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| Committee | Dated: |
| Port Health and Environmental Services | 19 th September 2017 |
| Subject: Response to resolution arising from Annual Wardmote: Ward of Dowgate | Public |
| Report of: Director of Markets and Consumer Protection | For Information |
| Report author: Ruth Calderwood, Air Quality Manager | |

Summary

At the Grand Court of Wardmote on Tuesday 9th May 2017, a resolution was passed that the Ward of Dowgate expressed concern about poor air quality, with a request that the City Corporation redouble its efforts to reduce levels of air pollution in the City.

This report provides a response to that resolution. It contains the work plan for the Air Quality Team for 2017/18. The plan demonstrates the wide range of work being undertaken to both improve local air quality and help people to reduce exposure to air pollution. This report also details action being taken by the Mayor of London over the next few years. Actions being implemented by both the City Corporation and Mayor of London will result in measurable air quality improvements in the Ward of Dowgate, and across the City more widely, over the next few years. The Air Quality Team will continue to monitor air quality across the City to assess the impact of the various schemes.

Given its profile and importance to the organisation, the City of London Corporation is in the process of increasing its efforts to reduce poor air quality across the Square Mile with the provision of additional resources.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:-

- note the report, and;
- note that the report will also be sent to Members of the Ward of Dowgate, pursuant to the resolution submitted by that Ward to the Grand Court of Wardmote and referred on to this Committee for consideration by the Court of Common Council, whom the Grand Court of Wardmote had tasked with responding.

Main Report

Background

1. At the Grand Court of Wardmote on Tuesday, 9th May 2017, the following resolution was passed.

“That the Ward of Dowgate expresses concern about the continued poor air quality in the Ward (and across the City) and asks the City of London Corporation to redouble its efforts to reduce the poor air quality and to report to the Ward of Dowgate on the progress of its programme of works within six months with comparative information from air quality readings”.

2. Air quality in the City currently meets the health based limits for all pollutants except nitrogen dioxide. Levels of fine particles (PM₁₀) are met everywhere except Upper and Lower Thames Street. Air pollution is largely a product of combustion. In the City the main source is diesel vehicles. Emissions from construction sites, boilers, generators and combined heat and power plant also contribute to local levels of pollution.

Ward of Dowgate

3. Dowgate is a small ward to the south of the City. Given the size and location of the Ward it is very difficult to deliver air quality improvements specific to this area. Like everywhere in the City, the air quality in the ward will vary depending on the proximity to busy roads. Upper Thames Street, which runs through the ward, forms part of a key east-west route through the City. It carries a large number of vehicles and, as a result, experiences high levels of nitrogen dioxide.
4. Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and fine particles (PM₁₀) are both measured on Upper Thames Street. Concentrations are typical for a busy road in the City. The introduction of the cycle superhighway has led to a decrease in levels of pollution, as evidenced in Figure 1 and Figure 2. The horizontal line represents the health based limit value of 40 µg/m³, below which there is no impact on health.

Annual concentration of NO₂ at Walbrook Wharf (Upper Thames Street) (µg/m³)

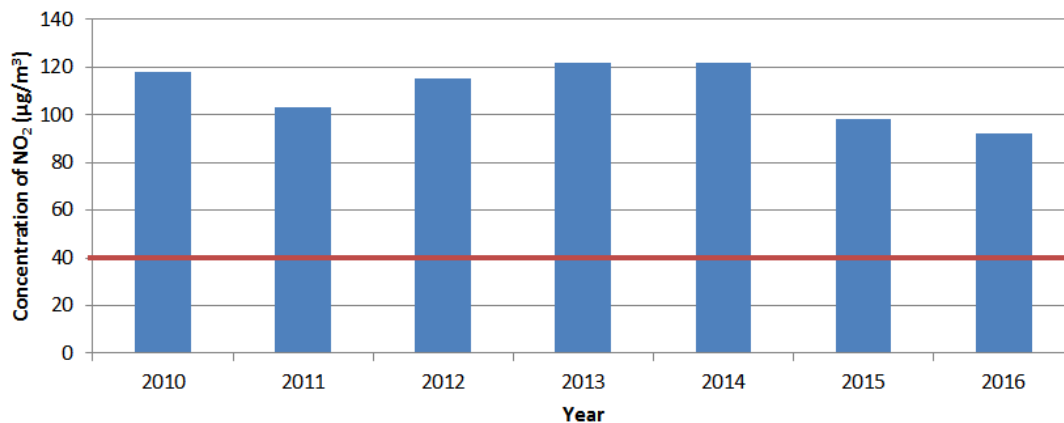


Figure 1

Annual concentration of PM₁₀ on Upper Thames Street (µg/m³)

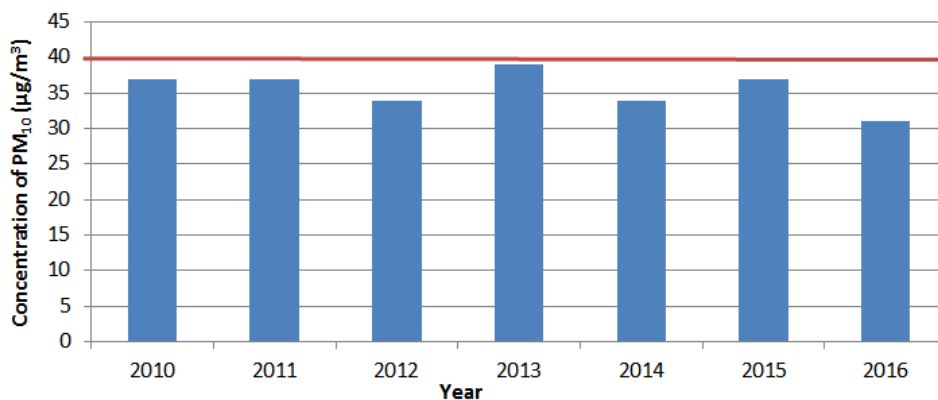


Figure 2

5. Nitrogen dioxide monitoring commenced in Cannon Street, opposite the entrance to the mainline station, in 2016. This was to measure the impact on air quality of the traffic management scheme at Bank junction. This road also carries a large number of vehicles. The annual average concentration in 2016 was 78µg/m³.
6. The City Corporation has been running its CityAir air quality business engagement programme for a number of years. One of the City's main business air quality champions is in the Ward of Dowgate. Nomura International has been an active participant in the CityAir business engagement scheme for a number of years and hosted a business Air Quality Champions event in 2014. Nomura International is also a previous winner of the City Corporation Sustainable City award for Air Quality.

7. Staff at Nomura measured nitrogen dioxide concentrations at their building in 2014/15. The annual average concentrations at their loading bay, which faces Upper Thames Street was $57 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The annual average concentration on their garden terrace, which faces the River Thames was $36 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. These results highlight how rapidly nitrogen dioxide concentrations decrease from the roadside.

Action being taken by the City Corporation to improve air quality across the Square Mile

8. The City Air Quality Strategy 2015 – 2020 provides the main framework for the delivery of air quality policy at the City Corporation. Annual reports are produced which demonstrate progress with actions to deal with air pollution. The reports also contain the latest monitoring data. The annual report for 2016 was presented to the July Port Health and Environmental Services Committee and is available on the City Corporation web site www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/air
9. The location of the Square Mile means that air quality in the City is heavily influenced by external factors. Consequently, the City Corporation is not able to take action in isolation to improve air quality to an acceptable level. Much of the work of the Air Quality Team therefore involves collaboration, influence and the demonstrating of leadership and innovation. Appendix 1 contains the Air Quality Team Plan for 2017/18, which details action being taken in each area. A report will be produced on progress with actions in the plan in early summer 2018. This is part of the City Corporation's annual statutory reporting obligations.

Air quality monitoring

10. A key part of the work undertaken by the Air Quality Team is air quality monitoring. Appendix 2 contains a map of current monitoring locations. The amount of monitoring undertaken has increased significantly over the past few years due to the greater interest and focus on air quality in the City.
11. Nitrogen dioxide is currently being measured around Bank to assess the impact of the traffic management scheme which was implemented in May 2017. The results are not conclusive to date. Roadside concentrations of nitrogen dioxide are affected by the weather, and the number and type of vehicles on the road. Vehicle numbers are influenced by the many street works, road closures and diversions that occur in the City at any given time. Consequently, a few months' data will be required to draw any firm conclusions about the impact of the scheme on local air quality.

Regional policies that will improve air quality in the Square Mile

12. The Mayor of London is responsible for improving air quality across London and is introducing several policies and programmes that will lead to a measurable improvement in air quality in the Square Mile over the next few years:

- On October 23rd 2017, there will be an extra charge on vehicles entering the Congestion Charge Zone that do not meet Euro 4/IV emission standards. These are vehicles that were registered before 2005
- 'Zero emission capable' taxis are being introduced from 2018
- An ultra-low emission zone will be in force in the Congestion Charge Zone in 2019. An extra charge will be levied on vehicles that do not meet Euro 6/VI emission standards. These are vehicles registered before 2014/15
- Single deck buses will all be fully electric by 2020 and all double deck buses that operate in central London will be hybrid
- The Mayor has published a draft Transport Strategy which includes an aspiration to deliver a zero emission zone in central London from 2025
- The Mayor has also published a draft Environment Strategy with a range of actions designed to: reduce the exposure of Londoners to air pollution; achieve legal compliance with air quality limits as soon as possible and to establish tighter air quality targets for London

Increasing resources

13. Given its profile, the City Corporation is increasing resources to work on air quality policy and projects. An Air Quality and Communications Assistant has recently joined the Air Quality Team to assist with the dissemination of information and support project delivery. Recruitment is also underway for an additional Air Quality Officer to deliver projects and programmes and assist with applications for external funding.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

14. 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'.

15. The work also supports delivery of the City of London Air Quality Strategy 2015 - 2020

Conclusion

16. The Air Quality Team plan for 2017/18 details the work being undertaken to deliver the City Corporation's obligations for air quality management. It also details the innovative and collaborative work being undertaken by the team. A report on progress with actions in the plan will be produced in early summer 2018.

17. The City Corporation continues to take a wide range of coordinated action to deal with air quality and reduce its impact on health. Additional resources are being

made available to deal with air quality given its increasing priority within the organisation.

18. Actions being implemented by both the City Corporation and Mayor of London will result in air quality improvements in the Ward of Dowgate over the next few years. The Air Quality Team will continue to monitor air quality to assess the effectiveness of various schemes.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Air Quality Team Plan 2017/18

Appendix 2: Map of current monitoring locations in the City

Background Papers:

City of London Air Quality Strategy 2015 – 2020

Air quality annual status report, PHES Committee , Tuesday 4 July 2017

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