

<b>Committee:</b> Port Health and Environmental Services	<b>Date:</b> 24 September 2019
<b>Subject:</b> Air Quality Annual Status Report	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Markets and Consumer Protection	<b>For information</b>
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## Summary

As part of its statutory duties for London Local Air Quality Management, the City of London Corporation is required to produce an Annual Status Report. The report is designed to demonstrate progress with actions contained within the existing Air Quality Strategy and to present air quality monitoring data. A copy of the full report, which is produced using a prescribed template, is in the Members' Reading Room. A summary report is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

Data was collected in 2018 by three nitrogen dioxide continuous analysers, three PM<sub>10</sub> analysers and two PM<sub>2.5</sub> analysers. Nitrogen dioxide data was also collected at a further 79 sites using low cost diffusion tubes. The data for all sites is presented in the summary report.

Overall, air quality is improving in the Square Mile. Background locations, i.e. areas away from busy roadsides, are within the legal limits for both nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter. Levels of nitrogen dioxide at roadside locations remain high, though there is evidence that they are decreasing. This downward trend is set to continue with work being implemented by the City Corporation and the Mayor of London's programme to improve air quality.

## Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the content of the 2018 Air Quality Annual Status Report

## Main Report

### Background

1. The City of London 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 meet health-based limits as soon as possible. The City Corporation also has a responsibility to protect public health.

2. The City Corporation's current Air Quality Strategy 2015 – 2020 outlines action that will be taken to fulfil the City Corporation's statutory responsibility for Local Air Quality Management, and for reducing the health impact of air pollution on residents and workers. A new Air Quality Strategy 2019 - 2024 is going through the committee approval process and will be finalised in September 2019.
3. The City Corporation has a statutory obligation to submit an Annual Status Report to the Mayor of London and the government. The report must outline progress with actions within the existing Air Quality Strategy and provide the results of air quality monitoring undertaken. A copy of the full Annual Status Report, which was submitted in June 2019, is in the Members' Reading Room. A summary report is attached as Appendix 1.

### **Air Quality Data**

4. The amount of air quality monitoring taking place in the City has increased in recent years. In 2018, data was available from long-term continuous monitors for three nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) sites, three particulate PM<sub>10</sub> sites and two particulate PM<sub>2.5</sub> sites. Nitrogen dioxide data was also collected at a further 79 sites using low cost diffusion tubes. The data for all sites is presented in both the full report and the summary report attached.
5. Air quality monitoring locations are reviewed annually. The long-term continuous monitors mentioned above are retained. There are also 5 long-term diffusion tube locations which are retained each year. Other sites are added or removed according to the needs of research projects, planned programmes and local investigations or concerns. The summary report attached contains a map of current air quality monitoring sites in the Square Mile.
6. Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) levels are reducing across the City. In Beech Street, NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations reduced by 11µg/m<sup>3</sup> over the past year, this is partly due to electric single deck buses and the new electric taxis for London. At Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School, the 2018 annual average NO<sub>2</sub> reduced to 32µg/m<sup>3</sup>. This is below the health-based objective of 40µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Concentrations at Walbrook Wharf remain high. In 2018 the annual average was 87µg/m<sup>3</sup>, a reduction of 5µg/m<sup>3</sup> from the previous year. There is also evidence from the numerous diffusion tube sites that concentrations of nitrogen dioxide are reducing at all roadside locations.
7. Annual average concentrations of particulate PM<sub>10</sub> across the City Corporation's monitoring network have been below the limit value since 2010. The exception was in Upper Thames Street in 2015, which was associated with local construction activity and the installation of the cycle superhighway. PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations in 2018 were similar to concentrations in 2017. Levels of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in Farringdon Street and Sir John Cass School continue to be well below the annual average limit value but above the guideline level set by the World Health Organisation. The weather has a significant impact on levels of both PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>

## **Progress with Actions**

8. The annual status report details progress with actions in the City Corporation Air Quality Strategy 2015 to 2020. Actions include:
  - Completion of a range of pilot interventions as part of a Low Emission Neighbourhood (LEN) programme.
  - An electric vehicle charging pilot trial, undertaken by residents on the Barbican Estate
  - The LEN funded Smithfield cargo bike delivery trial developed into an independently run permanent cargo-bike delivery service
  - Air Quality was embedded into the new Transport Strategy, the Responsible Business Strategy and the draft City Plan (Local Plan)
  - Proposals were developed for an Emission Reduction Bill, to provide adoptive powers for London local authorities to control emissions from a range of combustion plant.
  - The City Corporation idling engine action days project continued to expand with 19 London Boroughs involved.
  - Levels of nitrogen dioxide at Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School reduced even further, to  $32\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .
  - 33 large businesses pledged to take action to improve air quality.
  - The City Corporation added an additional 3 electric vehicles to its fleet and updated vehicles where necessary for compliance with the Mayor of London Ultra Low Emission Zone.
  - A bi-monthly air quality e-newsletter is now being produced

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

9. The work on air quality supports the following outcomes from the Corporate Plan 2018 to 2023.
  - a. Outcome 11 'We have clean air, land and water and a thriving and sustainable natural environment';
  - b. Outcome 2 'People enjoy good health and wellbeing'.
  - c. Outcome 5 'Businesses are trusted and are socially and environmentally responsible' is supported through the CityAir business engagement work.

## **Conclusion**

10. The City Corporation has prepared and submitted its air quality Annual Status Report to the Mayor of London and government. This fulfils the City Corporation's statutory obligations for London Local Air Quality Management
11. Detailed air quality monitoring is now undertaken across the Square Mile. Air quality is improving, and this is set to continue with the work being implemented by the City Corporation, through its new Air Quality Strategy, and the Mayor of London's proposals to improve air quality.

## Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Air Quality Annual Status Summary Report for 2018

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