

SCRUTINY REVIEW ACTION PLAN: AIR QUALITY

Tower Hamlets Council - Decision - Service Action Plan: Improving Air Quality in Tower Hamlets

RECOMMENDATION (OSC, April 021)	ACTION (Cabinet 8 September 2021)	BY WHO	BY WHEN	SCRUTINY UPDATE NOTE
R1: The council to set up more air quality monitoring stations in key areas including around construction sites, such as by prioritising funding of air quality monitoring in future capital programmes so that it is proactive in collecting long-term accurate live air quality data from all parts of the borough not just certain sites; and to make monitoring data more accessible so residents are better informed to make decisions and promote behavioural change.	Set up an air quality monitoring station for the Council's Blackwall Depot due to Euro 6 Vehicle emission standards in the area. This to take the form of an additional NOx tubes to be included near the depot site.	EHTS	31/08/2021	Two NO2 diffusion tubes installed in 2021 at entrance and exit to depot. Monitoring data available on LBTH webpage
	Highway monitor	EHTS	31/08/2021	Difficulty gaining consent from TFL for original site. An alternative site has been identified in the King Edward Memorial Park and agreement obtained from Parks services. Monitors to be installed this year
	(i)Background checks on site suitability, planning requirement, agreement from relevant stakeholders and power arrangements	EHTS	30/09/2021	Tendering exercise carried out and contract awarded
	(ii)Obtain quotations via RFQ process/award contract	EHTS	30/09/2021	Tendering exercise carried out and contract awarded
	(iii)Highway (A1203) new monitoring station installation and live data link to Tower Hamlets AQ monitoring webpage	EHTS	31/03/2022	Delay to installation due to reason given above
	Making monitoring data more accessible	EHTS	30/09/2021	Air quality monitoring link was available on plasma screens (June 2021).
	(i)Making monitoring data available on plasma screens at Mulberry Place	EHTS	30/09/2021	Air quality monitoring link was available on plasma screens (June 2021).
(ii) Undertake a review of how monitoring data is displayed on webpage and make it more accessible to residents including air quality on LYN app	EHTS / Digital Team	30/09/2021	Air quality webpage has been updated several times during 2021 and 2022.	
Construction site monitoring	EHTS	Started February 2021 and going forward	PM 10 Planning condition recommended by EHTS on major development sites. Note: Sites may not become live for up to 3 years from gaining planning consent. First monitoring report may not become live for up to 3 years from gaining planning consent. First monitoring report may not be due until around 12-18 months time (from February 2021)	
EHTS review planning applications for major development and recommend condition for PM10 monitoring for all major developments. Construction sites to undertake monitoring and submit monthly monitoring report to Pollution Team	EHTS	Started February 2021 and going forward	PM 10 Planning condition recommended by EHTS on major development sites. Note: Sites may not become live for up to 3 years from gaining planning consent. First monitoring report may not become live for up to 3 years from gaining planning consent. First monitoring report may not be due until around 12-18 months time (from February 2021)	
R2: The council to develop a partnership plan with TfL to take a more proactive approach to manage and reduce traffic on the TfL roads in the borough, as these to have been identified to be high drivers of road-based pollution in Tower Hamlets.	Produce Transport Strategy Delivery Plan incorporating traffic reduction measures in consultation with TfL	Highways	Jan-22	The Air Quality Action Plan contains some traffic reduction measures and funding will come from a range of sources including TfL, the council, and developer contributions. Traffic reduction measures were delivered via the Liveable Street and School Street programmes. Going forward Highways will work closely with the Mayor's Office and TfL to identify and deliver additional traffic reduction measures where appropriate.
	Support introduction of the ULEZ expansion	Highways	Oct-21	Completed
	Carry out feasibility study into borough Workplace Parking Levy	Highways	Jan-22	A feasibility study has not been carried out. Highways and Transport would need to consult with the Mayor prior to taking this forward.
R3: The council to develop evaluation methods of the Air Quality Action Plan to	Develop air quality needs assessment to inform the air quality action plan for 2022	Public Health	Sep-21	JSNA drafted, and will be approved through the Health and Wellbeing Board.

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ensure the initiative's goals and objectives are being achieved, as well as identify any components of the initiative that are not effective.	Update of the AQAP for 2022 to include <input type="checkbox"/> clear deliverables/outputs and targets. <input type="checkbox"/> Quantification of impacts of proposed measures <input type="checkbox"/> Clear Milestones <input type="checkbox"/> Defined roles and responsibilities	EHTS / Stakeholders	31/03/22 and quarterly steering group meetings to develop / agree action measures	The AQAP 2022-27 has recently been approved by the GLA and Cabinet. The Action Plan has been produced using the GLAs action plan template which incorporates these elements. Actions will be monitored via the council's corporate monitoring system (MS Planner) and we are working with our data and performance team to create a monitoring template to report measures
	Subject to securing funding, commission a research study to quantify expected NO2 and PM10 emission / concentration reductions of the proposed measures	EHTS	31/03/2022	No funding secured.
	Ongoing assessment and reporting of progress annually to GLA – Annual Status Report (ASR).	EHTS	31/05/2022	This is a business as usual activity as we have a legal duty to submit annual status report to DEFRA and GLA. Monitoring data is reported annually.
R4: The council to include air quality priorities into the remit of the Climate Emergency Partnership Board to ensure that it is included as an important part of partnership discussion.	Establish the Climate Emergency taskforce to develop a partnership climate emergency action plan on behalf of the Partnership Executive Group (PEG)	SP Place, Sustainability	31/07/2021	A MAB Climate Change has been established. The programme is being worked up in conjunction with the Mayor's Office. Air Quality priorities currently sit in the within the remit of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
	Complete the taskforce's activities and input into a partnership climate emergency action plan	SP Place, Sustainability	30/09/2021	
	A draft partnership climate emergency action plan informed by the taskforce signed off by PEG	SP Place, Sustainability	30/11/2021	
R5: The council to identify existing air quality measures in the current capital programme and prioritise them for delivery, such as EV charging points	Develop and Adopt EV Delivery Plan by September 2021	Highways and Transportation	Sep-21	Completed
	Install EV charging points at locations where the Council's fleet is parked including Commercial Road, Victoria Park and Blackwall Depot.	Operational Services	Mar/Apr 22	
R6: The council to develop plan to install green walls and green spaces in schools that currently have none, to purify the air our children breathe and protect them from the surrounding air pollution.	Secure s106 funding to undertake air quality audits at 3 primary schools <input type="checkbox"/> Cannon Barnet <input type="checkbox"/> Kobi Nazrul <input type="checkbox"/> English Martyrs	EHTS	06/04/2021	Canon Barnet audited 1 July 2021, Kobi Nazrul and English Martyrs dis not respond to offer of audit. Stephen Hawking and Bigland Green audited as alternative. £50,000 secured from s106 and living green screen installed at Stephen Hawking primary school in 2022.
	Shortlist 3 or 4 schools in areas above UK legal limit for NO2 ($\geq 40\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) (in the west of the borough) for audits & living walls. Undertake audits and produce report.	EHTS	06/04/2021	Commitment made in the new AQAP to undertake 3 audits per year. Canon Barnet was not suitable for living green screen due to the playground being moved. Kobi Nazrul did not respond to offer of audit. Funding secured form LIF and living green screen installed at Cyril Jackson and Old Palace primary schools. Delivery subject to funding.
	Procure services of landscape contractor via procurement portal to install green walls, 1 school per quarter	EHTS	Jul-Sep 21 - Cannon Barnet Oct-Dec 21 - Kobi Nazrul	
R7: The council to develop plan to convert unused open spaces in the borough to green spaces to make these spaces greener and thus further reduce residents' exposure to air pollutants	Focus tree planting near to play areas, schools and commuter/school runs	Clean and Green	Ongoing	Ongoing annual activity including Mayoral Pledge to expand tree-planting throughout the borough line our estates and streets with newly planted trees.
	Focus on planting large canopy trees species, in location where they can reach their intended proportions without regular, cyclical pruning.	Clean and Green	Ongoing	Feasibility studies for suitable species and locations carried out as BAU.
	Focus on planting 'green walls', to create barriers between vehicles and people	Clean and Green	Ongoing	Green walls installed. Further installation subject to funding.

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<p>R8: The council to promptly display anti-idling signs all over Tower Hamlets to discourage idling which will ultimately reduce emissions and help drivers save fuel.</p>	<p>Identify schools (nursery/primary) exceeding UK legal limit for NO₂ ($\geq 40\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)</p>	<p>EHTS</p>	<p>17/08/2020</p>	<p>List populated. Action in the new AQAP. Signs installed at 41 schools. We will continue to respond to idling complaints and continue to undertake enforcement visits to hotspot locations, deploying signage as appropriate.</p>
	<p>Install 1 or more signs per quarter at schools exceeding legal limit for NO₂ subject to consent from schools. Q1 Malmsbury, Q2 Hermitage, Q3 Old Montague and Q4 Thomas Buxton</p>	<p>EHTS</p>	<p>01/06/21 and then ongoing per quarter</p>	
	<p>Install signs monthly at idling hotspot locations around the borough</p>	<p>EHTS</p>	<p>17/01/19 and ongoing</p>	
<p>R9: The council to investigate a new approach for stricter enforcement of anti-idling FPNs to better tackle idling and make this strategy more fit for purpose</p>	<p>Publicity/engagement of idling issues around the borough</p>	<p>EHTS / Communications</p>	<p>31.07/21</p>	<p>Regular weekly idling patrol carried out by the Pollution Team. Idling awareness publicity on social media, regularly through the communications service. We will continue to respond to idling complaints and continue to undertake enforcement visits to hotspot locations, deploying signage as appropriate. We will support school and community no idling campaigns. Powers and infrastructure are not in place for Tower Hamlets to use powers for PCNs. Will consider for scope of the new parking enforcement plan.</p>
	<p>Continue with weekly visits to idling hotspots locations and issue FPNs to noncompliant drivers</p>	<p>EHTS / Parking</p>	<p>31/03/2022</p>	
	<p>2018 Anti idling cabinet report recommended delegated authority to be given to CEOs and THEOs but these were never taken up. Parking Service and Community Safety Service should investigate taking on these powers. This will increase the number of resource available to enforce the FPN legislation.</p>	<p>Parking / Community Safety Service</p>	<p>31/12/21 subject to agreement by relevant services</p>	
	<p>Parking Service to investigate creating a Traffic Management Order under the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 so that CEOs can issue a PCN</p>	<p>Parking service</p>	<p>31/12/21 subject to agreement by relevant services</p>	