

Committee Port Health and Environmental Services	Dated: 19 September 2017
Subject: Low Emission Neighbourhood Annual Update	Public
Report of: Director of Markets and Consumer Protection	For Information
Report author: Ben Kennedy Low Emission Neighbourhood Project Manager, Port Health and Public Protection Dept.	

Summary

In July 2016 the Mayor of London awarded the City of London Corporation £990,000 over three years to implement a Low Emission Neighbourhood (LEN) in the north west of the Square Mile encompassing an area that includes the Barbican and Golden Lane Estates, Barts hospital and the Guildhall. The project formally commenced in September 2016 and this report provides an update on the activities of the first year of the project.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the contents of the report and continue to support the activities of the LEN project.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London LEN is one of five that will be set up across eight London boroughs. All LENs will come into full effect by Spring of 2019.
2. The overall aim of the LEN is to improve local air quality by reducing traffic levels and support the transition to ultra-low and zero emission vehicles in the locality. It is anticipated that the most successful measures will be trialled in the LEN area and then be rolled out across the City.
3. The key objectives of the City's LEN project are to:
 - Reduce emissions
 - Reduce exposure
 - Raise awareness of air pollution
 - Pilot and test new ideas and approaches
 - Monitor and understand
4. The map in the Appendix A outlines the LEN area.

Update on past 12 months

5. A wide range of activities and schemes have been successfully undertaken in the past 12 months, a selection of which are summarised below:

- *Monitoring* – A network of diffusion tubes have been installed at ten sites across the LEN area providing ongoing monitoring of nitrogen dioxide levels since the start of the project. Monitoring of black carbon and particulates has also been undertaken through the use of personal monitors.
- *Community engagement activities and events:*
 - LEN Launch Event, City of London Girls School – January 2017
 - Air Quality & Cycling Pop Up Event, Fann Street – June 2017
 - Air Quality Champions Business Workshop – June 2017
 - City in Bloom Clean and Green in Seventeen campaign – various sites May to July 2017
 - City of London School for Girls LEN presentation: Dr Ian Mudway, King's College London – June 2017
 - Golden Lane estate walkabouts x 2 – November 2016, June 2017
 - Barbican resident presentations x 7 – November 2016 – July 2017
 - Moor Lane Pop Up Garden resident consultation event – May 2017
- *Business engagement* – over 50 organisations have been engaged with over 20 participating in air quality benchmarking activities. The Air Quality Champions network was launched with the first workshop hosted by Investec, Gresham Street, in June.
- *Air Quality Champions business grant* – this scheme offers a total of £100,000 to businesses to implement innovative air quality improvement measures. Businesses have until 29th September to bid for the funding and projects must be completed by December 2018.
- *Idling engines* – several Idling Engine Action Days have been held in and around the LEN area with volunteers going out and approaching drivers with idling engines. A special LEN event was held at Barts Hospital with ambulance and patient transport drivers to raise awareness and reduce instances of idling in and around the hospital.
- *Beech Street* – a comprehensive feasibility study assessing the impact of different traffic restriction scenarios has been undertaken to determine the best option for reducing air pollution in this covered street. Due to the evolving proposals for the Cultural Mile and the Centre for Music it has become apparent that there is a need for wider traffic modelling requirements to support justification for any proposed traffic scheme. The LEN Project Manager is working with Department for Built Environment (DBE) and the Cultural Mile team to determine how respective objectives can be aligned to achieve rapid improvement in air quality whilst also delivering the public realm improvements greatly needed in Beech Street.
- *Reducing emissions from freight* – the LEN Project Manager has been working closely with DBE to collect data and information on current freight

and servicing activity in the LEN area to inform an action plan for reducing freight traffic in the peak hours. Work funded by the LEN project so far has included a survey of all on-street loading and unloading activities in the EC2Y (Barbican) and EC2V (Guildhall) post codes and the development of delivery and servicing plan (DSP) case studies for eight key organisations in the LEN area.

- *Resident electric vehicle charging* – the LEN Project Manager has been participating in a Barbican Residents' Working Party to identify the best solution for the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. In June 2017 the Barbican Residents' Committee approved a pilot project to install charging points in five different Barbican car parks. The power supply upgrades are underway and the City is due to appoint a contractor to supply and install the charging points in September 2017. It is anticipated the points will be installed and operational in October 2017.
- *Measures to support zero emission capable taxis* – discussions are ongoing with TfL and DBE on how best to provide electric vehicle charging infrastructure for zero emission capable taxis in the City. The LEN project manager was closely involved in identifying the proposed site for a rapid charging hub in the Castle Baynard car park. Trial holes in the footway have been undertaken at several taxi rest bays in the LEN area to determine their suitability for charging infrastructure. It is hoped that approval can be obtained for at least one charging point at a taxi rest bay in the LEN area to act as a trial to determine suitability for elsewhere in the City.
- *Greening in the area* – as part of the City in Bloom (Clean and Green for Seventeen challenge) the LEN Project Manager has been working with Friends of City Gardens to support the installation of a number of pop up air quality gardens in the public realm. The largest of these was the Moor Lane pop up garden at the corner of Moor Lane and Silk Street which was opened on National Clean Air Day on the 15th June 2017.
- *Cycle parking improvements* – phase 1 of cycle parking improvements funded by the LEN have included the installation of 90 secure cycle parking spaces in the Barbican Estate car parks and a further 6 on the Golden Lane estate.
- *Cargo bikes* – a trial cargo bike hire scheme has been established on the Golden Lane Estate with the intention of expanding the project to three other locations in the LEN area to provide an area wide scheme for use by residents and businesses. The City Gardens team based at the Barbican Estate have also been given a cargo bike to reduce the need for them to drive their van from the depot to the Barbican site.

6. Further details of all of activities and schemes undertaken as part of the LEN in the past 12 months can be found in Appendix A.

Planned outcomes for next 12 months

7. The next 12 months will see a great deal of activity in the LEN area with the following key outcomes expected:

- Launch of residential electric vehicle charging points on the Barbican Estate car park
- Launch of electric Zipcar vehicles on the Barbican Estate
- Greening of Aldersgate Street footbridge
- Urban air quality garden outside the Museum of London entrance
- Launch of an area wide cargo bike hire scheme
- Development of proposals for zero emission capable taxi ranks
- Further progression of proposals for an ultra-low emission vehicle (ULEV) only street in the LEN area

Financial implications

8. The financial expenditure for the project is detailed below. 'Other' funding will be additional match funding provided for the project and will be from a variety of sources, for example department underspend, City businesses, Transport for London, staff time, Section 106 etc.

Financial Year	LEN grant	LIP funding	Other
2016/17	255,000	100,000	nil
2017/18	470,000	100,000	TBD
2018/19	265,000	100,000	TBD
Total	990,000	300,000	

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. The LEN project supports the aims and objectives of the City of London Air Quality Strategy 2015–2020, in addition to a number of other corporate policies and strategies. It also goes towards addressing air quality, which has been identified as a corporate risk.

Conclusion

10. The LEN project is progressing well and is expected to continue to do so with the support of the new Air Quality & Communications Assistant who will be assisting the LEN project manager on a part time basis.

11. With the continued support of other City Corporation Departments such as DBE and Barbican Estate the LEN project is on schedule to be delivered on time and to budget.

Appendices:

- Appendix A: Summary of LEN Schemes 2016-17

Further information

Ben Kennedy
Low Emission Neighbourhood Project Manager
T: 020 7332 3483
E: ben.kennedy@cityoflondon.gov.uk