

Committee(s):	Date(s):	Item no.
Port Health and Environmental Services Health and Wellbeing Board	18 November 2014 28 November 2014	
Subject: Draft City of London Air Quality Strategy 2015 - 2020	Public	
Report of: Director of Markets and Consumer Protection	For Decision (PHES) For information (HWB)	
Summary		
<p>The City of London Corporation published an Air Quality Strategy in 2011. The Strategy, approved by the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee in March 2011, expires in 2015.</p> <p>A draft air quality strategy for 2015 through to 2020 has been produced and is appended to this report. It contains 59 actions grouped into 10 key policy areas for improving air quality and reducing the impact of air pollution on public health.</p> <p>The strategy fulfils the City of London's statutory obligation to assist the Government and Mayor of London to meet European Limit Values for nitrogen dioxide and fine particles (PM₁₀). It also reflects the high priority placed on reducing the impact of air pollution on the health of residents and workers as detailed in the City and Hackney Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>I recommend that your Committee approves the attached draft air quality strategy (Appendix 1) for consultation until 31 January 2105, subject to any comments received at your meeting.</p>		

Main Report

Background

1. At high levels, air pollution can have both short-term and long-term effects on health. It is responsible for the premature death of over 4,000 Londoners each year and is associated with cardiovascular and cardiopulmonary disease, lung cancer and respiratory disease. Children and the elderly are the most vulnerable.

2. Air quality targets are defined in European legislation as Limit Values. The UK Government has a duty to ensure that air quality in the UK meets the Limit Values.
3. The Limit Values have been adopted into domestic legislation by the UK government as air quality objectives. The City of London has a statutory duty to work towards the objectives. The Mayor of London has a legal obligation to ensure that the air quality objectives are met across London.
4. Despite a wide range of action taken to improve air quality, the objectives, and consequently Limit Values, for nitrogen dioxide continue to be breached across London. The European Commission (EC) has commenced legal proceedings against the UK for failing to comply with the nitrogen dioxide Limit Values by the prescribed date and failing to submit a credible plan outlining how the Limit Values will be met. Compliance with the annual average Limit Value for nitrogen dioxide in London, particularly central London, is proving to be very challenging. This is principally due to exhaust fumes from diesel vehicles.
5. It has been suggested by DEFRA that, following the Localism Act 2013, fines for failing to comply with the European Limit Value could be passed on to local authorities, who have not fulfilled their obligation to work towards air quality objectives. It is important, therefore, that the City has robust policies in place.
6. Since April 2013, the City Corporation has had responsibilities for improving public health. This was introduced by Health and Social Care Act 2012. Public Health England (PHE) has conducted a Health Impact Assessment of the effects of fine particles (PM_{2.5}) on public health. They ranked air pollution as the 5th out of 12 causes of mortality risk across London.
7. Air pollution is a concern for City residents. During a public consultation event held by the City Corporation to identify issues which would form the priorities in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS), air quality was ranked as the third highest public health concern for City residents. 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.

Key Policies and Proposals

8. The draft air quality strategy outlines air quality policy at the City from 2015 through to 2020. It builds upon actions contained within the 2011 air quality strategy. It fulfils the City Corporation's statutory responsibilities

in relation to Local Air Quality Management. The draft strategy also outlines proposals for reducing the health impact of air pollution on residents and workers.

9. There are 59 actions contained within the strategy that are divided into the following ten key policy areas:
 - Air quality monitoring
 - Political influence and commitment
 - Working with the Mayor of London
 - Working with other external organisations
 - Reducing emissions from transport
 - Reducing emissions from new developments
 - Leading by example
 - Recognising and rewarding good practice
 - Raising awareness
 - Air quality and public health
10. It is recognised that the City Corporation cannot take action in isolation to improve air quality to an acceptable level in the Square Mile. Many measures contained within the strategy, therefore, are about influencing action by other organisations, both locally and across London.

Proposals

11. I propose that, subject to comments received at your meeting, the attached draft air quality strategy is published for consultation until 31 January 2015. A further report will be presented to your April 2015 meeting to approve the new strategy.

Financial Implications

12. Project work contained within the strategy will be funded using the following sources: the Mayor's Air Quality Fund (MAQF), Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs Air Quality Grant, Local Implementation Plan funding and Section 106. The City Corporation is in receipt of £280,000 over 3 years (2013 – 2016) for air quality improvement

work in the Square Mile and a further £100,000 over 3 years to work with Bart's Health NHS Trust.

Corporate and Strategic Implications

13. 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.

Consultees

14. The strategy will undergo full consultation until the 31 January 2015 and consultation comments will be incorporated into the final strategy where appropriate.

Conclusion

15. The City Corporation has produced an updated air quality strategy designed to reduce the impact of poor air quality on the health of City residents, workers and visitors. The strategy fulfils the City's statutory obligations to assist the Government in meeting air quality Limit Values for nitrogen dioxide and fine particles and responsibilities for improving public health. Subject to comments received at your meeting, the draft air quality strategy will be published for public consultation until 31 January 2015.

Background Papers:

The City of London Air Quality Strategy 2011 - 2015.

Appendix:

The City of London Draft Air Quality Strategy 2015 - 2020.

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