

Committee(s):	Date(s):	Item no.
Port Health and Environmental Services	1 May 2012	
<b>Subject:</b> Annual Air Quality Monitoring Review and Air Quality Strategy Progress Report	<b>Public</b>	
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Markets and Consumer Protection	<b>For Decision</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Summary</u></b></p> <p>The City Corporation has a statutory obligation to monitor air quality and assess the data against health based objectives. The annual average objective for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) is not being met across the City and is up to three times the required limit adjacent to busy roads. The daily average fine particle (PM<sub>10</sub>) objective is met everywhere except adjacent to the route that runs from Victoria Embankment through Upper and Lower Thames Street to Tower Hill. As pollution levels exceed the objectives, the City Corporation has a statutory obligation to develop and implement a programme of actions to improve air quality.</p> <p>This report presents air quality monitoring data for 2011. It also outlines the progress with the implementation of actions contained within the City of London Air Quality Strategy 2011 - 2015, which was published in March 2011.</p> <p>The publication of the air quality data and progress report ensures that the City Corporation meets its statutory requirements for reporting on air quality.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>I recommend that your Committee approves the attached annual air quality monitoring review (Appendix 1) and air quality strategy progress report (Appendix 2), subject to any amendments agreed at your meeting.</p>		

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. Air quality targets are defined in European legislation as Limit Values. The UK Government has a duty to ensure that air quality in the UK meets the Limit Values.
2. The Limit Values have been adopted into domestic legislation by the UK government as air quality objectives. The City Corporation has a statutory duty to work towards the objectives. By doing so, we assist the Government in meeting the European Union (EU) Limit Values.
3. The City Corporation has a statutory obligation to monitor and report on air quality concentrations and compare the results to the air quality objectives. As the air quality in the City does not meet the objectives for nitrogen dioxide and fine particles, the City of London has been declared an Air Quality Management

Area. An Air Quality Strategy was published in March 2011 outlining additional action that would be taken in pursuit of the objectives.

4. The results of air quality monitoring during 2011 in the City are attached to this report as Appendix 1. The data has been compared to previous years and will be submitted to both the Greater London Authority (GLA) and the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) for approval.
5. The report outlining progress made with actions contained within the City of London Air Quality Strategy is attached to this report as Appendix 2. This report is written in the format prescribed by Defra and will also be submitted to the GLA and Defra for approval.

### **Current Position**

6. Air quality during 2011 was broadly the same as that experienced in 2010. There was a slight reduction in roadside concentrations of nitrogen dioxide which was reflected at other roadside monitoring sites within central London. Background concentrations of nitrogen dioxide remained the same. Concentrations of PM<sub>10</sub> along Upper Thames Street did not meet the daily Limit Value despite a programme of dust suppression by Transport for London along this route. The annual average PM<sub>10</sub> Limit value was met everywhere. The annual average concentration of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in Farringdon was below the Limit Value of 25 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.
7. Good progress was made on a wide range of actions within the Air Quality Strategy. Key achievements include:
  - Implementing a range of measures to reduce the amount of unnecessary vehicle engine idling in the City
  - Obtaining £144,000 air quality grant from Defra for a range of air quality improvement work
  - Hosting an event at the Guildhall to mark the inaugural World Environmental Health Day 2011, the theme of which was air quality
  - Continuing with the CityAir work to engage businesses in air quality, and rolling this process out to other central London boroughs
  - Running two separate successful award schemes to recognise innovation and good practice in air quality improvement
  - Embarking on an air quality awareness raising campaign
  - Hosting a meeting with the City of Westminster and London Borough of Camden to advance closer working between the authorities and develop an improved dialogue with the Greater London Authority and Transport for London.

## **Corporate and Strategic Implications**

8. The City Corporation is strongly committed to improving air quality. This work supports Key Policy Priority 3 in the Corporate Plan 2011 – 2015, which outlines a commitment to engage with London and national government on the main issues of concern to our communities.
9. Implementing policies to improve air quality supports the following aims of the City Together Strategy:
  - Supports our communities
  - Protects, promotes and enhances our environment
10. In terms of impact on sustainability, improving air quality will make a positive contribution to reducing carbon emissions and reducing pollution. It will also encourage the City to be more environmentally aware and works towards enhancing and encouraging preventative health measures.

## **Conclusion**

11. The City of London continues to experience high concentrations of nitrogen dioxide. Air quality at busy roadside locations does not meet the PM<sub>10</sub> daily Limit Value. Good progress is being made on a wide range of actions outlined in the City's Air Quality Strategy. The City Corporation continues to fulfil its statutory obligation in relation to air quality management.

## **Background Papers:**

The City of London Air Quality Strategy 2011 – 2015, presented to the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee, March 2011

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Annual Air Quality Monitoring Review, April 2012

Appendix 2: The City of London Air Quality Strategy Progress Report, April 2012

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