

<b>Committee</b> Port Health and Environmental Services Committee Policy and Resources Planning and Transportation Committee Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub Committee Health and Wellbeing Board	<b>Dated:</b> 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2019 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2019 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2019 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2019
<b>Subject:</b> Air Quality Strategy 2019 - 2024	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Markets and Consumer Protection	<b>PHES: For Decision</b> <b>P&amp;R: For Decision</b> <b>P&amp;T: For information</b> <b>HWB: For information</b> <b>HSCS: For information</b>
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### Summary

The City of London Corporation's (City Corporation's) 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 Government's Clean Air Strategy, the Mayor of London's Environment Strategy, the draft London Plan, City of London Corporation Transport Strategy, draft City Local Plan and City Corporation Responsible Business Strategy.

A draft Air Quality Strategy 2019 – 2024 was approved for consultation by the Port Health and Environmental Services (PHES) Committee in March 2019. The draft strategy was published for consultation for a period of 8 weeks. 73 responses to the consultation were submitted online and a further 12 by letter or email. A table detailing comments received and the response to each comment is available in the Member's Reading Room. As a result of comments received, minor changes have been made to the strategy, with a small amount of additional information added for clarification. Hard copies of the report are available in the Member's Reading Room. Individual printed copies will also be made available on request.

The draft strategy was well received. The Greater London Authority, who oversees the Corporation's statutory air quality function, said it is an *'excellent plan, with a very thorough and engaging narrative and a comprehensive range of detailed, specific and ambitious actions..... Congratulations on an excellent plan which once again demonstrates your leadership in this field'*. Clean Air London (CAL) said *'CAL considers that the CoL is doing more than any Borough in Greater London to improve air quality'*

The 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 (PM<sub>10</sub>). 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. It demonstrates the very wide range of work undertaken by the City Corporation and that it continues to be a leader in this field.

## **Recommendation**

Members of Port Health and Environmental Services Committee are asked to:

- Approve the content of the Air Quality Strategy 2019 – 2024 for publication, subject to the comments received at the Committee meeting.

Members of the Planning and Transportation Committee, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub Committee and Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to:

- Note the content of the Air Quality Strategy 2019 -2024 and continue to provide support for improving air quality and 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 with 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 Corporation's existing Air Quality Strategy 2015 – 2020 details action to fulfil its 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 ahead of time following the relatively recent publication of the Mayor of London's Environment Strategy, the Government's Clean Air Strategy, draft London Plan, City of London Transport Strategy, draft City Local Plan and City Corporation's Responsible Business Strategy.
4. 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.

### **Air Quality Strategy**

5. The aims of the 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. support the Mayor of London to meet World Health Organisation Guidelines for particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) by 2030

6. 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

7. 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.

8. The 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, Transport Strategy, Responsible Business Strategy, Responsible Procurement Strategy and draft City Plan.

## **Consultation Comments**

9. The draft strategy was published for consultation for a period of 8 weeks. It was placed on the City Corporation web site and sent directly to a wide range of stakeholders, including statutory consultees. 73 people or organisations completed an online survey with a further 12 people or organisations submitting comments by letter or email.

10. A table detailing comments received and the response to each comment is available in the Member's Reading Room. As a result of comments received, minor changes have been made to the strategy with a small amount of additional information added for clarification. A small amount of text has also been added to reflect changes that have taken place since the publication of the draft strategy e.g. the implementation of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone and the notification of additional Mayor's Air Quality Fund for air quality improvement projects.

11. The draft strategy received some very positive comments:

- Greater London Authority (who oversees the City Corporation's statutory obligations for air quality) said it is an *excellent plan, with a very thorough and engaging narrative and a comprehensive range of detailed, specific and ambitious actions..... Congratulations on an excellent plan which once again demonstrates your leadership in this field'*
- Clean Air London (a campaign organisation) said: *CAL considers that the CoL is doing more than any Borough in Greater London to improve air quality'*
- A City resident said: 'I would like to congratulate the team, the report is concise, well written and ambitious'
- Cross River Partnership (a non-profit partnership organisation) said *CRP congratulates the City of London Corporation on the development of a comprehensive draft Air Quality Strategy that will empower the Council and stakeholders to improve health and quality of life outcomes for those who live, work and visit the City of London.*

12. Specific questions in the online survey revealed strong support by the respondents for action across all areas of the strategy. 42 out of 70 people (60%) feel that air pollution has a significant impact on their health. A summary of the data is available in the Member's Reading room.

13. Hard copies of the final strategy are available in the Member's Reading Room. Individual printed copies will also be made available on request.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

14. The 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'

15. The Department of Markets and Consumer Protection compiled the 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**

16. The table of actions in Appendix 1 of the strategy includes the relative cost of each item. Many actions will be delivered using existing resources, or through the implementation of other strategies and plans such as the City Corporation Transport Strategy.
17. The Air Quality team base budget was increased this financial year by £99,000 to cover the costs of additional air quality monitoring and increasing public demand for information about air pollution in the City. The £99,000 includes funding for a post to assist with monitoring, data analysis, projects and communications.
18. An application for Priorities Investment Pot funding for £110,000 over two years has been approved for 2019/20 and 2020/21. This will be used to fund some aspects of collaboration and leadership and for air quality modelling to assess compliance with the aims of the strategy. A London Borough best practice event has already been scheduled for September 2019 using this funding.
19. In June 2019, the City Corporation received notification that it has been awarded funding from the Mayor's Air Quality Fund for projects spanning 3 years, 2019 - 2022. This includes:
  - a. £500,000 for continuation of the pan London idling action programme, which the City Corporation has managed for the past 3 years. This programme will now be managed jointly with the London Borough of Camden. It will involve support for a range of action across 28 London Boroughs to reduce the amount of unnecessary vehicle engine idling.
  - b. £150,000 towards the implementation of the City Cluster Zero Emission Zone detailed in the City Corporation Transport Strategy
  - c. £500,000 for a Clean Air Thames project, which will be managed by Cross River Partnership. The funding will be used to pilot a range of retrofit technology on river vessels designed to reduce emissions of air pollutants
20. As part of the Markets and Consumer Protection submission to the City Corporation's Fundamental Review, an indication will be provided of how air quality in the Square Mile could be tackled more ambitiously if extra resources were provided.

## **Public Sector Equality Duty**

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

## **Security Implications**

22. There are no security implications.

## **Conclusion**

23. An updated Air Quality Strategy has been produced for publication. It contains a wide range of actions 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

24. The 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 (PM<sub>10</sub>). 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. It demonstrates the very wide range of work undertaken by the City Corporation and that the Corporation continues to be a leader in this field.

**Documents in the Member's Reading Room:**

Air Quality Strategy 2019 – 2024

Consultation comments

Data from online questions

**Background Papers:**

Equalities Analysis for the Air Quality Strategy

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