

	<p><b>London Borough of Hammersmith &amp; Fulham</b></p> <p><b>COMMUNITY SAFETY, ENVIRONMENT &amp; RESIDENTS SERVICES POLICY &amp; ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE</b></p> <p><b>21 September 2015</b></p>
<p><b>AIR QUALITY</b></p>	
<p><b>Report of the Director for Environmental Health</b></p>	
<p><b>Open Report</b></p>	
<p><b>Classification:</b> For PAC Review &amp; Comment</p> <p><b>Key Decision:</b> No</p>	
<p><b>Wards Affected:</b> All</p>	
<p><b>Accountable Executive Director:</b> Nicholas Austin, Director for Environmental Health</p>	
<p><b>Report Author:</b> Elizabeth Fonseca, Environmental Quality Manager</p>	<p><b>Contact Details:</b> Tel: 020 8753 3454 E-mail: <a href="mailto:elizabeth.fonseca@lbhf.gov.uk">elizabeth.fonseca@lbhf.gov.uk</a></p>

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The Council's 2015 Update and Screening Assessment (USA) Report reviews air quality data for the pollutants nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and particulate matter (PM10) and provides an update on the implementation of actions in the Council's Air Quality Action Plan.

- 1.2. King's College London recently published a report on the health impact of pollution in London which identifies Hammersmith and Fulham as having the 8<sup>th</sup> highest percentage of early deaths attributable to poor air quality.
- 1.3. The Council is creating a resident-led commission on Air Quality which will engage with external experts and local residents to examine the causes and dangers of local air pollution. Rosemary Pettit is chairing this Commission and an initial meeting has been held with officers from the Council's Environmental Health team.
- 1.4. Officers will work alongside the Air Quality Commission to incorporate its findings into the Council's Air Quality Action Plan which is due for renewal. This Plan pulls together the many strands of Council activity that can influence air quality including highways, planning, housing, public health and environmental protection.
- 1.5. The London Mayor's Air Quality Fund (MAQF) has provided funding for a number of projects within the Borough to tackle poor air quality which are programmed to complete in April 2016. The second round of funding is currently accepting bids and the Council is participating in the submission of relevant bids.
- 1.6. A project in Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster funded by Public Health aimed at mitigating the impact of poor air quality on vulnerable groups is also being progressed.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to note the findings of the air quality Update and Screening Assessment.
- 2.2. The Committee notes the Council's commitment to cut air pollution and the development of a revised Air Quality Action Plan
- 2.3. The Committee is asked to note the status of the current Mayor's Air Quality Fund projects and the proposals for second round of funding for additional projects to tackle poor air quality in the borough.

## **3. REASONS FOR DECISION**

- 3.1. To drive forward improvement in air quality within the Borough.

## **4. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 4.1. There is a heightened national focus on tackling poor air quality following recent studies showing the significant health and economic impacts from exposure to nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter
- 4.2. The recent report 'Understanding the Health Impacts of Air Pollution in London', published this year by King's College London, estimates the percentage of deaths caused by air pollution per year in the borough to be

8.1% and 15% respectively from nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter exposure totalling 203 deaths annually.

- 4.3. A recent UK Supreme Court judgement could lead to possible national fines for breaches of the nitrogen dioxide limits which have been occurring since 2010. The Mayor of London has estimated the fines as potentially being £300 million per annum in London alone; these fines could be passed onto Local Authorities.
- 4.4. A UK Supreme Court ruling requires Defra to produce a new plan of action to tack nitrogen dioxide hotspots by Christmas this year.

### **2015 Updating and Screening Assessment Report**

- 4.5. The London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham is a designated Air Quality Management Area which means the Council is required to review, assess and report on air quality in its area annually.
- 4.6. The 2015 Report for LBHF has been accepted and approved by both Defra and the GLA.
- 4.7. The Report found that nitrogen dioxide annual mean limits continue to be exceeded across the majority of the Borough and that the hourly limit is likely being exceeded along busy 'A' roads and town centres.
- 4.8. Limited particulate matter data was collected due to damage to the monitoring station; no exceedences were identified, but the data that was collected was insufficient to establish a trend. The monitor has since been repaired and real-time data is now being logged and reported.
- 4.9. The review of the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) for 2014/15 is included in this Report and has shown progress across the Council including sustained uptake of green parking permits and the implementation of a programme to assist with increasing the provision and uptake of residential cycle parking. A further progress report on our AQAP is due in April 2016.

### **LBHF Commission on Air Quality**

- 4.10. The Council takes its responsibility to protect residents from harmful air pollution seriously. It is creating a resident-led commission on Air Quality, chaired by Rosemary Pettit that will engage with external experts and local residents in examining the causes and dangers of local air pollution.
- 4.11. An introductory meeting took place on 20 August to discuss the role of the H&F Commission on Air Quality. The following programme for the Commission was discussed.
  - The objectives, scope and timing
  - Recruitment of members
  - Sectorial and policy officer support
  - Press and publicity

- How to widely engage with residents, local businesses and other stakeholders including GPs, the NHS, environmental groups, etc.
  - How to engage and influence government and the EU
  - How to implement the commission's findings
- 4.12. The Commission will also feed into the Air Quality Action Plan drafting process, which is currently commencing renewal.

### **Air Quality Action Plan Status**

4.13. The Council has an obligation to maintain an up to date Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) under the Environment Act 1995. The existing plan is now due for renewal. The plan will focus on the following target areas:

- Public Health
  - Building usage and development
  - Transport: cycling, car and goods vehicle usage
  - Business and community
  - Green measures and local improvements
  - Lobbying and partnerships
- 4.14. Officers will coordinate development of the Plan which involves public health, planning, housing, highways and environmental health colleagues. The timescale for delivery will be coordinated with the work of the Air Quality Commission to ensure that the processes are aligned. It is expected to be ready for public consultation in March 2016.

### **Mayor's Air Quality Fund**

4.15. The London Mayor's Air Quality Fund (MAQF) provides match funding for projects to carry out innovative schemes and projects to improve air quality in the Borough. This funding runs from 2013/14 – 2015/16.

### **Green Infrastructure**

4.16. The original plans to install a dual Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme (SUDS)/Greening project at the Hammersmith Town Centre podium with the Hammersmith Business Improvement District (BID) fell through. Since then the focus has moved to creating a greening barrier between vehicle emissions and pedestrians/cyclists along a stretch of pavement along the Talgarth Road between Shortlands and Butterwick. Project Centre Limited were commissioned to design this scheme along with the Council's SUDS, Highways, Arboriculture and Parks colleagues. The plans are currently being finalised for consultation.

### **Construction Dust Monitoring**

4.17. Lead by King's College London, this multi-development, multi-borough project is studying and compiling guidance and standards for best practice

in demolition and construction across London with a focus in LBHF on the Earl's Court Development after cooperation with Capco/Keltbray was secured.

#### **CMA application around Scrubs Lane:**

- 4.18. King's College have been appointed to manage this project which will include spraying a dust suppressant on waste transfer sites in the Scrubs Lane area and on the roads nearest to residential properties.

#### **Cleaner Air Better Business:**

- 4.19. Lead by Lambeth/Cross-River Partnership working with the Hammersmith Business Improvement District (BID), this project has included the production of 'apps and widgets' for businesses to adapt to their branding to encourage staff to reduce their emissions, choose sustainable and low emissions services and means of transport. It is also producing a catalogue of sustainable and low emission standard office equipment and services.

#### **Public Health funded Air Quality Project**

- 4.20. This project aims to increase poor air quality awareness and improve hospital discharge referrals targeting the most vulnerable residents - specifically people living with cardio vascular disease and respiratory disease.
- 4.21. The four main activities are:
- To provide training to health and social care professionals so that they can deliver brief advice to vulnerable residents
  - To work with commissioners and providers and embed messages about air quality and health into service specifications, patient pathways etc.
  - To communicate directly with vulnerable population groups in a way that supports them to take reasonable precautions to protect themselves against air pollution
  - To establish a platform and procedures for continuing the work identified in the three bullet points above to provide resilience and ensure this work continues past this project.
- 4.22. A delivery agent, Global Action Plan, were appointed in early September. This project will run for approximately one year.

## **5. PROPOSAL AND ISSUES**

### **Air Quality Action Plan Renewal**

- 5.1. Based on publishing a renewed strategy in September 2016, we would look to commence work on it from October 2015 (after the Air Quality Commission is established) allowing:
- 4 months for drafting (September-December);
  - 3 months of consultation internally (January-March);
  - 2 months for public consultation (April-May);
  - 2 months to finalise the document (June-July);
  - 1 month to get it approved (August/September).

### **Second Round Mayor's Air Quality Funding**

- 5.2. The second round of the Mayor's Air Quality Fund (MAQF2) is to focus on the reduction of vehicle emissions . The total Fund amount is £8m, £2m of which will go to establishing two Low Emissions Neighbourhoods (LEN), in two different selected Boroughs.
- 5.3. A LEN is defined as an area based scheme which includes a package of measures focused on reducing emission delivered by a borough with support from TfL, GLA and the local community.
- 5.4. The Council have bid for £20,000 funding from the GLA to commission a study into the feasibility of establishing a LEN in Hammersmith Town Centre. A decision is expected in October. If awarded and if the results of the study are positive, the Council can bid for up to £1m from the second round of the Mayor's Air Quality Fund to match fund the implementation of the LEN.
- 5.5. Local authorities are permitted to bid for one project for match funding and as many joint bids with other local authorities and external bodies as they want.
- 5.6. Other than the LEN, no borough-only bids are planned.
- 5.7. The following joint bids are being considered:
- Led by the City of London, a multi-borough bid to reduce idling engines by carrying out large scale, and preferably London-wide publicity and campaigns
  - Joining a multi-borough group (led by either Camden or WestTrans) to establish a freight hub for use by borough businesses and the Council where large and more polluting vehicles may transfer goods to smaller less polluting vehicles to then distribute goods in the borough.
  - Led by Lambeth, an extension of the Clean Air Better Business project discussed in paragraph 4.19.

## **6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1. The Updating and Screening Assessment 2015 will be published in the public domain via the Council's website.

- 6.2. The Air Quality Action Plan will be subject to a public consultation, which is expected to commence early next year.

## **7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. No equalities impact from this proposal

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. The European Commission has issued the UK with a 'Letter of Formal Notice' for breaching NO<sub>2</sub> limit values. Defra wrote to Councils such as ours where these exceedances have occurred calling for cooperation in tackling the problem, but also reminding us of government powers that could require local authorities to pay these EU fines.
- 8.2. Implications verified/completed by: Joyce Golder, Principal Solicitor, 020 7361 2181

## **9. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. All of the Air Quality projects undertaken have funding in place from various sources, including the Local Implementation Plan, the Mayor's Air Quality Fund and the Public Health Grant.
- 9.2. Funding from MAQF has been successfully sourced to run a number of key air quality projects. Funding of £184,000 has been received between 2013-16 to fund the delivery of these projects.
- 9.3. Funding of £16,500 from the Public Health Grant has been allocated to deliver the Air Quality project.
- 9.4. Implications verified/completed by: (Amit Mehta, Principle Accountant, 0208 753 3394).

## **10. IMPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS**

- 10.1. Businesses play a key part in reducing the impact of their activities on the air quality within the Borough. Engagement with business is a key factor and officers are already working with the Hammersmith Business Investment District (BID).
- 10.2. Reducing harmful emissions also has an economic benefit and the proposed air quality action plan will seek to raise awareness through engagement with business.

## **11. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 11.1. The Council is at risk of being fined for not meeting defined EU targets and the passporting of costs may adversely affect the Council, risk number 1

on the Shared Services Risk Register, Managing Budgets and 8 non-compliance with laws and regulations. The implementation of the action plan and MAQF projects seeks to reduce air pollution in conjunction with wider policies taken at a London and Governmental level positively contributing to the management of Public Health risk, number 5 on the Risk Register.

- 11.2. Implications verified by: Michael Sloniowski, Shared Services Risk Manager, telephone 020 8753 2587.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000**

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT**

None.