

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Port Health and Environmental Services Planning and Transportation Health and Wellbeing Board	19 July 2016 26 July 2016 16 September 2016
<b>Subject:</b> Report to Audit and Risk Management Committee on Air Quality	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Markets and Consumer Protection	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Ruth Calderwood Environmental Policy Officer, Port Health and Public Protection Service	

### Summary

The City of London Corporation has identified eleven corporate risks, four of which are considered the most serious in terms of likelihood and impact, so are ranked as 'red'. Air quality is one of the four red corporate risks.

Five actions have been identified to demonstrate how the City Corporation is mitigating the risk associated with poor air quality:

- Implement policies in the City of London Air Quality Strategy
- Review and assess air quality in line with statutory obligations
- Become an Exemplar Borough for air quality
- Develop a communications strategy
- Develop and implement a plan for reducing the impact of diesel vehicles

The Audit and Risk Management Committee requested a deep dive review into how air quality is being handled by the City Corporation and the performance against the criteria which have been selected to demonstrate risk mitigation. The Committee was satisfied with the action being taken to address this issue and this report summarises the discussion held at the meeting. The deep dive report into air quality is available as background paper.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The City of London Corporation has identified eleven corporate risks. Four of these are ranked as red risks, which are considered the most serious in terms of likelihood and impact. Air quality is one of the four red corporate risks.

2. The air quality risk is financial and reputational. There is also the potential for legal action against the City Corporation if it is considered that insufficient action has been taken to mitigate the problem, and the consequent impact on public health.
3. The European Commission has commenced infraction proceedings against the United Kingdom for its failure to take sufficient action to deal with the pollutant nitrogen dioxide. This could lead to fines of £300million per annum. The Localism Act 2012 enables part of the fine to be passed to local authorities if it can be demonstrated that they have not taken appropriate action.
4. A recent report in the Sunday Times and on the BBC radio 4 Today programme detailed the case of a woman who is preparing to sue the Mayor of London and Lewisham Borough Council for failing to take sufficient action to improve air quality which she believes may have contributed to her daughter's death from asthma. Her lawyers are gathering clients for a potential class action.
5. The Audit and Risk Management Committee requested a deep dive review into how air quality is being handled across the City Corporation and the performance against the criteria which have been selected to demonstrate risk mitigation.

#### **Air quality deep dive report**

6. The Director of Markets and Consumer Protection presented the air quality deep dive report to the Audit and Risk Management Committee at their meeting on 14 June 2016. The report is available as a background paper via the [Audit & Risk Management Committee webpage](#).
7. The Director outlined that the City Corporation has an effective, proactive Air Quality Strategy that addresses the issue over and above statutory requirements. He also highlighted that the City Corporation is highly regarded by all stakeholders and that there is strong support from Members, residents and businesses to tackle the issue.
8. The Director detailed the importance that the recently elected Mayor of London has placed on improving air quality and that the City Corporation will continue to support the Mayor and play a major role in developing and implementing effective air quality policy across the Capital. It was noted that the Mayor of London had chosen to make his announcements on air quality at Sir John Cass Primary school. This was due to the air quality work undertaken with the school by the City Corporation.
9. The need for continued, effective cross-departmental collaboration was stressed and it is necessary for the issue to be tackled at all levels throughout the City Corporation.
10. An oral update was provided on a number of key initiatives. This included progress with aspects of the actions below that were chosen to demonstrate risk mitigation in this area:

- Implement policies in the City of London Air Quality Strategy
- Review and assess air quality in line with statutory obligations
- Become an Exemplar Borough for air quality
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11. The Chairman and Members thanked officers for an excellent, insightful report and for the productive debate which it facilitated.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

12. The work on air quality supports Key Policy Priority KPP3 of the Corporate Plan: 'Engaging with London and national government on key issues of concern to our communities such as transport, housing and public health'.

### **Conclusion**

13. The City Corporation is taking a wide range of actions to deal with air pollution and its effect on health. The Audit and Risk Management Committee was satisfied with the measures being taken to address the associated risks.

**Background Papers** – Report of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection to the Audit and Risk management Committee - Air Quality Deep Dive

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