



Air Quality Team Plan for 2017/18

Team aim

To reduce the impact of air quality on public health by fulfilling the City Corporation statutory obligations for air quality management and providing leadership for air quality policy and projects across London.

Context

The Air Quality team was established in September 2016. It was formed to reflect the high priority placed on improving air quality in the City; the increasing profile of air quality and the additional workload following the successful application for funding from the Mayor of London to implement a Low Emission Neighbourhood. Improving air quality is an important priority for the City Corporation and is currently listed as a 'red' corporate risk.

The team is responsible for ensuring that the City complies with statutory air quality responsibilities. It is also responsible for reducing the impact of poor air quality on public health.

The City Corporation has been awarded Clean Air Borough Status for its efforts to improve air quality. Pollution generated across the whole of London has an impact on air quality in the City; consequently the Air Quality team works collaboratively with a large number of organisations including being the chair of the London Air Quality Steering Group. It is regarded as a leader in its field delivering a wide range of pioneering and innovative projects.

Strategic objectives

Improving air quality by implementing measures in the City Air Quality Strategy

Protecting public health by providing robust and timely information to increase awareness of air quality and enable the public to manage exposure to pollution

Providing leadership in air quality policy and action by disseminating information and best practice, and driving policy and legislative changes

Piloting innovative solutions by arranging trials, particularly in the City Low Emission Neighbourhood

Working collaboratively by working closely with a range of organisations such as the Greater London Authority, London Councils, London Boroughs, the Environment Agency, London's Universities, charities, the construction industry, City businesses, residents and schools.

How we will improve air quality in 2017/18

Action	Outcome	Measure	Responsibility
Ensure compliance with the statutory requirements for London Local Air Quality Management	Full and continuing compliance with the statutory obligations, which require new systems of working and the implementation of new reporting mechanisms	Annual progress report submitted to the GLA and Defra by 24 April 2017 Report approved and Clean Air Borough Status maintained	Air Quality Manager Air Quality Officer
Reduce the status of the corporate air quality risk by implementing a range of agreed measures	Mitigate the impact of poor air quality on the health of residents and workers in the City Reduce the financial and reputational risk to the organisation	1. Implement the policies contained in the City of London Air Quality Strategy 2. Review and assess air quality in line with statutory obligations 3. Ensure the City Corporation becomes an Exemplar Borough for air quality 4. Develop and implement a communications strategy 5. Develop a plan for reducing the impact of diesel vehicles	Air Quality Manager
Improve the process of minimising emissions from new developments	Clarity on requirements for mitigating air pollution associated with new developments	Publish new air quality Supplementary Planning Document Identify best practice and develop guidance to support the Supplementary Planning Document	Air Quality Officer
Comment on planning applications	Impact of new developments on local air quality reduced	Comments submitted on time to planning applications and accompanying reports New procedures developed for dealing with planning applications	Air Quality Officer
Regulate the height of new chimneys	Increased dispersion of pollutants from new boilers, generators and combined heat and power plant	Review and authorise applications under the Clean Air Act 1993	Air Quality Officer

Action	Outcome	Measure	Responsibility
Regulate prescribed processes under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016	Prescribed process operations that comply with the requirements of the regulations	Inspection visits, data analysis and updated public register	Air Quality Manager
Work with Transport Coordination Group to oversee the purchase of new vehicles	Cleaner Corporate fleet	Non diesel vehicles purchased where possible	Air Quality Manager
Install greening and air conditioning filtration system at Sir John Cass Foundation Primary School	Further protection of children from poor air quality at the school	Green screen installed on the school perimeter adjacent to Aldgate Air filtration system up and running in the nursery by March 2018	Air Quality Officer
Oversee the inspection of construction sites for compliance with Non Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) requirements	Reduced emissions of air pollutants from construction sites	Equipment registered on NRMM web site that meets stage IIIB emission standards	Air Quality Officer
Appoint temporary Air Quality and Communications Officer and permanent Air Quality Officer	Extra resources to assist with the delivery of the Air Quality Strategy and associated work	2 x people in post by Dec 2017	Air Quality Manager
Installation of secure cycle parking in Barbican Estate residential car parks and the Golden Lane Estate	More residents and visitors cycling in the City and Low Emission Neighbourhood area.	Increased cycling activity amongst residents in the area and reduction in number of cycle thefts	LEN Project Manager
Support the Mayor of London with the implementation of the Emission Surcharge (ES)	Businesses and residents are aware of the ES being introduced in the Congestion Charge Zone in October 2017	Publicise ES through networks	Air Quality Manager New Air Quality Comms post
Reduce emissions from Corporate properties	Minimising the impact of City Corporation actions on air quality in London	Training for facilities managers and awareness raising with CoL Surveyors dept	Air Quality Manager
Ensure urban realm design includes reference to improving air quality	Areas in the City that meet health based air quality targets	Input into designs and monitor changes in air quality	Air Quality Manager Technical Assistant

Action	Outcome	Measure	Responsibility
Ensure new code of practice for construction incorporates air quality requirements	Minimise emissions from construction and demolition activity through best practice	An improved and approved new Code of Practice	Air Quality Officer

How we will protect public health in 2017/18

Action	Outcome	Measure	Responsibility
Maintain an extensive monitoring network	Robust data set to assess compliance with limit values and the effectiveness of policies to improve air quality	Maintain 3 x continuous NOx analysers, 2 x PM10 analysers, 2 x PM2.5 analysers, 1 Osiris, 2 x AQ Mesh analysers and an extensive diffusion tube monitoring network Make data available on the LAQN site and to the public	Technical Assistant
Support City residents and workers in measuring exposure to air pollution	Greater understanding by the public on how to reduce exposure to pollution in the Square Mile	Train in the use of exposure monitors and download and analyse data	Technical Assistant
Assess the impact of the Bank on Safety scheme on air quality	An understanding of the impact of changes to traffic flow in the area	Robust data set from 22 locations in and around Bank	Technical Assistant
Run events for National Clean Air Day	Raise awareness of the work of the team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open pop up garden and clean air route at the Barbican • Idling engine action day • Open day event at Guildhall • Residents air quality & cycle week pop up event 	Air Quality Officer Technical Assistant LEN Project Manager
Update City air quality web pages	Improved and timely information on City air quality web pages	Information updated at least fortnightly to reflect work of the team	Air Quality Officer New AQ and Comms. post
Develop and manage systems to promote the work of the team and provide alerts when air pollution is high	Raised awareness amongst stakeholders of the wider work of the team and of high pollution days	Increased social media presence and people informed about high pollution days	New AQ and Comms. post
Develop the cityairapp.com web site	Improved web site for disseminating information	Web site up and running by March 2018	New AQ and Comms. post
Highlight and display air quality related information spatially using GIS	Increase public understanding of, and access to, air quality data and projects	A series of maps detailing air quality information	Air Quality Officer Technical Assistant
Support City events, e.g. residents meetings, business events	Increased awareness of air quality amongst stakeholders	Presence at various events across the Square Mile	Whole team as required

Action	Outcome	Measure	Responsibility
Publish short films of stakeholders on the LEN and air quality	Increased awareness of the activities being undertaken in the LEN	A series of short films uploaded to City YouTube channel Increased awareness of air pollution amongst residents and workers in the LEN area.	LEN Project Manager
Develop a map of focus areas based on pedestrian flow and air quality	An understanding of areas of high pollution and high footfall	A map detailing areas of focus	Technical Assistant
Low emission route way finding projects	Encouraging residents, workers and visitors in the City LEN area to avoid busy traffic routes and instead take quieter and lower pollution routes thereby reducing their exposure	Installation of Cleaner Air Footprint aluminium/vinyl stickers along the quieter routes – Barbican High Walk. Increased pedestrians on quieter routes	LEN Project Manager

How we will provide leadership in 2017/18

Action	Outcome	Measure	Responsibility
Investigate options for reducing emissions from combustion plant within the Square Mile	Mitigate the impact of combustion plant on local air quality	Report on options for low and zero emission plant	Air Quality Manager Air Quality Officer
Maintain the City's status as 'Clean Air Borough'	Demonstrate taking robust action Mitigate risk associated with fines for non-compliance	Demonstrate significant progress in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political leadership • Taking action • Leading by example • Development control • Public health • Information and communication 	Air Quality Manager
Provide the chair for the London Air Quality Steering Group and be the key contact for London Councils on London air quality policy	Coordinated action across London	Quarterly meetings and ad hoc information provided as required	Air Quality Manager
Develop text for new Clean Air private members Bill	Improved regulatory powers for dealing with air quality	Draft Bill approved by March 2018	Air Quality Manager
Provide consultation comments, and input into the development of, the National Air Quality Plan, Mayor's Environment Strategy, proposals for changes to the ULEZ and the draft London Plan	Input into strategic plans affecting air quality in the City	Consultation comments submitted on time and approved by Committee	Air Quality Manager

How we will pilot innovative solutions in 2017/18

Action	Outcome	Measure	Responsibility
Apply for funding to support the innovative work of the air quality team	To support the delivery of the City Corporation air quality aims and objectives	Successful applications for funding	Air Quality Manager Air Quality Officer LEN project Manager
Develop the business air quality champions grant scheme	Raised awareness and support for air quality improvement by businesses with the implementation of real world case studies	Successful applications and projects implemented by businesses with monitored outcomes	LEN Project Manager
Trial electric charge points in Barbican Estate car parks	Increased uptake of electric and plug-in vehicles amongst residents who own petrol/diesel vehicles	Trial installation of over 30 electric vehicle charging points installed in 5 different car parks, which will be monitored and assessed to determine best options for future rollout of EVCPs in car parks.	LEN Project Manager
Develop feasibility study and proposals for restricting traffic in Beech Street and other streets in the Low Emission Neighbourhood area to ULEVs or zero emission vehicles	Nitrogen dioxide levels in Beech Street and surrounding streets will be reduced to the EU safe limit threshold	Reduced traffic flows in the area. Increased uptake of zero emission capable vehicles particularly amongst taxis and servicing vehicles	LEN Project Manager
Museum of London Urban Air Quality Gardens	Raise awareness and understanding of air quality impacts on soil and vegetation	Number of visitors to the museum engaged in the project	LEN Project Manager
Develop proposals for electric / Zero Emission Capable (ZEC) only taxi ranks and rest bays including trial of on street charger at a rest bay	Increased uptake of zero emission capable taxis and shift to electric vehicles resulting in reduced emissions of NOX	Number on ZEC rest bays and ranks in LEN area. Uptake of ZEC taxis	LEN Project Manager
LEN cargo bike hire scheme for residents and businesses	Increased use of cargo bikes amongst businesses and residents in LEN area. Reduced van movements	Use and number of trips made by cargo bike	LEN Project Manager

How we will work collaboratively in 2017/18

Action	Outcome	Measure	Responsibility
Support Kings College London PhD to develop new health based messages for air quality	Improved messaging system around days of high air pollution	Support public survey through the City Air App and promote the research through local contacts	Air Quality Manager
Lead on idling engine project for London	Roll out successful idling engine behaviour change programme	Successful delivery of pan London project	Air Quality Officer
Run quarterly idling engine action days with a range of stakeholders	Reduced emissions from unnecessary vehicle engine idling	4 x events with the support of community volunteers	Air Quality Officer
Work with City businesses on targeted intervention to reduce emissions in the Square Mile	Reduced emissions from boilers, buildings and business activities and travel	Number of businesses engaged	LEN project Manager Air Quality Manager
Work with Global Action Plan to raise awareness of air quality amongst residents in City estates across London	Increased awareness of air quality amongst City tenants	Material developed with 4 x workshops, follow up meetings and published articles	Air Quality Manager
Work with the London Responsible Procurement Network to disseminate good practice across London	London Boroughs incorporating air quality into procurement decisions	Workshops and development of best practice	Air Quality Manager
Installation of ivy screen planters on Aldersgate footbridge	Increased usage of footbridge and Barbican High Walk instead of Beech Street leading to reduced exposure to pollution	Greening installed and maintained on footbridge	LEN Project Manager

Action	Outcome	Measure	Responsibility
Delivery and servicing case studies	Working with businesses, other organisations and DBE to support them with implementation of the actions and recommendations of the DSP case studies to reduce freight traffic movements	Engagement and actions being undertaken by involved organisations	LEN Project Manager
Feasibility proposals for micro-consolidation centre in London Wall car park	Feasibility study produced outlining options and scenarios for using London Wall car park for a micro-consolidation centre to reduce freight trips on City roads	Final feasibility study with recommendations that are received well by the City Surveyors and DBE	LEN Project Manager

The Air Quality Team

The Air Quality team is comprised of:

- Air Quality Manager
- Air Quality Officer (x 2 from Autumn 2017)
- Low Emission Neighbourhood Project Manager (0.8 FTE)
- Technical Assistant (0.5 FTE)
- Air Quality and Communications Assistant (2 year post from 14/8/17)