

<p><b>Cabinet</b></p> <p>31 October 2017</p>	
<p><b>Report of:</b> Ann Sutcliffe – Acting Corporate Director, Place</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted</p>
<p><b>Air Quality and Climate Change Strategy</b></p>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Councillor Rachel Blake, Cabinet Member for Strategic Development and Waste and Air Quality</b>
<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Abdul J Khan - Service Manager for Energy and Sustainability David Tolley - Head of Trading Standards and Environmental Health
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>A Great Place to Live</b>

### Executive Summary

The state of the environment affects everyone who lives, works and visits Tower Hamlets. It has been well established that the actions which tackle both air pollution and climate change are similar and can be achieved in tandem.

Air Quality has an impact on the health and quality of life of all in Tower Hamlets and London. The Council has a statutory duty to comply with the London Local Air Quality Management (LLAQM) Regime under the Environment Act 1995.

Tower Hamlets is declared as a whole borough Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for two air pollutants, Particulate Matter and Nitrogen Dioxide. We have an AQMA declaration order with the Mayor's seal as the requirement of the Local Air Quality Management process. We have a duty to adopt and implement an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). Our first AQAP was adopted in 2003 and the version presented here has been revised and updated.

There is overwhelming scientific consensus that significant climate change is happening. The Climate Change Act 2008, EU Directive (2010/31/EU) and the recent Paris Agreement (2015) commits the UK to make efforts to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.

Greenhouse gas emissions in the borough are falling, however we still remain as one of the high emitters of carbon dioxide emissions in London. There is growing public awareness and concern about climate change. As such Tower Hamlets Council has a clear focus and responsibility for explaining, reducing and responding

to the risks associated with climate change as a key part of its community leadership role.

This strategy brings together these two important areas of work combining our approach and taking a range of actions to improve the borough's environment.

## **Recommendations:**

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Note that a mayoral priority growth bid was passed and an air quality fund has been approved in the last budget. The fund is for £200,000 over a two year period of 17/18 and 18/19. The fund is intended for 'prospective bidders to support activities aligned to the Council priorities in improving air quality'. Criteria for the proposed projects include:
  - be related to either reducing emissions of, reducing exposure to or increasing awareness of air pollution;
  - be directly relevant to actions in our AQAP;
  - have a measurable impact; and
  - have wider community benefits
2. Approve the Air Quality and Climate Change Strategy.
3. Approve the Air Quality Action Plan.

## **1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 commits the UK to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050 on 1990 levels. It is recommended the Local Authority has a climate change strategy to support the commitments of the UK government and to carry out its local leadership role in tackling climate change.
- 1.2 The strategy will work alongside other action plans and strategies that are in place such as the Carbon Management Plan, Local Biodiversity Action Plan, Transport Strategy, Electric Vehicle Charging Point and the Air Quality Action Plan. This strategy will align the issues on air quality and climate change and it will ensure that all these action plans and strategies complement each other and work towards making Tower Hamlets a Great Place to Live.
- 1.3 Under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 Local Authorities have a duty to review and assess air quality in their jurisdiction. Where levels of air pollutants exceed guideline limits then measures must be developed to reduce emissions towards achieving the air quality objectives. The majority of measures proposed are relevant for tackling both air pollution and climate change.

## **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 It is not a statutory requirement for the local authority to have a climate change strategy and therefore an alternative option would be not to have one. This is not suggested, however, as it is recognised that climate change is an issue across the world and that every person has a moral duty to tackle climate change. Local Authorities also have a duty to take on the community leadership role and in exercising this duty the Local Authority has the responsibility to lead and set the directions for tackling climate change, having a Climate Change Strategy will enable the Council to fulfil this role.
- 2.2 As a result of air pollution exceedances Tower Hamlets has a duty to adopt and implement an AQAP. If the Council fails to do this the Mayor of London will take legal action against us as he has a supervisory role, with powers to intervene and direct local authorities in Greater London.

## **3. DETAILS OF REPORT**

### **3.1 Climate Change**

- 3.1.1 Action by local authorities is critical to the achievement of the Government's climate change objectives. Local authorities are uniquely placed to provide vision and leadership to local communities by raising awareness and influencing behaviour change. In addition, through their powers and responsibilities (housing, planning, local transport and powers to promote well-being) and by working with their stakeholders, local authorities can have significant influence over carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions in their local areas. It is important that local authorities contribute to national and regional targets for mitigating and adapting to climate change.
- 3.1.2 63% of the borough's emissions come from the industry and commercial sector and 19% from the domestic sector and 18% from transport. These emissions are outside the direct control of the Council. In comparison to the borough wide emissions, the emissions from council operations account for 0.6% of the overall total which the Council has direct control over.
- 3.1.3 Therefore to effectively tackle climate change and reduce emissions in Tower Hamlets the Council is reliant on exercising its powers and responsibilities in housing, local transport and the powers to promote well-being.

### **3.2 Air Quality**

- 3.2.1 Air pollution often originates from the same activities that contribute to climate change so it makes sense to consider how the overlap between air quality and climate change policy areas can be managed to best effect.

- 3.2.2 Tower Hamlets is committed to improving local air quality and improving public health. Our Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) was updated and the consultation process has been completed.
- 3.2.3 The Council has secured funding from the London Mayor's Air Quality Fund for several air quality projects. However these projects are match funded internally by the Council through various sources and it must be recognised that as we move forward into 2017-2021, this match funding may be more difficult to locate.
- 3.2.4 The aim of the projects is to deliver improvements in local air quality and reduce public exposure to pollution. Subsequently we have been declared a Cleaner Air Borough by the London Mayor. The projects currently underpin the Air Quality Action Plan.
- 3.2.5 Measures which benefit both air quality and climate change can be realised through actions such as promoting low-carbon vehicles and renewable sources of energy that do not involve combustion. At the same time, actions that tackle climate change but damage air quality must be avoided.
- 3.2.6 Air Quality has an impact on the health and quality of life of all in Tower Hamlets and London. The Council has a statutory duty to comply with the London Local Air Quality Management (LLAQM) Regime under the Environment Act 1995 and has subsequently adopted an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP).
- 3.2.7 Tower Hamlets is declared as a whole borough Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for two air pollutants, Particulate Matter and Nitrogen Dioxide. We have an AQMA declaration order with the Mayor's seal as the requirement of the Local Air Quality Management process.
- 3.2.8 Air pollution has a significant negative impact on health with effects ranging from worsening respiratory symptoms and poorer quality of life, to premature deaths, from cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. In Tower Hamlets 7.4% of all deaths in people over 30 are attributable to particulate air pollution. Air pollution contributes to widening health inequalities as levels of particulate matter and NO<sub>2</sub> are higher on the most heavily trafficked roads which are used more by disadvantaged people as places where they live, work and shop. There is also evidence that these same people are more susceptible to the adverse health impacts of air pollution. A six year study observed evidence of reduced lung volume in school children relating to long term exposure to traffic pollutants was consistent with impaired lung growth.
- 3.2.9 Through the LLAQM, we have also been declared a Cleaner Air Borough as we have and continue to meet the GLA's Cleaner Air Borough Criteria to improve local air quality and improve public health
- 3.2.10 Further action is now required in delivering local improvements to reduce emissions and human exposure at busy vehicular locations like high streets, schools and hospitals. A local targeted approach in collaboration with partner

organisations and a high level of community engagement to establish long term awareness around health benefits is required. With the introduction of appropriate measures this could deliver tangible improvements.

3.2.11 London, including Tower Hamlets is exceeding the limit values contained within the European Union's Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) and therefore is required to implement measures to reduce air pollution. The two human health pollutants of concern are Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulate Matter (PM10 & PM2.5).

### **3.3 Air Quality and Climate Change Strategy**

3.3.1 This strategy is divided in to nine sections providing a vision and a set of priorities for achieving each vision.

#### **(i) Energy Supply**

Tower Hamlets produces one of the highest levels of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in London, where nearly two thirds of the Borough's emissions come from the industry and commercial sector. The Borough has made good progress so far in achieving a reduction of 21% from 1990 levels up to 2014 and it is expected to have made an overall 25% reduction by 2017 on 1990 levels.

There is still much work to be done to achieve the 60% CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions by 2025 on 1990 levels.

The strategy also contributes to tackling fuel poverty in the borough by reducing domestic energy consumption.

#### **(ii) Low Carbon Development**

The quality of the built environment is of crucial importance to our contribution to climate change, through reducing the amount of energy we use in our buildings. Tower Hamlets has some of the best policies in the country in creating sustainable developments; the borough has won a national award for delivering the highest number of homes that meet the 'Code for Sustainable Homes' (CSH) standard awarded by the Building Research Establishment (BRE).

The local authority is leading the way in allowable solutions and holds one of the most advanced studies in the country helping to set up a carbon fund currently holding over £8m in section 106 agreements, with £1.8m already paid in to our accounts.

Utilising these funds we are delivering projects in schools, the domestic sector and council and community buildings.

### **(iii) Carbon Management Plan**

Getting your own house in order is extremely important; the Council working with the Carbon Trust developed the Carbon Management Plan outlining the Council's vision and carbon reductions targets up to 2020. A reduction in carbon emissions results in a reduction in energy usage and therefore a reduction in energy costs too.

From a 2007 carbon footprint baseline, in 2015 the Council has achieved a 38% reduction and is on course to achieve the 60% reduction by 2020.

### **(iv) Air Quality**

London's air pollution problem is primarily caused by traffic and diesel fumes. Air pollution is a matter of life and death. It causes 9,500 early deaths in London every year.

Climate Change and air pollutants share common sources. The challenge in addressing air pollution and climate change will require synergistic policies, while striving to minimise conflict between policies and to manage residual negative impacts.

This strategy will seek opportunities to influence air quality policy across the borough to secure lower levels of air pollution. When delivering projects the impact on climate change and air quality will be assessed.

### **(v) Transport**

Transport is a significant producer of carbon emissions. Through its transport policy Tower Hamlets is attempting to create a cleaner, greener and more attractive borough, where it is safe and easy to travel and where the environment is protected for future generations. Making Connections is the green transport strategy of the Council; this strategy supports the vision and objectives of the green transport strategy.

The Air Quality Management Plan has identified the introduction of cleaner vehicles as a priority and the Electric Vehicle Charging Point Delivery has been developed to inform and direct action towards delivery of that objective over the next three years.

### **(vi) Natural Environment, Water supply and Flooding**

The natural environment plays a key role in making our urban spaces liveable. The Council has a biodiversity action plan in place which aims to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the borough.

The demand for water is placing increasing pressure on rivers and waterways, affecting water table heights and raising new land use issues. The water

market was deregulated in April 2017 and the roll out of water meters is currently being delivered for all domestic users.

Approximately 31% of the properties in Tower Hamlets are in areas at risk of flooding, mainly from tidal flooding. Flood defences can only protect London from fluvial and tidal flood risk. The city is still vulnerable to surface water and sewer flooding from storm and heavy rainfall events.

This strategy will work to enhance and protect the Borough's biodiversity safeguarding the Borough's water resources and minimising the risk of flooding.

#### **(vii) Purchasing Supply and Consumption**

The purchasing, supply and consumption of goods effects climate change in a variety of ways, both directly through the greenhouse emissions from manufacture and transport of goods.

Most consumers do not have a good understanding of how their choices can help combat climate change and improve air quality.

This strategy will help people and organisations understand the need for action on air quality and climate change and adjust their purchasing, supply and consumption choices accordingly, both individually and collectively.

Reduce waste going to landfill, through producing less waste and expand the market in recycling and re-use of products and by generating energy from waste.

#### **(viii) Education Communication and Influencing Behaviours**

Poor air quality and climate change affects everyone and everyone is able to play a part in helping tackle it by thinking about how we live, work and play, and making simple changes to our behaviours.

We need to ensure people and organisations in the borough understand the reasons for action on the environment and are aware of what collective actions can achieve. Provide people with the knowledge and skills that will increase access to employment in to 'green jobs'.

#### **(ix) Community**

Communities can play a central role in developing a more sustainable way of life that reduces the impact of our lifestyles on the global climate. Collective actions at community level can help to reduce the effects of climate change and can help people to adapt to a changing climate.

Helping residents to understand how their local environment contributes towards a better quality of life will help them have commitment at community capacity to support each other to lead more sustainable lives.

### **3.4 Air Quality Action Plan**

- 3.4.1 The Air Quality Action Plan has been produced as part of our statutory duty to London Local Air Quality Management and outlines the proposed actions we intend to undertake to improve air quality in Tower Hamlets between 2017 and 2022.
- 3.4.2 Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts; it is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease, cancer and respiratory conditions. Air pollution particularly affects the most vulnerable in society, children and older people. There is often a strong correlation with equalities issues, because areas with poor air quality are also in the less affluent areas.
- 3.4.3 The UK Air Quality Strategy provides the overarching framework for air quality management and contains national air quality standards and objectives to protect human health. Tower Hamlets is meeting all of the national air quality standards apart from those relating to NO<sub>2</sub>. We are currently meeting the current objectives for particulate matter, PM10 and PM2.5, but as this pollutant is damaging to health at any level. It remains a pollutant of concern as although we are meeting the EU limits.
- 3.4.4 The Air Quality Action Plan considers priorities under nine broad headings;
- LLAQM
  - Developments and buildings
  - Major infrastructure projects
  - Public Health and awareness raising
  - Delivery servicing and freight
  - Borough fleet actions
  - Localised solutions and projects
  - Cleaner transport
  - Lobbying and Partnership Working
- 3.4.5 Pollution in Tower Hamlets comes from a variety of sources. The main source of NO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the Borough is from transport and domestic emissions. The main source for particulates is from traffic emissions, re-suspension of particles from traffic sources e.g. brake or tyre wear and construction sites.
- 3.4.6 The air quality action plan is striving to go beyond compliance with the Council's commitment and responsibility to reduce emissions from our own operations and jurisdiction. The action plan looks at committing to a range of projects and localised measures to improve air quality and work towards reducing exposure to air pollution.
- 3.4.7 The AQAP went to consultation in June/July 2017 and feedback included:
- Proposed measures were appropriate
  - More cycling infrastructure and on street EV charging points in the borough

- Take action on canal boat pollution
- Tower Hamlets' fleet should be EV
- Take action on engine idling
- Reduce car parking in new developments
- Freight consolidation schemes
- Expand cargo bike scheme
- Improve air quality communication to residents and businesses

3.4.8 Once approved by Cabinet the Air Quality Action Plan will be submitted to the GLA for acceptance and publication.

### **3.5 Financing of Projects**

3.5.1 This is an overarching strategy that brings together a number of existing strategies and action plans providing a shared common vision in improving the environment and making Tower Hamlets a more sustainable place to live and work. The carbon dioxide reducing projects identified in this strategy will be financed from the Carbon Fund for which approx. £8 million of section 106 resources have been secured in legal agreements, with £1.8 million of s106 resources already received by the Council and projects being currently delivered. These sums are likely to increase significantly as the approved developments are built with the new zero carbon residential policies that came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016 and with all new developments zero carbon from 2019.

3.5.2 External funding such as Energy Company Obligations (ECO) is also available for the domestic sector and these will be sought first when delivering any projects.

3.5.3 For the non-domestic sector Salix Loans are an option, these are interest free government loans based on savings achieved by the projects being delivered.

3.5.4 In the first instance where projects are being delivered we will utilise the Carbon Fund and only utilise Salix Loans to top up financing of projects where required and achieve the best value for money test.

3.5.5 Since the inception of LAQM, DEFRA has provided annual AQ grants to Local Authorities. The value has gradually decreased under the current administration and LAs are now required to match fund any monies granted.

3.5.6 The Mayor of London also provides an annual AQ fund which boroughs can bid for and these bids must be match funded by the LA.

3.5.7 The Mayor of Tower Hamlets allocated a mayoral priority growth bid which established an air quality fund as part of the last budget. The fund is for £200,000 over a two year period of 17/18 and 18/19.

#### **4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 4.1 This report asks the Mayor in Cabinet to approve the Air Quality and Climate Change Strategy and the Air Quality Action Plan which follow from the Carbon Offsetting Strategy which was approved by Cabinet in January 2016.
- 4.2 Although the Community Infrastructure Levy system came into effect in Tower Hamlets from April 2015, carbon offsetting remains part of the reduced Section 106 planning obligations process that remains in place. Financial resources are secured under Section 106 arrangements in mitigation where schemes do not meet the development plan target for reducing carbon dioxide emissions. These contributions are placed in a fund (the Carbon Fund) and are used to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in projects within the borough.
- 4.3 This report advises that the Carbon Fund will be used to tackle Climate Change in the borough by delivering energy reduction projects. Legal agreements for approximately £8.0 million of Section 106 resources have been entered into with £1.8 million having been received to date. Payments under Section 106 contracts are only generated at certain stages of the development process, with no payment liability if schemes do not progress. It is therefore essential that no funds are allocated or committed until the resources are received by the council.
- 4.4 The Strategy identifies nine project areas. Processes for the allocation of resources to fund these projects are incorporated into the Infrastructure Delivery Framework - through the Infrastructure Delivery Steering Group and the Infrastructure Delivery Board. This will ensure that any funding is allocated in a transparent manner, with any grants awarded requiring approval by the Grants Determination Sub-Committee.
- 4.5 Under the Retrofitting option in the Air Quality and Climate Change Strategy, new systems will be added to older buildings to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. A basis for utilising this funding source will be required, but if applied to Council buildings it has the potential to reduce the energy costs incurred by the authority, as well as reducing the liability for levies under the Carbon Reduction Commitment. The same will apply if the funding is utilised to install new energy measures within a school.
- 4.6 The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is a government energy efficiency initiative aimed at reducing carbon emissions and tackling fuel poverty. Under the scheme, larger energy suppliers have to deliver energy efficiency measures to households, with suppliers given targets based on their share of the domestic gas and electricity market. The scheme focuses on the installation of insulation and heating measures and supports vulnerable consumer groups.
- 4.7 Another funding option that could be considered is a loan from Salix Finance, (an independent, not for profit organisation funded by the Department for Energy and Climate Change) which offers 100% interest-free loans to the public sector to improve their energy efficiency and reduce their carbon

emissions. Applications for Salix loans would need to meet the funding criteria of a payback period of less than 5 years (8 years for schools and academies) and project viability in terms of the relative cost per tonne of carbon dioxide saved.

- 4.8 The Air Quality Action Plan sets out the actions that the Council intends to deliver between 2017 and 2022. The activities contained within the Action Plan are delivered by the Pollution Team which has a budget of £307,800 for 2017/18. In addition, approximately £42,000 is received from LB Hackney via the GLA towards the funding of the Zero Emissions Network (ZEN) officer posts. The Council has previously been successful in match funding this contribution through financing from the Mayor of London's Air Quality Fund. This Fund is still available to the Council to bid for further resources.
- 4.9 As part of the 2017-18 budget process, Mayoral Priority Growth of £200,000 was allocated over a two year period to finance initiatives aimed at improving air quality within the borough. £50,000 per year has been earmarked towards the establishment of an Improving Air Quality Fund to raise awareness of and to tackle the significant pollutant issues within the borough. A capital fund of £50,000 per annum over the same two year period is available for prospective bids to support activities aligned to Council priorities in improving air quality.

## **5. LEGAL COMMENTS**

- 5.1 Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 ('the 1995 Act') requires all local authorities in the UK to review and assess air quality in their area. Specifically, section 82 of the 1995 Act makes it a duty that every local authority shall review the air quality within its area, both at the present time and the likely future air quality. Section 83 of the 1995 Act also makes it a duty for local authorities to designate an air quality management area ('AQMA') where air quality objectives are not being achieved, or are not likely to be achieved within the relevant period. Once an area has been designated then section 84 of the 1995 Act imposes a further duty on the local authority to carry out an assessment and then to develop an Action Plan for the air quality management area.
- 5.2 Local authorities are required to consult on its air quality review and assessment; further air quality assessment in an air quality management area; and preparation or revision of an air quality action plan and schedule 11 of the 1995 Act sets out those persons/ bodies with whom this consultation is to be with. There is no requirement for Local authorities to undertake full public consultation but Government Guidance provides that local authorities should use their own judgement to determine whether there is a need for a full public consultation. In this case the report on the Consultation of the Draft Air Quality Action Plan 2017 attached at Appendix 3 confirms that a full public consultation was undertaken as well as consultation with those persons/ bodies required by the 1995 Act.

- 5.3 In considering the whether to approve the both the Air Quality and Climate Change Strategy and the Air Quality Action Plan regard must be had to the responses to the consultation.
- 5.4 This Strategy is a discretionary strategy not forming part of the Budget and Policy Framework. Therefore the approval of the Strategy and Action Plan is for the Mayor in Cabinet.
- 5.5 Once the Action Plan is approved, the Council is required to submit a first Action Plan Progress Report to the Mayor of London by 30<sup>th</sup> April and then by the same date each year that the Action Plan remains in force. The purpose of this reporting is to ensure that the Council implements the measures within its Action Plan by the timescales indicated within the plan. These Reports list the measures within the Action Plan and include the timescales by when they are/were due to be implemented and give an update on progress in terms of implementing or developing them.
- 5.6 When deciding whether or not to proceed with the proposals, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who don't (the public sector equality duty). Information relevant to the discharge of this duty is in the One Tower Hamlets Section of the report and the Equalities Impact Assessment Checklist attached at Appendix 4.

## **6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 Officers have taken the equality duty into account in the preparation of the strategy and concluded that the strategy and recommendations have no immediate equality implications; in the development of the individual projects equality duties will be applied.
- 6.2 The strategy only has a tangential effect at this stage by the prospect of, for example, reducing fuel poverty (which may have a disproportionate effect on groups with certain protected characteristics). That is a potential side benefit of the projects envisaged but the priority of the projects to be funded as a result of the strategy is reduction of energy use and carbon emissions. Issues such as mitigating fuel poverty are dealt with by other initiatives.
- 6.3 In so far as the individual projects are proposed the Equality Act duties will be more thoroughly considered when planning those projects.
- 6.4 An Equality Analysis Quality Assurance Check was completed on the AQAP. Poor air quality has a greater effect on children than adults. Therefore, some of the actions are targeting schools in the borough. Any improvement in air quality will benefit everyone.

## **7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The Carbon Offsetting report was approved by Cabinet in January 2016. The Carbon Fund will be used to tackle Climate Change in the borough by delivering energy reduction projects.
- 7.2 Cost efficiency is extremely important in identifying the projects to be delivered through the carbon offset fund. The CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction potential of the projects will include analysis of the cost per tonne CO<sub>2</sub> over the lifetime of the projects. The £/tCO<sub>2</sub> over the lifetime will be a key factor in the criteria for allocating funds and is represented in the carbon offset guidance.
- 7.3 The projects to be delivered will reduce energy consumption across all sectors, including consumption of domestic electricity and therefore reduce carbon emissions.
- 7.4 The proposals will have the benefit of reducing the number of households experiencing fuel poverty and ensure housing is efficient and affordable to heat. This has the potential to positively impact on health inequalities and reduce the number of heat and/or cold related deaths through ensuring buildings, and in particular housing, are comfortable temperatures all year round.
- 7.5 Through the delivery of community projects the proposals will aim to develop community skills to respond to climate change e.g. deliver renewable energy projects; energy efficiency programmes; and climate change education programmes.

## **8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

- 8.1 Tower Hamlets produces one of the highest levels of total carbon emissions of the 33 Local Authorities in Greater London. Carbon dioxide is the key greenhouse gas causing climate change, making up 85% of the United Kingdom's greenhouse gas emissions.
- 8.2 There are significant drivers for tackling climate change; The Climate Change Act established a target for the UK to reduce its emissions by at least 80% from 1990 levels by 2050. The Mayor of London agreed to deliver a 60 per cent reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> by 2025.
- 8.3 Central London which includes Tower Hamlets has some of the highest levels of air pollution in the UK. It is well documented that poor air quality has adverse effects on the health of residents and exacerbates certain medical conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Climate change and air pollutants share common sources. Consequently, tackling climate change and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will also lead to better air quality in the borough.

## **9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The strategy will improve air quality and reduce energy consumption across all sectors which therefore reduce carbon emissions. This will benefit the council through the financial savings that can be achieved through reducing the carbon footprint and Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) payments.
- 9.2 The projects identified within this strategy has the potential to positively impact on health inequalities and reduce the number of heat and or cold and poor air quality related deaths through ensuring buildings, and in particular housing, with comfortable temperatures all year round and cleaner air in the borough.
- 9.3 The Mayor of London has estimated that 9,500 deaths in London were attributed to air pollution last year. The actions proposed in this strategy will contribute to lowering the mortality rate providing a healthier environment to live and work in.

## **10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The strategy has no crime and disorder implications. Crime and disorder implications for individual projects will be risk assessed at the planning stage of each project.

## **11. SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no immediate safeguarding implications, however it has been recognised poor air quality does have an impact on childrens health and the development of their lung capacity. The air quality action plan addresses some of these issues, especially around some of our action points that involve schools, with the promotion of no-idling signs, pollution audits in schools and the schools Environmental Theatre Project.

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## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

- NONE

### **Appendices**

Appendix One: Air Quality and Climate Change Strategy  
Appendix Two: Air Quality Action Plan  
Appendix Three: Air Quality Action Plan Consultation Report  
Appendix Four: Equalities Impact Assessment Checklist

### **Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012**

- NONE