

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee(s): Port Health and Environmental Services - For Decision Planning and Transportation – For Information	Dated: 19/11/2024 21/01/2025
Subject: Air Quality Strategy 2025 to 2030	Public report: For Decision
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes • provides statutory duties 	Corporate Plan Outcomes: Leading Sustainable Environment. Providing Excellent Services. Diverse Engaged Communities. Statutory duties: London Local Air Quality Management.
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
Report of:	Katie Stewart, Executive Director, Environment.
Report author:	Ruth Calderwood, Air Quality Manager, Environment Department.

Summary

As part of its statutory duties for Air Quality Management, the City of London Corporation is required to measure air quality and, if concentrations are higher than set standards, develop, and implement an action plan to bring levels of pollution down.

The City Corporation delivers air quality improvements through its Air Quality Strategy. A draft Strategy was approved for consultation by the Port Health and Environmental Services (PHES) committee in May 2024. The consultation took place from 3rd June to 26th July. This report outlines the consultation process, details the responses received and corresponding amendments made to the draft strategy.

Following careful consideration of the consultation comments, relatively minor changes have been made to the draft Strategy and the final version is attached as Appendix 1 to this document. Amendments include: an expanded Glossary; ratified

air quality data for 2023; providing greater clarity in some areas; more measurable actions and further detail on the delivery of some actions. The aims of the Strategy remain unchanged and will deliver air quality that is better than national standards, as supported by the PHES committee at the May meeting.

Delivery of the Air Quality Strategy fulfils the City Corporations statutory obligations and will directly support the Corporate Plan outcomes Leading Sustainable Environments, Providing Excellent Services and Diverse Engaged Communities. It will also provide a robust set of data for the Corporate Plan performance measure 'Progress towards World Health Organisation Air Quality Guidelines.'

Recommendation(s)

Port Health and Environmental Services Committee Members are asked to:

- Approve the final Air Quality Strategy 2025 to 2030.

Planning and Transportation Committee Members are asked to:

- Note the contents of this report and the Appendices.

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. This is to ensure that concentrations of pollutants meet health-based standards as soon as possible. The City Corporation also has a responsibility to protect public health.
2. The City Corporation delivers air quality improvements through its Air Quality Strategy. A draft Strategy was approved for consultation by PHES committee in May 2024. It covers the period 2025 to 2030 and includes new data, new targets, and new responsibilities for helping to reduce emissions of very fine particles (PM_{2.5}). The draft Strategy supports the outcomes of the Corporate Plan 2024 to 2029, the Climate Action Strategy, Transport Strategy, City Plan and Procurement Strategy.

The Consultation

3. The draft Strategy was published for consultation from 3rd June to 26th July. It was sent directly to 30 organisations and placed on the Commonplace citizen engagement web site. Individuals and organisations were invited to submit comments either using Commonplace or directly in writing.
4. The consultation was promoted at the City Residents Meeting on 4th June. Three additional in-person events were held during the consultation period. Hard copies of the Strategy were available to view at the Guildhall North Wing

Reception and the City Libraries. A press release was issued on 3rd June about the consultation, and it was promoted on social media. It was also promoted in City Resident, the Barbican Estate Office newsletter and in the Air Quality monthly e-newsletter.

5. Further details about the consultation process can be found in Appendix 2.

Response to the Consultation

6. Ten detailed written responses were received, and 63 responses submitted to the Commonplace web site. Several people attended the in-person consultation events and were encouraged to visit the Commonplace web site to submit their views.
7. Appendix 3 contains a table with the detailed responses that were received in writing. A comment has been provided against each point raised, indicating action that has been taken as a result.
8. Appendix 4 provides a summary of the responses received on the Commonplace web site, together with action taken.

Amendments to the draft Strategy following Consultation

9. All consultation comments have been carefully considered and changes made to the draft Strategy where appropriate. The consultation resulted in relatively minor changes to the draft Strategy and include: an expanded Glossary; providing greater clarity in some areas; more measurable actions and further detail on the delivery of some actions. The air quality data in the final Strategy has been updated and some graphs have been amended to include additional information. The aims of the Strategy remain unchanged. A word copy of the draft Strategy with track changes is available in the Members Room.
10. Some of the recommendations made, though useful, are too detailed to include in a Strategy document and will be picked up under existing workstreams. Consequently, they result in no change to the Strategy text, but the recommendation will still be taken forwards. Further details can be found in Appendix 3 and 4.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications

11. Air quality policy is supported by the Climate Action Strategy, Transport Strategy, Procurement Strategy, and draft City Plan.
12. The Air Quality Strategy 2025 to 2030 aligns with, and will support the delivery of the Corporate Plan 2024-2029. It supports the following outcomes:
 - Leading sustainable environment
 - Providing excellent services

- Diverse engaged communities

The Strategy delivery will also provide a robust set of air quality data for the Corporate Plan performance measure '*Progress towards World Health Organisation Air Quality Guidelines.*'

Financial implications

13. No new funding is being requested to deliver the Air Quality Strategy. Most of the work is delivered by the Air Quality Team of three Officers plus one Manager. External funding is sought for specific projects where available.

Resource implications

14. The strategy will be delivered using existing resources

Legal implications

15. None

Risk implications

16. Air quality is listed as a Departmental Risk. Department risks are reviewed quarterly by the Environment Department Senior Leadership Team. Annual air quality progress reports and four monthly risk management update reports are presented to the PHES committee.

Equalities implications

17. Action to improve air quality has a positive impact on all sections of the population. The benefit is greatest for children and the elderly as they are more susceptible to the health impacts of air pollution. There is also a positive impact on individuals whose lives are affected by asthma and other respiratory and cardiovascular conditions. An Equalities Impact Assessment for the Air Quality Strategy is attached as Appendix 5.

Climate Implications

18. The Air Quality Strategy closely aligns with the Climate Action Strategy. Many actions to reduce emissions of air pollutants will also reduce emissions of carbon.

Security implications

19. None

Conclusion

20. The City Corporation published a draft Air Quality Strategy 2025 to 2030 for consultation from 3rd June to 26th July.

21. The responses to the consultation have been carefully considered and the draft Strategy amended where appropriate. Relatively minor changes have been made to the draft and include: an expanded Glossary; providing greater clarity in some areas; more measurable actions and further detail on the delivery of some actions. The air quality data in the final Strategy has been updated and some graphs have been amended to include additional information. The aims of the Strategy remain unchanged.

22. The City Corporation Air Quality Strategy 2025 to 2030 details work that will deliver air quality that is better than national standards. By doing so, it will deliver improved health outcomes and support the Corporate Plan outcomes Leading Sustainable Environments, Providing Excellent Services and Diverse Engaged Communities. It will also provide a robust set of data for the Corporate Plan performance measure 'Progress towards World Health Organisation Air Quality Guidelines.'

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Air Quality Strategy 2025 to 2030 (final version)
- Appendix 2 - Consultation process
- Appendix 3 - Written consultation comments
- Appendix 4 - Responses received on the Commonplace web site
- Appendix 5 - Equalities Impact Assessment for the Air Quality Strategy

Background papers

- Draft Air Quality Strategy 2025 to 2030, submitted to May 2024 PHES Committee for decision.

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