

Committee Port Health and Environmental Services Health and Wellbeing Board	Dated: 5 March 2019 26 April 2019
Subject: Draft Air Quality Strategy	Public
Report of: Interim Consumer Protection and Markets Operations	PHES: For Decision HWB: For information
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Summary

The City of London Corporation's (City Corporation's) existing Air Quality Strategy 2015 – 2020 was approved by the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee in July 2015. A decision was taken to publish a new strategy for consultation ahead of time following the relatively recent publication of the Mayor of London Environment Strategy, the Government's Clean Air Strategy, draft London Plan, draft City of London Transport Strategy, draft City Local Plan and City Corporation Responsible Business Strategy.

The draft Air Quality strategy fulfils the City Corporation'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 assists with the City Corporation's obligations under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to improve the public health of its population.

The overarching aim of the draft strategy is to ensure that nitrogen dioxide in over 90% of the Square Mile meets health-based Limit Values and World Health Organisation (WHO) Guidelines by the beginning of 2025. There is also a commitment to achieve the WHO Guidelines for particulate matter in the shortest possible time through coordinated action. This recognises that dealing with air pollution in the centre of London is a complex issue, and we cannot achieve this alone.

The draft strategy contains six policy areas with 65 actions. It demonstrates how action to improve air quality has been firmly embedded across the organisation, the amount of collaborative work underway and how the City Corporation will continue to provide leadership in this area.

Many actions contained in the draft strategy will be delivered using existing resources. However, a request has already been made to increase the Air Quality base budget to cover the increasing costs of air quality monitoring and increased public demand for information about air pollution. A request has also been made for an additional post to assist with monitoring, data analysis, projects and communications. An application for Priorities Investment Pot funding has been submitted to support delivery of some actions. Actions that are currently unfunded include a sub action to source funding for delivery.

Air quality in the City is improving and will continue to improve as a result of action contained within the draft strategy. It will continue to be monitored very closely using the City Corporation's dense network of monitoring equipment.

Recommendation

Members of PHES are asked to:

- Approve the content of the draft Air Quality Strategy for public consultation, subject to comments received at the Committee meeting

Members of Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to:

- Note the content of the Air Quality Strategy and continue to provide support for reducing the impact of poor air quality on public health

Main Report

Background

1. The City Corporation has a statutory duty to assist the Mayor of London and the UK Government in taking action to reduce levels of air pollution so that concentrations of pollutants do not exceed set limits. The City Corporation also has a responsibility to improve public health.
2. The City of London's existing Air Quality Strategy 2015 – 2020 outlines action to fulfil the City Corporation's statutory responsibility for London Local Air Quality Management, and for reducing the health impact of air pollution on residents and workers.
3. A decision was taken to publish a new strategy for consultation ahead of time following the relatively recent publication of the Mayor of London Environment Strategy, the Government's Clean Air Strategy, draft London Plan, draft City of London Transport Strategy, draft City Local Plan and City Corporation's Responsible Business Strategy.
4. Air quality in the City is improving, particularly away from busy roadsides. This is set to continue with the wide range of action being taken by both the City Corporation and the Mayor of London. Mayor of London policies that will have the greatest benefit on local air quality in the City are the forthcoming ultra-low emission zone, cleaning the bus fleet and the new electric (range extender) taxi for London.
5. Improving air quality is now firmly embedded into key policy areas across the organisation. This cross departmental support, together with reduction in levels of pollution measured, has enabled the Corporate risk rating to be reduced from red to amber.

Draft Air Quality Strategy

6. The aims of the draft Air Quality Strategy are to:
 - a. fulfil statutory obligations for London Local Air Quality Management and improving public health
 - b. ensure that air quality in over 90% of the Square Mile meets the health-based Limit Values and World Health Organisation Guidelines for nitrogen dioxide by the beginning of 2025
 - c. achieve, World Health Organisation Guidelines for particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) in the shortest possible time through coordinated action

Once the 2019 London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory has been published an assessment will be undertaken to determine when particulate levels are likely to meet WHO Guidelines. The Mayor of London, in his Environment Strategy, has made a commitment to ensure that WHO Guideline levels for particulates are met across London by 2030.

7. The above aims will deliver three main outcomes:
 - a. the Square Mile has clean air
 - b. people enjoy good health through reduced exposure to poor air quality
 - c. the City Corporation is a leader for air quality policy and action and inspires collaboration across London
8. The outcomes will be achieved by action across 6 policy areas:
 - air quality monitoring
 - leading by example
 - collaborating with others
 - reducing emissions from transport
 - reducing emissions from non-transport sources
 - public health and raising awareness.

There are 65 actions associated with these policies with detail on how they will be taken forward, timelines, departmental responsibility and relative costs.

9. The draft strategy demonstrates the strong cross departmental support for improving air quality and reducing the impact on public health. This is evidenced most strongly in the City Corporation Corporate Plan 2018 - 2023, draft Transport Strategy, Responsible Business Strategy, Responsible Procurement Strategy and draft City Plan.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

10. The draft Air Quality Strategy supports the following outcomes from the Corporate Plan 2018 to 2023.
 - Outcome 2 'People enjoy good health and wellbeing'

- Outcome 11 'We have clean air, land and water and a thriving and sustainable natural environment'

11. The Department of Markets and Consumer Protection wrote the draft strategy, with the following departments providing support:

- a. Built Environment
- b. Community and Children's Services
- c. Chamberlains
- d. Town Clerks
- e. City Surveyors

Financial and Resourcing Implications

12. The table of actions in the Appendix 1 of the strategy includes the relative cost of each item. Many actions will be delivered using existing resources.

13. A request has been made to increase the Air Quality base budget to cover the costs of additional air quality monitoring and increasing public demand for information about air pollution in the City. The requested base budget increase, totaling £99,000, would also fund an additional post to assist with monitoring, data analysis, projects and communications. If this funding request is not approved air quality monitoring in the City would have to be scaled back impacting on the City Corporation's statutory obligations for air quality management and delivery of actions 1 and 4 of the draft strategy. Monitoring equipment in the City is old and needs replacing over the next few years, this would not be possible without this additional funding. Without an additional post, large aspects of air quality communication work would cease. This has become more essential as the profile of air quality has increased. This would impact on the delivery of actions 59, 60, 61, 62, 64 and 65. This work has been covered over the past two years by an external grant.

14. An application for Priorities Investment Pot funding for £110,000 over two years has been submitted to support business engagement, some aspects of collaboration and leadership and for air quality modelling to assess compliance with the aims of the strategy. These are all commitments in the Responsible Business Strategy. Without this funding, significant aspects of business engagement would cease (action 25), we would not be able to demonstrate compliance with the aims of the strategy (action 6) and aspects of London wide collaboration would not be possible (action 7). Collaborative work is essential for improving air quality in the City as the City Corporation cannot resolve the problem alone.

15. Any item for which funding is not currently available includes a sub action to source funding for its delivery. In addition to the above items, this includes:

- electric vehicles charging infrastructure for City residential estates (action 10)
- supporting research by London Universities (action 20)

- supporting the Port of London Authority Air Quality Strategy (action 22)
- undertaking a survey of combustion plant in the City (action 24)
- rolling out cost effective interventions following pilot projects in the City's Low Emission Neighbourhood
- supporting trials of zero emission technology for street works, filming and events (action 51)
- supporting trials to reduce emissions from other combustion plant in the City
- investigating the use of emergency generators for demand side response (action 53)
- improvements to the free City smartphone app (action 58)

Public Sector Equality Duty

16. An equality analysis has been undertaken and has not indicated any potential discrimination or adverse impact on protected groups.

Security Implications

17. There are no security implications.

Conclusion

18. An updated draft Air Quality Strategy has been produced for consultation. It contains a wide range of action that will be taken to deliver the following outcomes:

- a. the Square Mile has clean air
- b. people enjoy good health through reduced exposure to poor air quality
- c. the City Corporation is a leader for air quality policy and action and inspires collaboration across London

19. The draft strategy will be published for statutory consultation, subject to comments received at Committee. The final strategy will be brought back to committee for approval in July 2019.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft Air Quality Strategy

Background Papers: Equalities Analysis for the draft Air Quality Strategy

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