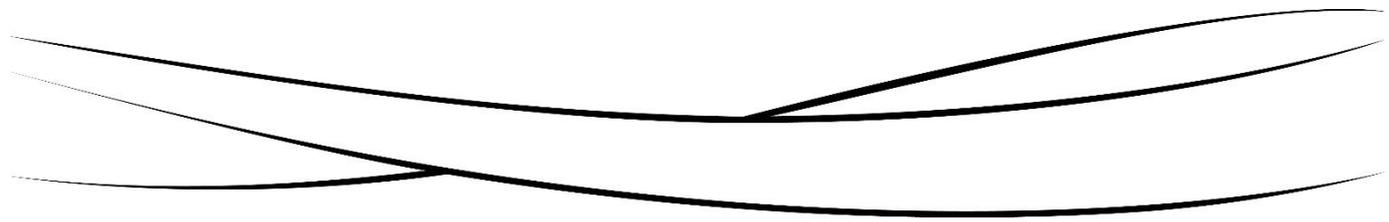


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# **Air Quality Update**

Islington Environmental Pollution Service



## **Air Quality Action Plan Progress 2017**

Report by: Jo Shaw (Environmental Projects Officer)  
Date: July 2017

This is a progress report on the current Air Quality Action Plan for Islington Council (the “Council”). The Air Quality Action Plan helps to improve air quality and focus our work towards the achievement of the Government's air quality objectives in our designated Air Quality Management Area across the whole Borough. The Air Quality Action Plan includes details of existing initiatives as well as proposed measures and their implementation. Beside each action you will find a description of the progress that has been made.

The Air Quality Action Plan is a statutory requirement and part of the Council's continuing Local Air Quality Management responsibilities under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995. The Council produced the Action Plan in partnership with other stakeholder organisations and for that purpose is working closely with other agencies. The purpose of the Action Plan, as required by section 84 of the Environment Act, is to outline measures “in pursuit of the achievement of air quality standards and objectives in the designated area, of any powers exercisable by the authority”.

A new Air Quality Action Plan is currently being written and will be produced alongside the now Air Quality Strategy due in 2018.

### **1.1. Lobbying the Mayor of London**

Ask the Mayor of London to take action to deliver improvements in air quality in Islington by:

<b>Action</b>	<b>Progress</b>
The introduction of low emission and alternatively fuelled taxis, together with enforcement of emission standards	The Mayor announced a Taxi and Private Hire Action Plan in 2016. This included a statement that no new diesel vehicles will be licenced from 2018 all new registrations will need to be zero emissions capable. To support this the Mayor announced funding of £65m in October 2016 to support zero emission taxis. This includes a scrappage scheme for the oldest most polluting taxi vehicles licensed in London with additional funding for those who upgrade to Zero Emission Capable vehicles.
Commit to undertake independent, real-world testing of Euro 6 vehicles in 2014/15 to assess whether this is a suitable benchmark for diesel vehicles in the ULEZ	No commitment received but research conducted by the International Council on Clean Transportation is now available showing that Euro 6 does not perform as well as is claimed.

<p>Consider an earlier implementation date for the ULEZ and undertake an options appraisal to outline the cost and benefits of different approaches including widening out from the current congestion charge zone.</p>	<p>Islington has responded to the Mayors three consultations on ES and ULEZ, this included encouragement of earlier introduction of the schemes, decrease in exemptions and expansion of the scheme so it covers the whole of Islington at a minimum. We await outcomes and the further consultation on expansion of the scheme. The most recent ULEZ consultation looked at introducing the ULEZ at the earlier date of April 2019.</p>
<p>Ensure all buses operating from the Holloway garage are hybrids or New Bus for London standard (NB4L)</p>	<p>Councillor Webbe 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.</p>
<p>To apply the next phase of the low emission zone (LEZ) to all buses and coaches.</p>	<p>Mayor's consultation includes all buses, coaches and lorries to be compliant in the ULEZ by 2020, or by the earlier date of 2019. Islington responded to consultation encouraging earlier uptake and a decrease in exemptions.</p>
<p>Give a long term commitment to funding to boroughs for air quality initiatives, projects and improvements.</p>	<p>TfL provide LIPs funding, DEFRA and GLA provide funding for improvements to Air Quality. Islington was successful in several bids for further funding in 2016 and continues to apply for funding that has been made available to local authorities in 2017.</p>
<p>Review junctions at Old Street, Highbury Corner and Archway with priority given to improvements that will create an environment which is conducive to active travel and protects our residents from exposure to poor air quality.</p>	<p>Work revamping the Archway Gyratory System started early 2016. A new two-way traffic system including a new public space, dedicated cycle lanes and pedestrian crossings opened in December 2016. Consultation on Highbury Corner was conducted in 2016 and plans are being developed and Old Street junction will also be considered by TfL.</p>

## 1.2. Transport

### a. Encouraging changes in driver behaviour

Action	Progress
Minimise traffic speeds	Islington became London's first 20 mph borough in March 2013 and signage has been placed on borough roads to inform drivers. A stop and advise campaign was held with the support of Islington police to inform drivers and the limit has been actively enforced by the police since 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2014.
Renew Islington's Bronze FORS (Freight Operators Recognition Scheme). Achieve Silver FORS accreditation	The Council is Bronze FORS accredited and is working towards silver accreditation.
Continue to renew the council's fleet over the next 3 years to replace vehicles with the cleanest, affordable technology.	A review of the fleet is being conducted to identify which vehicles may be operated as electric or ultra-low emission. In 2016 there were 12 electric vehicles and 4 hybrid vehicles.
Review the infrastructure of electric vehicle charging points across the borough.	This has been completed by the Highways team as part of the 100 new charging points programme.
School travel plans will be updated to include air quality awareness raising measures and actions to reduce emissions and exposure.	Over 50 School Travel Plans were approved in 2016. These plans encourage a change in travel patterns of school communities to safer, healthier and environmentally friendly methods of travel all of which will help to improve air quality.
Undertake a targeted campaign to encourage active travel working together with local schools.	In 2016 the council continued its tri borough school engagement programme to encourage active travel and raise awareness of poor air quality by creating a walking map for Grafton School. The Theatre in education programme was on-going in 2016 covering sustainable travel, active travel and air quality. Schools were supported to take part in the 2016 Walk to School Week; schools were given resources such as posters, leaflets, walking diaries, competition ideas and assembly plans. Three primary schools took part in the 2016 Car Free Day in September which included air quality information, lung function tests and sustainable travel information. 67 school and 90 school holiday bikeability courses were conducted in 2016 to around 1200 pupils. 20 girls took part in the This Girl Can project in 2016 where they attended a bikeability course and conducted a cycle campaign. In 2017 we started a new project with schools where we will display air quality information at each school for one month. This will

	include information from an air quality monitor located at the school as well as information on impacts and causes of air pollution and ways to decrease pollution and exposure through active travel.
Participate in the “Breath Better Together” (BBT) campaign for London	The programme launch event took place on January 30 <sup>th</sup> 2015. Many action days took place following this to raise awareness of the issue and allow residents to take precautionary measures to protect their health and change their behaviour to lessen emissions.

**b. Reducing emissions from idling vehicles**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Undertake an anti-idling campaign that will include the following; Webpage update Signage Targeted hotspot enforcement Dashboard notices Campaign day Targeted campaign outside schools.	The council webpage has been updated with information about idling. Council officers have been trained and authorised to get idling compliance. Idling stickers have been produced for street use and council vehicle dashboards. Islington is part of the London wide anti-idling campaign which started in 2016. This scheme has recently been extended to 2018. Islington has conducted nine events so far speaking to around 475 people. These events included locations outside schools at drop off and pick up time as well as targeting traffic outside local businesses.

**c. Low emission zone feasibility study**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Commission a source apportionment study to inform the Air Quality Strategy and check that the actions are correct.	The study was completed in 2014 and determined that the actions agreed in the Strategy remain relevant but more needs to be done to reduce emissions from buses and cars, and diesel vehicles.
Conduct a study into the validity and feasibility of having an Islington low emission zone or extending the boundary of the ULEZ. This will include a review into the most suitable location, legal implications, enforcement strategy and effect on residents.	Since the Islington study the Mayor has completed three consultations on the ES and ULEZ, including proposals to extend the ULEZ to the North and South Circular for all vehicles and London wide for HGVs which would then cover the whole of Islington. A further consultation on the extent of ULEZ is expected later in 2017.

**d. Reducing personal car use**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Review car clubs agreements to prioritise low emission vehicles.	There are a number of car club suppliers that now operate in the borough, including low emission vehicles. This industry does not currently require direct council support.

**e. Reducing emissions from taxis**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Review taxi services operating in the borough to create a green ranking scheme.	Following previous work a rapid electric charger was installed on Sheringham Road in late 2016/early 2017 (located near a taxi rank on Holloway Road) and preparations for further charging points were started in 2016.
Publish best practice guidance for mini-cab drivers and operators, working with mini-cab offices to encourage greening of their fleet as well as providing guidance on efficient driving in order to reduce fuel consumption and emissions.	A new best practice guide is being written and will be distributed to minicab operators in at the completion of the DEFRA funded Green Taxi Programme.

**f. Emission-based parking surcharges**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Continue tiered parking permit charge based on emissions.	Permits continue to be varied dependent on engine type, size, age, CO2 emissions etc. In addition since 2015 a diesel surcharge is added to all residential diesel permits.
Work with Transport for London (TfL) and partners in developing and responding to TfL's Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ).	Responded to three ULEZ consultations in 2016 and 2017 asking for earlier and wider introduction, with less exemptions and a move to a diesel free London. Awaiting further consultation later in 2017.

**g. Freight consolidation**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Review deliveries to council buildings and consolidate to reduce vehicle traffic and emissions.	The council has diverted delivery of stationary and cleaning supplies to the London Boroughs Consolidation Centre (LBCC) reducing delivery days from five to three per week. Plans to expand the scheme to local businesses were investigated in 2016.

### 1.3. Planning & Development

#### a. Determining the impacts of new developments on air quality

Action	Progress
Require all new developments to submit air quality impact assessments to meet an “air quality neutral” standard.	All new major developments in Islington are required to submit air quality impact assessments. They are required to meet the GLA air quality neutral standard and protection measures for those developments that seek to introduce new receptors into areas of existing poor air quality. All planning applications that may have an impact on local air quality are reviewed by the pollution team as part of the consultation process.

#### b. Reducing emissions at construction sites

Action	Progress
Update Islington’s Code of Construction Practice to include further requirements for reducing local air pollution, monitoring criteria and best practice transport strategy.	Developed draft documents in 2016, aim to publish 2017
Develop a contractor’s guide for reducing local air pollution.	This has been incorporated into the renewed Code of Construction Practice.
Require all developers to meet the highest feasible level of BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Methodology) and all major developments to meet the code for sustainable homes level 4/5.	Islington’s local validation requirements for planning include the need to meet the highest level of BREEAM and the code for sustainable homes. <a href="http://www.islington.gov.uk/~/-/media/sharepoint-lists/public-records/environmentalprotection/information/guidance/20112012/20120303introductiontbreea_mandcsh">www.islington.gov.uk/~/-/media/sharepoint-lists/public-records/environmentalprotection/information/guidance/20112012/20120303introductiontbreea_mandcsh</a> .

#### 1.4. Energy Usage

##### a. **Cleaner energy**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Provide advice on use of non-combustion renewable energy technologies to developers to ensure compliance with carbon reduction targets, minimising emissions.	The energy strategies produced by developers are now reviewed by the pollution team to ensure the best available technology is used.
Continue grant scheme to enable F & G rated boilers to be replaced with energy efficient A-rated boilers.	The scheme was completed in 2015 with in excess of 850 boilers replaced.
Expand the Bunhill Heat and Power Network to utilise other heat sources.	The potential for heat networks has been reviewed across the borough and twelve opportunity areas identified, including the Bunhill network. Expansion of Bunhill 1 to source waste heat from electrical transformers and the London Underground started in 2016. A feasibility study was completed into the opportunity to source heat for the network from a data centre and the canal. This is currently being built.

##### b. **Providing advice on energy saving and fuel use**

<b>Action</b>	
Provide advice services to residents.	Islington's telephone energy advice service dealt with over 4,500 calls from Islington residents in 2016. Over 1,700 vulnerable Islington residents were offered a range of health and wellbeing services through SHINE including AirText. Service is ongoing.

## 1.5. Businesses

### a. Environmental impact Assessment for procurement

Action	Progress
Incorporate Air Quality considerations in to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for procurement to ensure that improving local air quality is considered by our suppliers.	The council's EIA was last renewed in May 2016 and air quality considerations form part of the assessment.

### b. Business Engagement Programme

Action	Progress
Work with businesses on the "City Air" initiative in our hotspots, assisting them to improve local air quality by reviewing operations such as deliveries, building management and energy use.	We worked with businesses in the Finsbury Park area and Angel for 'City Air'. Businesses continue to be engaged through the award winning City Fringe ZEN at Old Street in 2016 which now involves almost 1000 businesses, with 265 of these located in Islington. Archway ZEN began in 2017 working to reduce emissions from businesses in the Archway area. The City Fringe Low Emission Neighbourhood also began in 2017, creating a low emission neighbourhood.
Work with neighbouring boroughs to extend existing programmes such as the Zero Emission Network (ZEN) to improve air quality at the borough boundaries.	The ZEN was expanded beyond Hackney in 2014 to include Islington and Tower Hamlets. In Islington 265 businesses around the Bunhill area have signed up to the ZEN and actions carried out have included electric vehicle trials, use of zero emission taxis, cargo bike trials and use of car clubs. Eco-Audits have been conducted to give advice on how emissions from energy use can be reduced. The model was extended to Archway in 2017 and we are now working to reduce emissions form businesses in the Archway area.

## 1.6. Air quality awareness raising initiatives

### a. Raise awareness regarding personal exposure

Action	Progress
Undertake a source apportionment study to identify the most polluting sources in the borough	Report completed in 2014
Undertake joint working with Camden Council and the joint public health team to advise residents on local air quality, health impacts and actions individuals can take to reduce exposure.	This project was completed ahead of schedule in September 2014. The Air Aware programme and associated toolkit was created, comprising pollution concentration maps, information for residents and health professionals, and activities for children. Training sessions were held for professionals alongside attendance at events, GP Surgeries and Health Centres.
Hold an annual car free event.	The 2016 Car Free Day consisted of a closed event for children of three Islington primary schools and an open event for members of the public. 240 pupils attended from Grafton Primary, Hugh Myddelton Primary and St Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School Activities included air quality information, lung function tests and sustainable travel information. Previous events include street closure and air quality information on Caledonian road as part of the Cally Festival in 2014.
Develop Air Quality Champions for Islington to work with officers to implement measures to improve local areas and reduce emissions.	In previous years 17 air quality champions were recruited across Islington. They provided information on AirText for local pharmacies to cascade to customers collecting medication for illnesses impacted by air quality. They also conducted programmes such as Air Aware. In 2016 further volunteers were recruited for the 2016-17 anti-idling campaign. This scheme has now been extended and will continue to run in 2017-18.

### b. Provision of air quality information

Action	Progress
Continue to lead the London wide AirText service and promote to residents.	Islington continues to lead the AirText consortium and promotes AirText where possible for example through the energy advice service which received 4500 calls in 2016.
Participate in the Breathe Better Together campaign for London.	The campaign aimed to increase awareness of air quality issues. The campaign launched in January 2015, with action days to provide residents advice. No action currently being conducted specifically for Breathe Better Together.

## 1.7. Public Realm

Action	Progress
Increase cycle parking around the borough, particularly in shopping areas and on housing estates.	In 2016 around 160 cycle parking bays were installed across the borough. Continue to look for opportunities.
Map and advertise safer walking and cycling routes.	Clean Air walking routes have been mapped and are available to the public. Clean Walking Routes have been mapped with local schools. Islington organised a Festival of Cycling in June 2016 in conjunction with Hackney and Haringey Councils. Over 1500 people attended and participated in activities such as personal travel planning as well as a 67 mile ride, bike security marking, scooter training, bike repair and bike exchange where you see a lorry drivers perspective.
Promote walking through the Islington Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to tackle physical inactivity and obesity.	The 2014 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment provided a focus on physical activity and detailed programmes and services that are available to tackle obesity. The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2017-2020 was developed in 2016 and includes a section on promoting healthier and more active families, increasing physical activity (such as walking) in their everyday lives. <a href="https://www.islington.gov.uk/consultations/draft-joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy">https://www.islington.gov.uk/consultations/draft-joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy</a> .
500 trees to be planted across the borough in 2013/14	Action completed with a further 480 trees planted in 2014/15, 339 in 2015/16 and 194 planted so far in 2016/17.
Introduce more species of plants and trees that assist in improving air quality.	Research into species that have a positive impact on local air quality has been completed. Air quality planting is carried out where possible. For example plans for planting in Archway ZEN were developed in 2016 to be completed in 2017.
Ensure that contractors undertaking works to the highway use best practice to avoid adding to local air pollution.	An update to the Code of Construction Practice, which is issued to contractors and enforced by Public Protection, was developed in 2016 and it is planned to launch this in 2017, setting out expected methods of working, including ways to reduce air pollution.
Work with TfL to ensure that all new road improvements are considerate of walking and cycling and create safer, cleaner spaces for active travel.	Work revamping the Archway Gyratory System started early 2016. A new two-way traffic system including a new public space, dedicated cycle lanes and pedestrian crossings opened in December 2016. Other gyratory systems being considered which include plans for active travel etc. are Highbury Corner and Old Street. Consultations for Highbury Corner began in 2016 and a report was published in March 2017.
Work with the Canal and River Trust to reduce	New mooring rules are in place for part of the canal. Wood burning is no longer permitted except

<p>pollutant concentrations around Regents Canal by changes to mooring rules, launching best practice guidance for boaters and using enforcement actions where non-compliance continues.</p>	<p>for kindling. An action plan has been developed with residents to address issues affecting air quality along the canal and its environs. In 2016 plans to install a number of electric charging points at moorings began, this is still ongoing.</p>
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### **1.8. Cleaner Air Borough**

<p><b>Action</b></p>	
<p>Participate in the GLA's Cleaner Air Borough initiative and obtain a kite mark demonstrating Islington's commitment to improving air quality.</p>	<p>The London Borough of Islington was awarded Cleaner Air Borough status in 2016 and we are waiting to hear whether we have retained this status in 2017.</p>