

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Port Health and Environmental Services Planning and Transportation	22 November 2016 13 December 2016
<b>Subject:</b> Consultation on the City of London Corporation's Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Markets and Consumer Protection	<b>For Decision</b>
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### **Summary**

This report presents the draft City of London Corporation Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for public consultation. The document is attached in Appendix 1.

The SPD provides guidance for developers on the implementation of air quality policies in the City Corporation's Local Plan 2015. With reference to the SPD, developers can minimise the negative impact of developments on local air quality and therefore on the health of residents, workers and visitors in the Square Mile. The SPD also supports the City Corporation's statutory obligations to assist the Government in meeting air quality Limit Values for nitrogen dioxide and fine particles, together with responsibilities for improving public health.

This is the City Corporation's first SPD for air quality and it has been written with reference to Greater London Authority (GLA) guidance. The draft SPD has been subject to officer consultation within the Departments of Built Environment, Open Spaces, City Surveyor's and Children and Community Services. Comments have also been received from the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November and incorporated into this report.

### **Recommendation(s)**

Members are asked to approve the draft SPD for an eight week public consultation period commencing in January 2017, subject to comments received from your Committee.

### **Main Report**

#### **Background**

1. The City Corporation has a statutory obligation to improve air quality and to minimise the impact of air pollution on the health of residents and workers. The City Corporation's Air Quality Strategy 2015-2020 details action that will be taken to fulfil this obligation. It contains 60 actions that are divided into ten policy areas. Policy 6 contains actions to: 'Reduce emissions from new developments'. The production of the SPD is a key action within this policy area.

### **Supplementary Planning Document for Air Quality**

2. Although air pollution in London is generally associated with road traffic, it is estimated that 38% of nitrogen oxide emissions in the City come from combustion plant, which also contribute to particulate levels. New and refurbished developments can therefore reduce their impact on air quality emissions through the choice of combustion plant and the amount of energy the development requires.
3. The SPD provides guidance for developers so they can minimise the production of pollution through appropriate design, construction site management and low emission technology. In addition, the SPD recommends that exposure to pollution can be reduced through appropriate design.
4. Major developments must be at least 'Air Quality Neutral', so the SPD provides guidance for developers in relation to calculating their building and transport emissions, so they can be compared to air quality neutral 'benchmarks' produced by the GLA. The SPD also details the City Corporation's requirements for Air Quality Impact Assessments.
5. The draft SPD has been created based on GLA suggested content and following consultation with officers in the following departments:
  - Department of Built Environment
  - Department of Children and Community Services
  - Open Spaces Department
  - City Surveyor's Department
6. A Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft SPD has been undertaken (a copy is available upon request from the Town Clerk's Department). The report concludes that the SPD is unlikely to have significant effects on the wider environment since it provides guidance on the implementation of Local Plan policies which will have largely positive impacts.
7. An Equalities Impact Assessment has also been undertaken (a copy is available upon request from the Town Clerk's Department). There is no negative impact. The SPD will have a positive impact for the elderly, very young and those that are pregnant. In addition, those living with disability such as those whose lives are affected by asthma or other respiratory conditions will be positively affected.

### **Proposals**

8. It is proposed that, subject to comments received at the Planning and Transportation Committee meeting, that the attached draft SPD is published for public consultation over an eight week period. A further report will be presented to the Port Heath and Environmental Services Committee and Planning and Transportation Committee to consider comments received.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

9. 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.

10. The draft SPD provides further guidance on the implementation of the policies in the City of London Local Plan 2015. It fully accords with the policy requirements in the Local Plan and is complementary to other SPDs adopted by the City Corporation.

### **Conclusion**

11. The City Corporation has produced an SPD for Air Quality designed to reduce a development's negative impact on air quality and on the health of City residents, workers and visitors. It provides guidance on the implementation of the City Corporation's adopted planning policies for improving air quality in the City.
12. Members are asked to approve the draft SPD for public consultation. Subject to comments received from the Planning and Transportation Committee, the draft SPD will be published in January 2017 for an eight week consultation period.

### **Appendices**

1. City of London Corporation Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document

### **Background Papers**

[City of London Corporation Air Quality Strategy 2015-2020](#)

[City of London Local Plan 2015](#)

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