

## Appendix A

### Recommendations

- 1. That the Council directly works with the neighbouring boroughs on specific projects to formulate a regional approach to improving air quality and promoting air quality as a health issue to inform residents.**

Islington continues to work with neighbouring boroughs through the Central London Air Quality Cluster Group to find new initiatives to improve air quality as well as sharing experiences to develop best practice.

We remain on the project team for the Mayors Breathe Better Together campaign - the launch for this event took place in January 2015. This project is based on the San Francisco 'Spare the Air campaign' and it aims to alert Londoners of when air quality is expected to be poor, and helping them mobilise into reacting by changing behaviour. Since the launch, there have been two "action days" where alerts and information have been circulated to the public advising them of the health risks, how they can protect themselves and to discourage them to continue polluting activities such as driving and solid fuel burning.

Islington continues to manage the AirText service on behalf of all 33 London boroughs. The service sends alerts to its users who are often the most vulnerable in advance of moderate and high pollution days. This allows users to better prepare themselves for episodes that could adversely impact on their health. Islington has also been responsible for the expansion of this service to include alerts on pollen, UV, temperature information and cold weather. This service is being used for Breathe Better Together messaging.

Throughout 2014 we worked with Camden council and our joint public health team on a project called Air Aware. A personalised service was delivered to some of the most vulnerable residents across the borough in health centres, community centres, children's centres and open air events. Residents were advised of the level of pollution where they live and what actions they can take to reduce emissions and their own personal exposure. The primary recommendation made after this intervention is to continue an information service within GP surgeries and health centres.

We are leading a joint project with Haringey and Hackney Councils to undertake school engagement work at 9 schools across the 3 boroughs. The Islington schools are Ambler, Pakeman and Grafton primary schools, the teaching element has now completed in all 3 of these schools and we are soon to start working with pupils and parents to support them in further actions that will improve local air quality. A celebration event that will include an award ceremony is planned to take place in Finsbury Park in Spring/Summer 2016.

**2. That the Council undertakes business engagement to inform businesses of the ways in which they could reduce emissions.**

We have completed a programme for business engagement around the Finsbury Park area.

We have been working with colleagues in Hackney and Tower Hamlets to extend the Zero Emissions Network (ZEN) into Islington. So far this has resulted in 75 separate businesses signing up to the scheme and committing to clean air initiatives for their business, these include cycle training, applying for grants to install cycling facilities for staff, using car clubs and cargo bikes, eco-audits, cycle training, electric car trials and joining the London boroughs consolidated deliveries programme.

The council is part of the joint Cleaner Air Better Business programme being coordinated by the Cross River Partnership & further business engagement is scheduled to occur in 2015/16 around the Angel.

**3. That the Council lobbies the Mayor to prioritise Islington bus routes when rolling out the retrofitted buses and includes data to show points where emissions were highest.**

Councillor Webbe, executive member for the environment and transport wrote to the Mayor in September 2014 regarding the bus garage at Holloway, asking for a commitment to make 50% of the buses at Holloway Garage hybrid by May 2015 but no commitment was given. We continue to lobby the mayor to ensure only the cleanest buses are in service through Islington. The Mayor has announced an Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) which will cover the congestion charging zone. The ULEZ requires that all diesel vehicles travelling within the zone will be of Euro 6 standard, so it is expected that many of the buses travelling through Islington and into the ULEZ will be upgraded.

**4. That the Council carries out a feasibility study on implementing a borough wide low emission zone, including costings and presents a report to the Committee by September 2013.**

After completion of the Scrutiny, the Mayor took a decision to declare an Ultra Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ). This action was revised therefore to consider the cost benefit analysis of extending the ULEZ into Islington. The study found that the cost of installing the required infrastructure for enforcement would not be proportional to the health benefit. The study also identified that Euro 6, diesel fuelled passenger vehicles do not deliver the reduced emissions claimed by manufacturers. As a consequence of these findings, the Executive will receive a report on 15<sup>th</sup> May which updates the action plan attached to the current Air Quality Strategy.

**5. That the Council's policies give greater priority to air quality in instances where air quality and carbon reduction conflict.**

The Council continues to ensure energy strategies for new developments are air quality neutral and seek to ensure the best available technology is used for low carbon heat and power.

**6. That the Council increase planting of trees and plant species which improve air quality.**

All trees improve air pollution, and a number of factors affect how effective they are. Trees with hairy leaves which trap the pollutants that then wash off in the rain are better than non-hairy ones. The larger the total leaf area or canopy the more effective the tree and evergreen trees are more effective than deciduous. The council's current policy results in us planting the largest canopy tree that is suitable for each site.

Further discussions are taking place with Greenspace to establish where planting can be carried out to be most beneficial in protecting pedestrians from traffic emissions.

508 trees were planted in 2013/14. Research has been conducted to identify species that will improve local air quality and we are looking to incorporate the recommendations into the planting policy.

**7. That the Council, when replacing its vehicle fleet, sources vehicles with the highest Euro rating available including alternative fuelled vehicles, such as electric vehicles, where possible.**

The Council already sources vehicles with the highest Euro rating, including hybrid vehicles where financially viable. Electric vehicles are purchased whenever possible for the operators and the price is comparable.

A feasibility study for the potential for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) re-fuelling in Islington is underway. This will assess the viability of having a re-fuelling station at the Waste Recycling Centre, if this is possible then we can replace some of our larger fleet vehicles such as refuse trucks with those fuelled by CNG. CNG fuel produces significantly lower emissions than those from diesel.

**8. That the Council takes the necessary action to get its bronze membership of the Freight Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS) upgraded to silver and then gold.**

Bronze accreditation of the FORS scheme was achieved in 2014. We will soon be applying for SILVER in due course.

**9. That the Council includes air quality & FORS membership in procurement criteria.**

Having discussed this with our procurement team, the recommendation is to update the environmental impact assessment used within the procurement process to include air quality and FORS membership.

**10. That the Council proactively bids for funding for projects that will deliver improved air quality in Islington.**

In 2014 funding was secured from Defra to deliver the Clean air at Regents Canal project and Air Aware. Further funding was received from the Mayors Air Quality Fund to deliver the ZEN in Islington and also the Clean air for Finsbury Park Schools programme.

We were also successful in securing from Defra £150K of funding for a green taxi programme This will allow us to install electric charge points at mini-cab offices around the borough and work with local companies to help them to green their fleet.

**11. That the Council works with TfL to improve air quality further within the NO<sub>2</sub> Focus Areas (Angel to Islington Green, Nag's Head to Archway & at Finsbury Park on the Seven Sisters Road).**

A consultation for the changes to both Archway gyratory and Old Street are now complete, both schemes will see a transformation of current pollution hotspots to areas that are desirable for pedestrians and cyclists.

The council is also working with TfL to improve other major gyratories and junctions in Islington including Highbury Corner, King's Cross, Nag's Head and Finsbury Park, and will consider ways to improve the environment at those centres and mitigate against air quality caused by high traffic levels and congestion.

**12. That the Council takes the necessary steps to avoid penalties and fines for breaching air quality regulations.**

The Scrutiny has confirmed the Council's commitment to reducing pollutant concentrations across the borough using a range of actions. We recognise the importance of working across boundaries and in partnership with other authorities and agencies to find new ways of improving local air quality. We have met the objective limits for PM<sub>10</sub> at both roadside and background locations for six years consecutively and the NO<sub>2</sub> objective at background locations for seven years. In 2014 we achieved an annual mean result for NO<sub>2</sub> of 55µg/m<sup>3</sup> at the roadside; this level is an increase of just 1µg/m<sup>3</sup> from the previous year. The agreed work programme for air quality shows a great commitment to reducing pollutant concentrations across the borough and includes ambitious schemes such as freight consolidation and increasing the number of ultra-low emission vehicles in our own fleet.

**13. That the Council prepares a costed report on providing low cost cycle tracks in the borough to link up with the existing cycle network.**

The Council has prepared an ambitious programme of new routes and existing route improvements that was outlined in a report to the Council's Executive on 16 July 2014. These improvements form part of a programme that is funded by Transport for London to deliver the Mayor's Vision for Cycling, and include funding for routes to develop the Islington part of a Central London Cycling Grid in Bunhill, Clerkenwell and St Peter's. TfL is also funding a series of Quietways (cycle routes on quiet side roads in London) that connect other parts of Islington to the cycling Grid. As part of this programme the Council is consulting with local residents on the delivery of Quietway route 2, which passes through Angel, up until 17<sup>th</sup> May 2015. The Council is working with TfL to deliver these cycling improvements as part of a route connecting Bloomsbury to Walthamstow. For other proposed routes, the Council will continue to work with TfL to bring forward funding to accelerate the delivery of these improvements, and work with affected local residents and Islington Cyclists Action Group to develop detailed proposals. The delivery of any improvements will be subject to public consultation.

TfL has begun construction of a North-South cycle superhighway connecting Elephant & Castle to the City of London. The work is programmed to be completed in March 2016. The Council is working with TfL and Camden council to press for this route to be extended to connect to King's Cross through Islington as originally envisaged by TfL. The proposed route will skirt Islington, providing high quality segregated facilities on Farringdon Road, and provide connections to the Central London Cycling Grid. Further, following a positive response to the public consultation on Cycle Superhighway CS1, TfL are expected to press ahead and deliver CS1. This route connects Tottenham to the City passing through the London Boroughs of Islington, Hackney and Haringey. In Islington the route travels along borough boundary roads in Bunhill ward, and along mainly residential streets in Mildmay ward. The route design includes segregated facilities at key locations.

The Council already considers segregated cycle lanes in locations across Islington where it may be appropriate, taking into account overall safety and feasibility. A programme of improvements to cycle infrastructure on local roads has already been costed; the delivery of these improvements is dependent on funding which could come from TfL, or developer contributions (such as section 106 funds or Community Infrastructure Levy). Any proposals that are brought forward will be developed in consultation with affected local residents, and are subject to the outcome of public consultation.

**14. That the Council sets up an air quality working group to provide a lead on air quality issues.**

A formal group is not considered necessary as this time as work towards improving air quality is imbedded within services and other work streams.

**15. That the Council's public health team works with the Air Quality Working Group and reports annually to the Health Scrutiny Committee on public health actions to address air quality issues.**

Public Protection has been working closely with the Public Health team and have delivered the Air Aware programme in the community. The final report for this intervention is available on the council's website and can be reported back to the Health scrutiny committee if required.

**16. That the Council applies for a Cleaner Air Borough award.**

Cleaner Air Borough status will be determined through the progress of actions detailed in the air Quality Strategy. This is to be assessed by the GLA in 2016.

**17. That Members receive a report on air quality midway between Air Quality Action Plans to ensure they are updated on the air quality issues in the borough and that this report be published on the Council's website.**

The Air Quality Strategy runs from 2014 – 2017. Progress is being reported at the Executive committee in May.

**18. That the Council considers establishing a citizen's action network on air quality, to help identify and address specific local air quality problems of concern to Islington's residents.**

A team of 17 Air quality Champions have been recruited and are taking action to raise awareness of the cause and effects of poor air quality and working within the community to encourage behaviour change. Campaigns carried out by the champions have included working with local pharmacies to promote AirText to vulnerable groups, producing energy saving information and working with a primary school to promote active travel.

**19. That, noting the successful joint Camden and Islington's air quality summit on 21 November 2011 in Camden, there should be a follow-up event in Islington in autumn 2013.**

The second Camden and Islington Air Quality summit was held on October 17<sup>th</sup> at Islington Town Hall, focusing on outdoor air quality. Planning will commence for an autumn 2015 event in June.

**20. That the Council encourages and provides support to schools in developing walk-to-school travel plans.**

We have a school travel plan officer who is responsible for this task. The pollution team work closely with this officer through the school engagement programme. All schools in the borough have a travel plan that encourages active travel, these are regularly updated. Our school engagement programme also works to change behaviour and aims to ensure that the numbers of children travelling to school by car is decreased by at least 10%. In 2014 we worked with Grafton. Ambler and

Pakeman primary schools, we have also just completed a work programme with Laycock primary school.

**21. That the Council encourages residents to make local journeys by walking and cycling through the provision of a safe, convenient and quieter street environment.**

Clean air walking routes have been mapped and are available on the councils website. We are planning to produce hard copies of these maps to distribute across the borough. The council is also preparing to bid for funding from TfL to create a "Low Emission Neighbourhood"