

Report of: **Executive Member for Sustainability**

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Executive	14 January 2014	D2	All

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SUBJECT: Air Quality Scrutiny review - response to the report of the Regeneration and Employment Review Committee

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 and this report outlines the action to be taken in response to the review.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the actions proposed to address the recommendations of this review, including the commitment to lobby the Mayor of London for action.

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.
- 3.2 Poor air quality has a range of harmful effects. It can exacerbate existing lung and heart conditions and cause reduced lung function in children. In 2008, one hundred people in Islington died as a result of long term exposure to suspended fine Particulate Matter PM_{2.5}

- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 Whilst some concentrations have reduced across the borough, Islington still exceeds the annual mean objective for NO₂ at the roadside.
- 3.5 The scrutiny review found that although much work has already been done in Islington to reduce pollutant concentrations, further measures are required to meet all the air quality objectives. It was acknowledged that this would be challenging as the source of the air pollution was mainly from outside Islington or was as a result of through-traffic. The Council would need to work with other boroughs, and need to full cooperation TfL and the GLA as they are responsible for the major road networks, funding streams and the provision of the bus service.
- 3.6 Evidence was taken from a range of experts in the field including Professors Frank Kelly and Gary Fuller from Kings College London, 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 The Regeneration and Employment Review Committee is thanked for its report and recommendations. It has acknowledged the positive work that is being undertaken and identified new actions that can be undertaken.
- 4.2 Appendix A sets out the recommendations and actions that have been undertaken or proposed to address them. The pollution team in Public Protection that leads this area of work has been very successful in applying for external funding which means that additional projects can now take place, focussing on engagement with businesses and residents.

5. Implications

- 5.1 **Financial implications:**
The actions proposed can be funded from existing budgets or external funding in 2014/15. 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:**
The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it

(section 149 Equality Act 2010). The Council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The Council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

An EIA will be carried out as part of the adoption of the Air Quality Strategy.

6. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

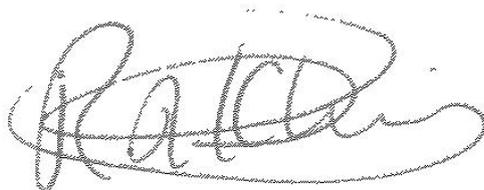
- 6.1 The recommendations in the report are welcome and it is considered that their implementation will have a positive impact on local air quality.

Appendices – Appendix A: Recommendations and Actions

Background Papers - none

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



19.12.13

Executive Member for Sustainability

Date

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