



THE REGULATORY SERVICES PARTNERSHIP

REPORT TO: Joint Regulatory Services Committee

DATE: 15th October 2019

REPORT OF: Jason Andrews

TITLE OF REPORT Delivering services across the partnership

WARDS: All Wards/Boroughs

KEY DECISION? No

IF YES, IN FORWARD PLAN?

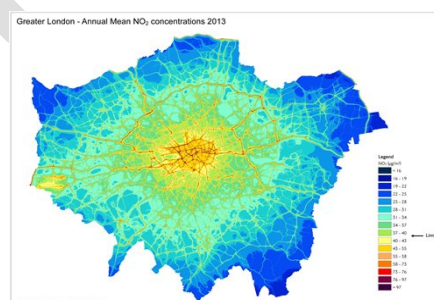
For general release Yes

1. MATTER FOR REVIEW & CONSIDERATION

Joint working approach to air quality across the Regulatory Services Partnership (Sharing Best Practice)

2. AIR QUALITY IN LONDON

2.1 We now know that each year, thousands of Londoners die prematurely as a result of result of air pollution across the capital, and millions more face health threats every day. London has breached legal limits for air quality every year since implementing them in 2010, and all of London's boroughs fail both National Annual Air Quality Objectives and World Health Organisation standards.



2.2 Emerging evidence suggests that air pollution may also cause dementia and cognitive decline. Emerging evidence also exists associating air pollution with early life effects such as low birth weight.

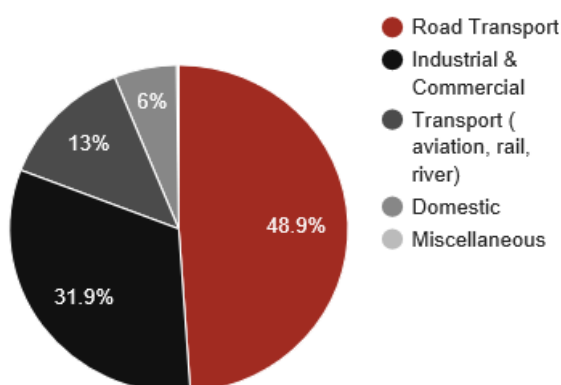
2.3 The three main conditions associated with air pollution are respiratory conditions (such as asthma), cardiovascular disease (CVD), and lung cancer. Emerging evidence exists for associations with dementia, low birthweight and Type 2 diabetes. The Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP) has highlighted that exposure to air pollution contributes to many thousands of deaths in the UK, through increasing the risk of CVD, respiratory disease and cancers.

2.4 In London, over 9,000 premature deaths can be attributed to poor air quality. The Environmental Audit Committee has estimated that the national health cost as a result of air pollution range between £8.5 billion and £20.2 billion a year.

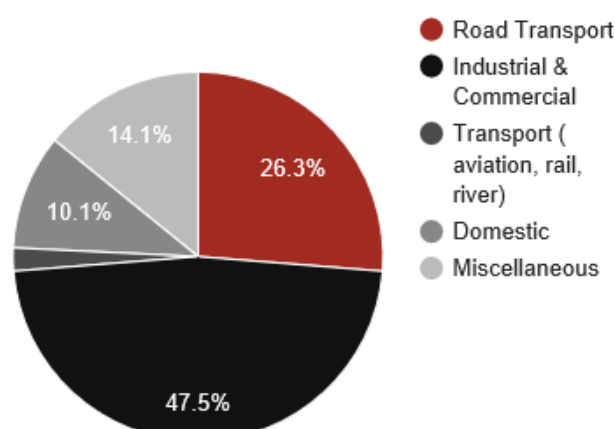
- 2.5 The quality of local air has been identified as a priority both nationally and within London, where pollution levels continue to exceed both EU limit values and UK air quality standards.
- 2.6 A significant portion of London's emissions comes from transport – or how we travel around the city. This includes aviation, river, rail and especially on-road transportation. Construction and industrial processes, as well as heating and powering our homes, businesses, also produce substantial pollution. Some miscellaneous sources – such as accidental fires, agriculture, and forestry – account for a small proportion of emissions in the city.

London Emission Sources:

NOx emissions sources



PM10 emission sources





3. Legal Framework

- 3.1 The UK Government and the devolved administrations are required under the Environment Act 1995 to produce a national air quality strategy. This strategy sets out the UK's air quality objectives and recognises that action at national, regional and local level is needed, depending on the scale and nature of the air quality problem. A summary of the UK's air quality standards and objectives are shown in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 and Part II of the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 requires local authorities in the UK to review air quality in their area and designate Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) if improvements are necessary. Where an air quality management area is designated, local authorities are also required to work towards the Strategy's objectives prescribed in regulations for that purpose. An Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) describing the pollution reduction measures must then be enacted. These plans contribute to the achievement of air quality limit values at local level.
- 3.3 In the past ten-years the UK government has been challenged successfully by environmental lawyers from ClientEarth. These challenges have been predominantly around the measures within the governments Clean Air Strategy and the implementation process and its timeframe. The government has since recently revised its Clean Air Strategy. The revised Strategy refers to the strengthening of existing powers and the introduction of new powers for Local Authorities to further reduce air pollution from key areas such as transport, the home, farming and industry. Details of amended Local Authority powers will follow in the new Environment Bill and associated clean air legislation.
- 3.4 Although legal challenges on air quality have been levelled at central government, the same challenge and recommendations can equally be applied to any Local Authorities air quality responsibilities. These challenges, along with the emerging health impact of poor air quality have given the agenda added impetus over the past few years.
- 3.5 In addition to the legal responsibility, Local Authorities have a duty to ensure the health and wellbeing of its residents, visitors and businesses.

4. THE POLLUTION TEAM (AIR QUALITY AND CONTAMINATED LAND)

- 4.1 Air Quality is recognised as a priority service for Local Authorities include all members of the Partnership. In recognition and through the second phase of the Tri-borough merger to incorporate Wandsworth services, steps were taken to create a team specifically to deliver the air quality agenda across the three boroughs.



- 4.2 The benefits of a merged Air Quality Team unite good practice, shared expertise and knowledge and provides a degree of resilience to the service as a whole.
- 4.3 Air Quality is a unique Local Government function in that the function can access various funding streams as well as external grant funding. The mass of a Tri-borough service also attracts significant funding from several sources and the centralising of procurement can bring further value for money.
- 4.4 The Pollution Team consists of two-types of employee; revenue funded or permanent staff exist as paid for by the three authorities, and grant funded staff or temporary staff, paid for through various external funding streams.

Revenue Staff include:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| • Jason Andrews | Team Manager |
| • Miar Crutchley | Practitioner (Merton diesel levy funded) |
| • Carol Lee | Practitioner |
| • Davide Pascarella | Practitioner |
| • Mark Collins | Practitioner |
| • Gavin Day | Contaminated Land Officer |
| • Nicoletta Vianello | Practitioner |

Grant and externally funded staff:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Andrew Gordon | NRMM Lead |
| • Luis Bassett | Practitioner |
| • Althea Gabellini | NRMM Officer |
| • Elizabeth Gunner | NRMM Officer |
| • Tania Watts | NRMM Officer |
| • Guillermo Perez Molina | NRMM Officer |
| • Jay Polley | NRMM Officer |
| • Maria Vaz | Practitioner (Nine Elms) |
| • Vacant | Practitioner (Nine Elms) |
| • Vacant | Practitioner (Richmond LIP Funded) |

5. THE AIR QUALITY AGENDA IN LOCAL AUTHORITY

- 5.1 The Air Quality Agenda in Local Authority is not the sole responsibility of the Regulatory Services Partnership, but a wider agenda expanding nearly all services within the Authority.
- 5.2 Partnering services across the council and pooling ideas and resources is vital to delivering a comprehensive clean air agenda. The Pollution Team work in partnership with other services within the three boroughs including Parking, Planning, Transportation, Communication, Public Health, Education and Highways. These internal partners significantly contribute to delivering the air quality agenda. Each cannot be seen as a silo but must coordinate to deliver actions which is highlighted in the borough's respective Air Quality Action Plans.



- 5.3 The Regulatory Service can add expertise, advice, coordinate actions and deliver key initiatives, but cannot resolve the issue alone. Working with these key partners is essential.

6. FUNCTIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TEAM

6.1 Air quality monitoring and feedback

We have a statutory duty to monitor and report on air quality in the boroughs. This is a legal process which culminates in an annual report called an Annual Status Report on air quality (ASR). The boroughs operate a number of monitoring locations including diffusion tube networks as well as automated and calibrated air quality monitors. These automated monitors form a part of a London-wide network. This monitoring shows the boroughs current status with regards to air quality and helps assess the impact of any action taken to reduce pollution.

6.2 Legal responsibilities

Where a borough fails legal air quality limits it must declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and as such must implement an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to tackle air quality. The Pollution Team is responsible for that Plan and its implementation. The actions that fall outside the pollution team such as Traffic/Transport are still coordinated and feedback through the AQAP and the measures coordinated through that Plan.

6.3 Deliver the respective boroughs initiatives

As well as monitoring and feedback the pollution team is responsible for some key measures in the AQAP including campaigns and schools work as well as project work and local initiatives, these can vary between the boroughs.

6.4 Communicating

The Pollution Team are responsible for communicating the air quality agenda, including messages and dealing with questions and attending public meetings, planning committees and other key forums.

6.5 Goods & Services Contracts and Procurement

The Pollution Team deals with contracts and procurement of goods and services across the three boroughs relating to air quality including the managing, servicing and maintaining of air quality monitoring stations and diffusion tube networks.

6.6 Determining and defining Local Policy

The Pollution Team provide advice and steer on current policy to council decision makers to help shape the actions that the boroughs can take to tackle poor air quality whilst fulfilling the respective local political priorities.

6.7 Construction/Demolition

The Pollution Team regulate emissions from the construction industry including dust, noise and machinery emissions. This is done through the use of regulatory powers as well as the Planning Agenda. We are currently seeing



LONDON BOROUGH OF
RICHMOND UPON THAMES



some major projects throughout the boroughs that will have a significant impact upon resourcing of the service over the next few years. In Merton we have the estate regenerations, Wandsworth has Nine Elms and Tideway and Richmond the Mortlake Brewery development.

6.8 **Contaminated Land Conditioning**

The Pollution Team are responsible for delivering the contaminated land agenda across the three boroughs, this involves ensuring that contaminated land is identified and mitigated where necessary. This is now ostensibly delivered through the planning agenda. Therefor planning applications need to be assessed against historical records and conditions made where necessary.

6.9 **Part B Licensing processes**

Some pollution industries such as dry cleaners, car re-sprayers and petrol stations are regulated by the Local Authority. The Pollution Team regulate and permit these processes across the three boroughs.

6.10 **Emergency Environmental response**

The Pollution Team plays a significant role in managing and responding to environmental emergencies. This can include contamination, natural disaster and emergency planning, contaminated water etc.

6.11 **Complaints and Service requests**

The Pollution Team deals with service requests or complaints about a number of air quality and regulatory matters. These include but are not limited to; air quality, bonfires, dust, smoke and traffic. The team deals with around 1000 service requests per year in addition to its statutory and regulatory functions.

6.12 **Consultancy and conditioning**

The Pollution Team provides a consultancy service for a number of departments including Planning, Transport and Parks. This consultancy service covers all areas of Environmental Impact. We review all planning applications that will have a potential impact to ensure these are conditioned to minimise and mitigate impact.

7. **WORKING BEYOND THE PARTNERSHIP**

7.1 The service also covers wider initiatives beyond the Partnership, including playing a vital role in steering National Policy and lobbying for legislative changes.

7.2 The Team also deliver significant and innovative initiatives such as the London wide Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) Scheme this is delivering the World's first Low Emissions Zone for Construction. This work is so significant it is shaping future policy, and the team want to expand this to an air quality accreditation scheme for Cleaner Construction and expand to other Cities in the UK and beyond.





- 7.3 The Team are also responsible for delivering and updating the London Code of Practice for Construction and Demolition, to which many boroughs subscribe.
- 7.4 Many of our Practitioners are considered industry leaders who are happy to regionally and nationally, share knowledge, expertise and experience.

8. ATTRACTING EXTERNAL FUNDING

- 8.1 The air quality agenda has a unique opportunity to apply for funding through a number of internal and external funding streams, much of our project work and borough specific initiatives are funded from monies outside of the Partnership.
- 8.2 These funding streams include, but are not limited to; Section 106, Local Implementation Plan, Community Infrastructure Levy, Public Health and external grant schemes such as the Mayors Air Quality Fund and Horizon 2020.
- 8.3 As an indication of external funding provided to the Team have secured around £2m over the next three-years. It is important to note that this is earmarked for certain boroughs and specific initiative. That said it does show the team's ability to tap into resourcing.
- 8.4 The Team continue to seek funding opportunities and build team and borough service resilience through funding such as grants, commercialisation of its expertise and Section 106.

9. BOROUGH PRIORITIES 2019

9.1 Priorities for Merton in 2019

- Continue to implement the 2018 Air Quality Action Plan
- Work with parking colleagues to link parking policy to Public Health & Air Quality
- Review of the Diesel Levy
- Anti-Idling
- Local Plan update to include Air Quality
- Deliver the London wide NRMM Project
- Monitoring air quality around all schools
- Schools Safety Zones
- School Neighbourhood Approach Project (SNAP) pilot

9.2 Priorities for Richmond 2019

- Draft and deliver a new Air Quality Action Plan that reflects the aspirations of the borough.
- Scoping and consultation of a diesel Levy
- Exploring Clean Air Zones around the Town Centres
- Enhanced air quality monitoring arrangement.
- Anti-Idling
- Internal air filtration in schools project



- A new and innovative Planning Policy Guidance for Air Quality for developments in the borough
- School Safety Zones (Pilot)

9.3 Priorities for Richmond 2019

- Deliver the existing Air Quality Action Plan and new matrix reporting scheme
- Manage the Nine Elms Development Environmental Impacts
- Manage the Thames Tideway Environmental Impacts
- Anti-Idling
- Clean Air Village project for Tooting
- Schools audits
- Schools internal air filtration project competition
- Putney High Street

10. JOINT AND SHARED INITIATIVES, EXAMPLES AND PRACTICE

10.1 A number of joint projects exist that extend across the borough, these overall activities are addressing, however resourcing differs across the boroughs. It is important to note that borough activity is often linked to the individual boroughs financial commitment to providing these activities.

As an example: LIP Funding differs considerably across the boroughs and some are restricted certain activities.

For The **Pollution Team** LIP Funding as followed:

Wandsworth:	£85K per year
Richmond:	£100K per year
Merton:	£30K per year.

Note. Some funding for AQ initiatives sits in other teams and this figure does not represent the overall Council financing of AQ.

Core Service Objectives	Borough	Examples of Best Practice
Air Quality monitoring and feedback	Wandsworth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large number of automated stations with some funded through major schemes • Matrix Report produced of monitoring in the borough • Site specific monitoring for the Nine Elms Development



	Merton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diffusion Tube Network refreshed and comprehensively covers the borough • All schools now incorporated in the monitoring network • Requested section 106 funding for a new continuous monitoring station at Wimbledon Stadium
	Richmond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good number of monitoring stations that also cover Ozone • Excellent Diffusion tube work with good trend data • Piloting Personal Monitors for Civil Enforcement Officers (CEO) • 20MPH zone monitoring
Consultation Service and Planning	Wandsworth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresh of guidance and conditions for AQ • Closer engagement with planners • Dust monitoring requested for construction sites • Funding for staffing and monitoring on large construction sites through Section 106
	Merton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close partnership working with Planners/Training Guidance • Starting to tap into Section 106 funding for AQ • Active role in the Committee process • Local Plan out for consultation and includes AQ
	Richmond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan updated to include AQ • A new and comprehensive Supplementary Planning Guidance for AQ (SPD), (model for all boroughs) SPD includes funding of AQ and Regulation
Anti-Idling	Wandsworth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEO have had delegated powers since 2017 and report back interventions • Coordinated activities between AQ Team and CEO • Signage expanding to all schools in the borough • Part of the pan-London Idling Project
	Merton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage throughout the borough • Cllrs involved in campaign days • New materials created for all boroughs • Training programme for all CEOs • New webpage for anti-idling. • Communication Plan for Anti idling • Part of the pan-London Idling Project



	Richmond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEO's trained and delivering throughout the borough • Website and communications Plan in place • Excellent Community Support • Banners provided to Schools and educational package • Councillor support for the agenda
Our Schools	Wandsworth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to auditing and funding of mitigation measures • Access to funding for schools • Internal monitoring of AQ • Theatre Groups in schools • Anti-idling signage and campaigns
	Merton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring in all schools • Anti-idling signage at some schools and campaigns. • SNAP Public Health Initiative • School Safety Zones • Councillors working with Schools
	Richmond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to auditing and funding of mitigation measures • Internal monitoring of AQ • School's banners for anti-idling • Commitment to STARS across the borough • Anti-idling signage and campaigns
Air Quality Action Plans	Wandsworth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well established AQAP • Incorporates the relevant departments • Reporting Matrix • Open to amendment
	Merton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New and innovative in a simple to understand format • Warmly welcomed by the consultation Brave in those contentious areas such as Parking • Linked closely to the Partner Services
	Richmond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AQAP new and innovative and includes up to date actions undergoing consultation • Has an open and transparent innovative public reporting process • Clear simple format that speaks to the borough

11. BOROUGH BEST PRACTICE

11.1 Many borough air quality initiatives are very similar in their scope and ambition, with many themes occurring across the boroughs irrespective of the



Political Administration. Air Quality seems to transcend any political differences but they will still need to remain sovereign to each borough as these are represented at a local-level and what may be required in one borough does not necessarily mean it applies or is palatable to all. All boroughs however need to take firm action to tackle what is considered a Public Health Crisis.

Borough	Examples of Leading
Wandsworth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Putney High Street model of best practice for tackling Town Centre Pollution Nine Elms Development monitoring and funding regime Clean Air Villages Theatre Groups for Schools
Merton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Innovative AQAP Diesel Levy and Parking charges linked to the Air Quality agenda Schools activities, SNAP, Safer Streets Monitoring Cleaner Construction for London Project (NRMM) Citizen Partnership
Richmond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication Plan Committee Dedicated to Transport and Air Quality Partnership approach to problem solving Peer partnership approach Supplementary Planning Guidance for air quality Ambition for a change of transport in the borough

12. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None report for information only

13. PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

None, information only

14. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

15. CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

None

16. POLICY IMPLICATION

None

17. BACKGROUND INFORMATION:



None

18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

19. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Summary of National Air-quality standards and objectives

20. CONTACTS

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