

Appendix 3- Tower Hamlets ASR 2018 - GLA acceptance Letter

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY Development, Enterprise and Environment

Nick Marks & Peter Bond
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Via email to: nicholas.marks@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Department: Development, Enterprise and Environment

Date: 08/08/2019

Dear Nick and Mark,

Thank you for submitting your Annual Status Report (ASR) for 2018 in fulfilment of Part IV of the Environment Act 1995.

As part of the London Local Air Quality Management (LLAQM) system introduced in April 2016, the power to approve these reports sits with the Mayor of London, pursuant to Part IX of the Greater London Authority Act 1999.

Assessment of your report

On the basis of the evidence provided by the local authority, the conclusions reached are **accepted** for all sources and pollutants.

Please see the notes below for detailed comments on the report.

LLAQM and Cleaner Air Borough Update

In spring we consulted on proposed revisions to the LLAQM. The updated system will commence in September. Following the launch of the new LLAQM we will send out Cleaner Air Borough forms for you to complete, with the re-awarding of Cleaner Air Borough status expected to take place towards the end of the year.

Please do take note of the Cleaner Air Borough criteria outlined in the LLAQM consultation documents, so that you can ensure you are working towards all of these (they align directly with the LLAQM Air Quality Action Matrix actions).

Many thanks once again for your hard work on your ASR.

Kind regards,



Poppy Lyle
Deputy Air Quality Manager

Specific feedback on your ASR and Action Plan Update

1. The borough has provided a detailed ASR that uses the standard template and covers the required content.
2. The borough wide AQMA was declared in December 2000 for exceedance of the annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide and exceedance of the 24-hour mean objective for particulate matter.
3. In 2018, the Borough undertook continuous monitoring at 4 sites, of which two were roadside and two were background. Collectively, NO₂, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, O₃ and SO₂ were monitored across these sites.
4. The Borough also undertook diffusion tube monitoring at 90 sites. Exceedances of the annual mean objective for NO₂ were monitored at 36 of these sites.
5. There were no recorded exceedances of the annual mean or 24-hour mean objectives for PM₁₀, or the annual mean objective for PM_{2.5}. The Borough have decided to cease monitoring SO₂ as they comply to the relevant objectives for this pollutant.
6. The Borough have distance-corrected their monitoring results as advised in last year's appraisal, however have not provided any evidence or example calculations. It would be useful to see supporting evidence to ensure this has been carried out correctly.
7. The Borough have made reference to the national AQO's when presenting the monitoring data. It is however noted that when presenting NO₂ results, it is useful to identify sites monitoring concentrations > 60 µg/m³ in order to highlight areas at risk of exceeding the 1-hour mean objective. Concentrations > 60 µg/m³ should be bold underlined in results tables.
8. The Borough are encouraged to further address pollution in the designated AQFAs.
9. The Borough have made good progress on their AQAP in the past year, which is to be commended.
Of particular note:
 - a. A review of the Borough's monitoring regime concluded that:
 - i. an additional PM_{2.5} monitor is to be purchased in 2019 to complement existing NO₂ monitor on Mile End Road; and
 - ii. the SO₂ monitor in Victoria Park to be closed as borough compliant for this pollutant. A new PM_{2.5} monitor is to be purchased for this location.
 - b. Contact is being sought with TfL to ensure adequate pre-construction air quality monitoring is being carried out. No monitoring undertaken to date.
 - c. Citizen Science air quality monitoring project ran from April-November 2018. 79 residents registered interest in the scheme and 29 locations are being monitored by residents using NO_x tubes.
 - d. The Schools Environmental Theatre Project was successful - Big Wheel Theatre company ran events on 20 primary schools in 2018.
 - e. Emerging Local Plan policy D.ES7 sets standards for a 'zero carbon borough' - LBTH's Local Plan requires energy use to be minimised as a priority in the design of the building and made energy efficient as possible. Policy is monitored through the Local Plan. Any shortfall in carbon reduction targets are met through and offset payment to the local authority
 - f. Energy efficiency projects have been completed in 17 schools:
 - i. Schools retrofit project - Energy efficiency improvements completed to 9 schools which includes boiler replacement, heating upgrades, insulation etc. The total fund for this project was £198k.
 - ii. Schools energy efficiency project - A project for schools which is a grant of up to £30k for energy efficiency works which 8 schools have successfully applied for and the works. Total fund for this project was £210k. We are in the process of allocating further funds to carry out works in more schools.