



Report of: **Executive Member for Environment & Transport**

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee	12 May 2015		All

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt

SUBJECT: Executive Member's update on the Air Quality Scrutiny review

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 The Regeneration and Employment Review Committee undertook a review of air quality to consider the issues for Islington, our response and the London context.
- 1.2 The Committee agreed a list of recommendations in May 2013. A response to the recommendations was presented in January 2014 and this report details progress on the recommended actions.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note progress against the actions agreed by the Air Quality Scrutiny.

3. Background

- 3.1 Air pollution is a largely invisible problem which means that often people are not aware it is an issue that needs to be addressed. Poor air quality has a range of harmful effects. It can exacerbate existing lung and heart conditions and cause reduced lung function.
- 3.2 Islington declared a whole of borough Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in 2003 for the pollutants Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and Particulate Matter (PM₁₀). An air quality action plan (AQAP) was produced to reduce concentrations of both pollutants across the borough through Council policy and behaviour change.
- 3.3 Islington had made good progress in delivering the actions in the AQAP but whilst some concentrations had reduced, Islington still exceeded the annual mean objective for NO₂ at the roadside. Islington's local air quality is significantly better than central London authorities and levels are at their highest in the south of the borough along the border with Hackney, Camden and The City of London.

- 3.4 The scrutiny review found that much work has already been done in Islington to reduce pollutant concentrations; however, further measures were required to meet all of the air quality objectives. It was acknowledged that this would be challenging as the primary sources of the air pollution was from outside Islington or was as a result of through traffic. The Council would need to work with other boroughs to tackle this, and need the full co-operation of TfL and the GLA as they are responsible for the major road networks where concentrations are highest, funding streams and the provision of the bus service.
- 3.5 Evidence was taken from a range of experts in the field including Professor Frank Kelly and Dr Gary Fuller from King's College London, Dr Iarla Kilbane-Dawe – atmospheric scientist, Simon Birkett – Clean Air London, Jonathon O'Sullivan - Assistant Director of Public Health and Matthew Pencharz – Mayor of London's Environment Advisor. Officers from the Council's Pollution Projects and Transport and Planning teams also gave evidence, with written submissions received from Client Earth, Lancaster University and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

4. Response to the Recommendations

- 4.1 Appendix A sets out the recommendations and an update on progress against each area. The Pollution Team in Public Protection leads this area of work and has been very successful in applying for external funding to complete the actions. This has meant that a number of additional projects are now taking place, to focus on engagement with businesses and residents as behaviour change is critical in achieving the actions.
- 4.2 The recommendations of the scrutiny were considered and incorporated into the Islington Air Quality Strategy 2014-17. Progress on the strategy is to be reported at May's meeting of the Executive.

5. Implications

- 5.1 **Financial implications:**
The actions proposed can be funded from existing budgets or external funding in 2015/16. If projects need to extend into future years, further funding may be required.
- 5.2 **Legal Implications:**
The Council is required to meet air quality objectives in order to comply with the requirements of the Environment Act 1985 and also to avoid any financial penalties applied to the UK from the EU.
- 5.3 **Environmental Implications:**
The overall environment will be improved by implementing the recommendations.
- 5.4 **Equality Impact Assessment:**
An EIA was undertaken as part of the adoption of the Air Quality Strategy.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The good progress against recommendations in the report are welcome and that their implementation will have a positive impact on local air quality.

Appendices

- A AQ Scrutiny Update April

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

Corporate Director of Environment and
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Date

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