Mansell Street.

## Events

### Joint air quality event at Mansion House with the GLA, 29 July

19. The Lord Mayor and the Mayor of London will host an early evening air quality event at Mansion House on 29<sup>th</sup> July. The purpose is to:
  - I. Launch the Greater London Authority Cleaner Air Boroughs programme and highlight some of the action being taken across London to improve air quality.
  - II. Raise awareness about air pollution
  - III. Highlight City activity in dealing with air pollution and improving public health, and complementary London wide measures.
20. Senior Members and all those from the Port Health & Environmental Services Committee, and Health & Wellbeing Board will be invited. External guests are likely to include Ministers, London politicians, and European stakeholders.

### Autumn air quality conference

21. The City Corporation intends to hold an air quality conference in mid-October for London borough portfolio holders with responsibility for air quality. The event has 'in-principle' backing from London Councils and through them, the Mayor. It will be organised and funded by the City Corporation, but co-branded with London Councils.
22. The conference would be held at Guildhall as a breakfast/early morning meeting. It is anticipated that in addition to speeches by key politicians there would be presentations on the public health significance of air pollution, the impact of transport, and policy issues.
23. The outcome of the conference will be written up in early November by a pan-London officer group, outlining a map of options on air quality re: health impacts, financial and legal impacts, and transport technology.
24. A further report will be made to seek funding from the Policy Initiatives Fund for this event.

## House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee Inquiry

25. This Inquiry was announced in May with a call for written evidence to be submitted by 5 June. It will provide an opportunity to identify the latest evidence on the health impacts of air pollution. The Committee has written to the Mayor of London requesting him to appear and give evidence to the inquiry.
26. The Committee will re-examine Action on air quality, to identify the state of progress on the recommendations from its [2011 report on Air Quality](#). That report focussed on a need for action in six areas:
  - I. the priority and targets on air quality in Defra's planning,
  - II. strategy and inter-departmental co-ordination, including on transport and planning matters,

- III. support for local authorities in tackling air pollution, and how any European Commission fines might fall on them,
  - IV. the implications of local authorities' enhanced responsibilities for public health,
  - V. Low Emissions Zones and vehicle emissions limits, and
  - VI. Public awareness campaigns
27. It will also examine the role that might be played by new environmental technologies, and the scope for wider transport policies — for example on public transport and cycling and walking — to contribute to cutting air pollution.
28. A submission has been compiled by the Environmental Policy Officer and the Remembrancer that takes into account comments from relevant departments and Members, and can be found as Appendix 1. The City Corporation has also contributed to the submission made by London Councils.

### **Proposal**

29. The above information is provided to update your Committee on current issues relating to air pollution, but Members are requested to endorse the action being taken to address poor air quality in the City and the five key areas (paragraph 3) that have been identified for inclusion in the revised Air Quality Strategy.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

30. The work on air quality sits within key policy priority 3 of the Corporate Plan: 'Engaging with London and national government on key issues of concern to our communities....' Working with the Mayor of London on air quality is specifically mentioned as an example.

### **Conclusion**

31. There is a wide range of activity being undertaken by the City Corporation to address air pollution, and key policy areas have been identified for inclusion in a revised City Air Quality Strategy.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee: Inquiry into Air Quality

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