

# **Air Quality Commission Recommendations:**

## **Progress Report**

### **For action by Government and national bodies**

There were a total of nine recommendations aimed at the Government and national bodies, none of which have yet been acted upon.

MPs from four influential committees are coming together to launch a joint inquiry into the scale and impact of the UK's air pollution crisis. The Environmental Audit Committee; Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee; Health Committee and Transport Committee will hold four sessions to consider mounting scientific evidence on the health and environmental effects of toxic air. The AQC report will be submitted to the inquiry.

- The Government to launch a diesel scrappage scheme giving grants to cut the cost of a low emission vehicle for owners scrapping their diesel car or van.
- The Government to place a surcharge on the sale of diesel fuel to affect consumer choice.
- The sale of new, and importation of all, diesel vehicles to the UK to be banned.
- The Government to revise the MOT test to include the measurement limits of nitrous oxide and PM10 emissions.
- Tyre, brake and clutch manufacturers to use materials that wear less, thus reducing particulate matter.
- Nano coatings for roads and tyres to be considered.
- The Government and the GLA to make plans for hydrogen-fuelled cars.
- Car manufacturers to meet pollution standards.
- 'No drive days' in major cities during episodes of very high pollution.

## **For action by the GLA and regional bodies**

There were a total of 11 recommendations aimed at the Mayor and the GLA/TfL and five of these have been acted upon.

### **Updates:**

The Leader of the Council wrote to the Mayor of London on 8 December 2016 promoting the AQC recommendations aimed at him and the GLA and its agencies. The Mayor replied on 9 January 2017 setting out his response to the AQC's report, including the take up of many of the Commissions recommendations.

Air pollution has been identified by the London Association and Directors of Public Health as a priority issue and on the 3rd March they hosted a conference with Directors of Environmental Health to explore actions that they can take to help tackle the capital's poor air quality.

- **The Mayor of London to review the London Plan and prioritise air quality in a new London Plan.**

The Mayor states, in his response to Cllr Cowan's letter, that he is developing a new London Plan with additional air quality requirements.

- **The use of electric buses to be expanded across the borough until all petrol and diesel-fuelled buses have been removed.**

The Mayor of London has now designated King Street/Glenthorne Road/Hammersmith Road and Uxbridge Road as "Low Emission Bus Corridors". The Mayor also stated, in his letter to Cllr Cowan, that he is committing to purchasing only hybrid or zero emission buses from 2018.

- **The Mayor of London to add Hammersmith and Fulham to the eight boroughs with designated Low Emission Neighbourhoods.**

The Mayor states, in his response to Cllr Cowan's letter, that he has no additional funding allocated for Low Emission Neighbourhoods at the present time but that he would advise us if any additional funding becomes available. The Mayor also offers advice and support from his officers if H&F should wish to deliver its own Low Emission Neighbourhood using alternative funding sources.

- **An education campaign, to be initiated by the GLA and the Council, to reduce 'idling'. Enforcement measures to be considered.**

The Mayor states, in his response to Cllr Cowan's letter, that he is funding a pan-London idling campaign through the Mayor's Air Quality Fund.

The Council has joined the Clean Air Champions scheme and trained up champions to encourage drivers who are idling to switch off their engines:

<https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/articles/news/2017/03/clean-air-champions-succeed-parsons-green-switch-it-message>

- **The Mayor of London to review London's Climate Change and Energy Strategy to reconcile the potential conflict between decentralised energy and air pollution, and cease promoting combined heat and power installations in its energy hierarchy above air quality neutral technologies.**

The Mayor states, in his response to Cllr Cowan's letter, that he is undertaking a review of all the current Environment strategies and consolidating them into a single London Environment Strategy, in order to address conflicts such as this and to maximise opportunities for realising co-benefits.

#### **Other recommendations:**

- A new London Plan to promote the need for more permeable surfaces, more tree planting and other green barriers between highways and pedestrian areas.
- Zero carbon policies, balanced with air quality neutral policies, to be incorporated in planning guidance for all new buildings.
- A scheme of car-free days to be introduced across inner London by the Mayor and consideration given to bans on vehicle use during days of very high air pollution.
- Traffic lights to be co-ordinated to effect smoother traffic flows.
- The GLA to continue to commission regular studies to measure and monitor tree, hedge and grass cover across London boroughs.
- The Mayor of London's boiler scrappage scheme to have an air pollution focus.

## **For action by the Council**

There were a total of 25 recommendations aimed at the Council and 20 of these have been acted upon or are under consideration.

### **Updates:**

- **The Council to develop an Urban Ecology Plan to drive greening and arboricultural policy and practice across the borough.**

Officers are working with a resident-led Biodiversity Commission to shape the content of the Ecology Plan. The Plan is focusing on four key areas: building a robust ecological network; putting people at the heart of biodiversity; reducing environmental pressures by creating new habitats, green corridors and stepping stones, and; managing existing habitats and improving our knowledge and understanding of the current position.

- **All major developments, particularly those which will last for many years, to be closely monitored to ensure that all steps are being taken to mitigate the impact on air quality by the construction, drilling and movement of spoil.**

The Council require major developments to submit Construction and Demolition Management plans which include a Dust Management Plan and that these plans comply with the Mayor of London's Supplementary Planning Document: the Control of Dust and Emissions during Construction and Demolition. This includes regulating the use of Non-Road Mobile Machinery and requiring high level dust mitigation measures in line with prevailing guidance and emerging technologies.

- **Awareness-raising initiatives like airTEXT and Walkit.com to continue to be supported by the Council**

The Council continues to publicise and encourage the uptake and use of airTEXT and Walkit on our website as well as at public events. The Council (through Public Health) continue to fund airTEXT.

- **Washing down of streets and pavements to be introduced in areas of high particulate matter air pollution**

The Council has been conducting a study on how well a deep clean impacts on improving air pollution to inform how this may be taken forward.

- **The Council to seek to establish a freight consolidation scheme in West London.**

Through our sub-regional partner Westtrans have published a freight strategy for west London as linked below.

[http://www.westtrans.org/WLA/wt2.nsf/Files/WTA-180/\\$file/WestTrans%20proof%2026.07.16.pdf](http://www.westtrans.org/WLA/wt2.nsf/Files/WTA-180/$file/WestTrans%20proof%2026.07.16.pdf)

Initiated a freight study in Hammersmith town centre to identify local and last mile consolidation opportunities

- **The diesel parking permit charge for residents to be increased to encourage the change to alternative modes of transport.**

We are maintaining our current parking charges for residents and green permits and adding a free permit for fully electric vehicles. We are reviewing the Mayor's ULEZ consultation and will develop a permit strategy based on its results.

- **The Council to increase tree, hedge and grass planting on Council-owned land and highways.**

The TfL funded integrated transport programme for 2017/18 has several green infrastructure projects following on from the recent successful delivery of award winning infrastructure.

- **The Council to stagger tree pruning to one in every three trees every three years.**

This recommendation has most relevance to the cyclical crown reduction pruning & pollarding of the larger growing street trees. It is not considered to be applicable to the smaller ornamental tree species which generally only require modest pruning. Officers should undertake a feasibility study to look at the impact on existing maintenance procedures, budgets and service delivery. As part of this study a trial over 3-5 years in a few streets would be useful and provide an opportunity to consider all the implications and feedback from residents. Resident engagement and acceptance will be a key factor if these changes are to be understood and successfully introduced.

- **The Council, along with its strategic partners such as Transport for London, to develop plans to increase pedestrianisation, cycling and greening in its town centres.**

The Hammersmith residents group are working on a supplementary planning document for the town centre that is exploring the removal of one of the arms of Hammersmith Gyration, alongside planning for Hammersmith Flyunder

- **More safer cycle routes to be developed by the Council and Transport for London.**

Many of the cycle projects set out in the 2015 cycle strategy are now coming on-line. The Hammersmith Gyration better junction received over 70% support and has been

handed over to the council to deliver. Cycle superhighway 9 has been reviewed by the new Mayor for London and the council are working with TfL on a consultation for later in 2017. The east Acton quietway project received over 80% support and will be built later this year.

- **The Council to plan for, and facilitate the development of, more electrical charging points across the borough.**

By the end of 2017 150 publicly available electric charging points will be available on street, one of the most in London. Plans are also been developed for rapid charging stations in the borough and using our on-street lamp columns for charging.

- **The Council to increase its participation in public education and awareness programmes on air pollution.**

The Public Health Team have been involved in funding the pan-London airText service, embedding air quality messages into patient pathways and supporting LBHF's Resident Panel.

The Council has joined the Clean Air Champions scheme and trained up champions to encourage drivers who are idling to switch off their engines:

<https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/articles/news/2017/03/clean-air-champions-succeed-parsons-green-switch-it-message>

- **The Council to work towards a target of converting all its fleets to low-emission vehicles and introduce procurement requirements to ensure that contractors comply with low-emission targets.**

Council fleet: All new council vehicles are required to comply with low emission targets.

New contracts: the Council has not previously stated in its standard contract terms and conditions restrictions on the emissions from contractors' vehicles. If Members are to agree to this new requirement then it will need to be reflected in all new procurement exercises and be measured as part of the contract monitoring arrangement. This can be done relatively quickly by instructing Director of Law to make changes to all standard Tic's (whether RBKC and WCC would want changes would be up to them – we do share common contract documents).

Existing contracts: if the Council wants to implement it across all existing providers (Amy, Serco, F M Conway, Mitie &c) then it would have to renegotiate terms for the adaption of their existing vehicle fleet and impose new requirements for replacement vehicles. This will increase the price of the contracts.

- **The Local Plan to specify the need to consider the impact of all new developments on air quality.**

Minor changes have been proposed to the Local Plan to consider the impact of all developments – see minor changes MC188 and 189 on the [minor changes schedule](#) which has been submitted to the Secretary of State.

- **Arboricultural and greening policies to be promoted in the Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs).**

Arboricultural and greening policies are promoted in the proposed Local Plan. They will also be promoted in the Planning Guidance SPD when it is reviewed and consulted upon later in the year.

- **The need to plan for ‘walkability’ to be recognised in SPDs to the Local Plan.**

Cycling and walking are promoted as sustainable ways to travel in the Local Plan and they will also be promoted in relevant sections of any new SPDs to the Local Plan, when they are drafted.

- **Expand the number of air quality monitoring stations across the borough.**

As of February 2017, the Council has extended its nitrogen dioxide tube network by 20 and now has 35 locations. Officers are also preparing a paper for the Cabinet Member for Environment setting out the costs associated with expanding the Council’s automatic continuous monitoring network.

- **The WELL Building Standard to be adhered to in the planning of all new developments.**

The WELL building standard does not form part of current planning policy in the borough. Planning policy teams will investigate its suitability for inclusion in the local plan or through the development of a specific SPD where appropriate (once the local plan process has completed).

- **The Council to encourage the use of prefabrication in construction works to reduce particulate matter.**

Where the Council is in control of sites (i.e in its ownership) it will consider off site construction as part of the procurement process, subject to viability and affordability. The Council has limited powers over the form of construction private developers use, however it will support them through the planning process – most major sites currently involve an element of off-site construction.

- **Boilers to be replaced by ultra-low NOx boilers.**

This will be investigated as part of the planned capital programme for the replacement of domestic boilers and any CHP. This will happen as existing boilers come to the end of their useful life (usually c.10 years for domestic boilers, longer for communal systems).

**Other recommendations:**

- Public air pollution alerts and forecasts to be made more widely available.
- The Council to exercise its enforcement powers to ensure that developers fulfil commitments in delivering tree planting plans; also to seek ways of maintaining mature tree cover when planning for new developments.
- The Council to encourage residents and organisations to consider Blue Green schemes in homes and offices.
- The Council to increase playing fields, pocket parks and sporting facilities in the borough to enable residents to keep fit and active.
- The Council and other decision makers to keep under review new environmental initiatives and best practices as these come forward.

## **For action by residents, businesses and community groups**

No survey has been conducted to determine the extent to which these recommendations have been implemented.

- A public education campaign is needed to raise awareness of the impact of individual behaviour on air quality.
- Businesses and community organisations to promote and encourage car sharing schemes among employees and service users.
- Schools to involve pupils in greening initiatives as a means of both improving their local environment and educating the next generation on the importance of urban ecology.
- More children to walk to school.
- More people to take up cycling to travel around the borough and beyond.
- Boilers to be replaced by ultra-low NOx boilers.
- A public education programme on what it means to live in a Smoke Control Area.
- More local residents to become 'Citizen Scientists' and use personal air quality monitors around the borough.

HPS/DVS/LBHF  
June 2017