



Lewisham Council's work on improving air quality

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1.0 Purpose of briefing note

1.1 To provide a briefing on work Lewisham Council is doing to improve air quality.

2.0 Air quality action reporting and monitoring

- 2.1 The Council has had an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) formally adopted since February 2008, with its current AQAP 2016-2021 approved by Lewisham's Mayor and Cabinet in December 2016.
- 2.2 The AQAP follows the guidance by GLA, which includes a matrix of actions they require all London boroughs to consider and report on.
- 2.3 As part of the Local Government statutory function we report yearly on action we carry out, in addition to monitoring data. These reports are submitted for review and comment to the GLA. These actions are across all areas of the Council, particularly in areas of Planning development, Public Health, and Transport. There is also a statutory requirement to inspect Pollution Prevention Control Processes within the borough.
- 2.4 You can read the [Air Quality progress reports or Annual Status Reports](#) (as they are now termed).
- 2.5 In addition to following the recommended actions by the GLA the Council's overarching aims are to galvanise borough-wide action to address air quality issues in Lewisham, seeking to both reduce emissions to improve air quality, and reduce exposure to poor air quality.
- 2.6 The Council priorities has been to focus on behavioural change, providing a focused approach with children, schools, transport and infrastructure projects coupled with an evidenced based approach. An Air Quality Champion has been appointed by the Mayor which has shown the political importance and commitment to this issue.
- 2.7 With links to academic research and development, Lewisham hosted the [MRC Festival 2017, Our Air, Your Health](#), An Air Quality Master Class was provided to Lewisham Councillors in the same year, by Kings College London and Lewisham hosted and ran an Air Quality Conference in March 2018, which was open to the public. It also ran a School Air Quality Event, where 18 Primary Schools attended, in the same month.
- 2.8 At the Lewisham Air Quality conference the new [Lewisham Air app](#) was launched. This free app provides specific directions for low pollution routes and encourages alternative to car use. It provides tailored air quality alerts when air pollution is forecasted to be moderate to high and provides opportunities for the promotion of air quality news and events for those that live, work and learn in Lewisham. Also a proposed pilot scheme for an Air Quality School Accreditation was introduced at the same conference.
- 2.9 The air quality monitoring network was expanded in 2018 with the introduction of an additional 17 diffusion tube locations increasing to 50 locations around the borough, along with 3 continuous monitoring sites on the London Local Air Quality Network. The Council contributed towards the installation of an [Air Quality Supersite](#), at Honor Oak Park Sports Ground. This is a new million pound air pollution research lab, with primary funding from Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), which is planned to be launched in the next few months, but started monitoring from November 2018.

3.0 Mayor of London and DEFRA funded projects

3.1 Mayor of London Project

- 3.1.1 In 2016-2019 the Council was successful in a bid application for the production, implementation and monitoring of a Framework Construction Logistic Plan (CLP) along the Evelyn Corridor. The purpose is to manage the air quality impact of construction traffic in the area. There are several strategic sites being developed, along with several Tideway construction projects, all of which has potential for affecting air quality in the area.
- 3.1.2 NOx concentrations within the Evelyn Corridor CLP are being measured at three locations, along with traffic classification units. These will increase our understanding of the potential impact that future construction traffic management systems may have on local air quality and interventions to manage impacts. A quarterly Forum meeting is held with the construction companies in the area to promote best practice and to coordinate approaches for reducing the delivery impact.

3.2 DEFRA funded project – Cleaner Air Villages

- 3.2.1 Lewisham is part of a consortium of five boroughs, in progressing engagement with the business community to reduce air quality impact of delivery within two Air Quality Focus Areas in the borough. This project is being held in Deptford High Street area and Lewisham Town Centre area. The project is called Cleaner Air Villages and is managed by Cross River Partnership (CRP).
- 3.2.2 The Project started in May 2018 and has identified recommendations and ideas for interventions to assist businesses in reducing their air quality impact. There have been 2 seminars for businesses at each of the areas and many 1-2-1's with individual businesses. The Council is looking to progress the recommendations, and has made an application for further funding from DEFRA (see 3.3.1) which was successful.

3.3 MAQF and DEFRA bid applications

- 3.3.1 DEFRA application: Two bid applications were submitted by the Council and we were successful with both.
 - 1) First bid was a collaborative bid with 6/7 boroughs, building on the Cleaner Air Villages program running this year (see 3.2 for current work). Lewisham will be the lead authority. This is planned to be officially launched in June.
 - 2) Second bid was research in use of air quality sensors. Lewisham submitted an application with Kings to produce some form of ratification process for air quality sensor monitoring, potentially making this available nationwide across local authorities and community groups that want to use air quality sensors.
- 3.3.2 MAQF applications: There have been many applications made for this round. The results of successful bids will be known in June 2019, but we've been led to believe that all the pan-London bid applications below will be awarded. This is for 2019-2021:

- A pan-London anti-idling project, to include enforcement against idling. See details of <https://idlingaction.london/> that will run events on behalf of the 12 or more London boroughs included. It is understood that Camden Council will be facilitating and managing this project but Lewisham officers will need to implement.
- A pan-London project to inspect construction sites to ensure that they are only using approved and lower-pollution machinery. Construction machinery is currently the third largest contributor to air pollution in the capital.
- A pan-London approach to car free days/pedestrian priority scheme through Cross River Partnership (again 12 London boroughs are supporting this). The application is titled 'Healthy Streets Everyday' and will support our local priorities including traffic reduction and increased walking and cycling helping to deliver our air quality improvement targets.
- A sole bid application - East Sydenham Healthy Neighbourhood. This is being led by Transport Planning and is delivering interventions towards traffic reduction and healthy streets in the East Sydenham area. *This is in the area of Haseltine Primary school where GLA carried out an Air Quality Audit and has been identified as the school Superzone pilot (see Section 4.0). Also it is outside the ULEZ so will good to focus on from air quality grounds, as it won't benefit as much as the areas that fall within this zone.*
- A joint bid application with Greenwich called 'Lewisham, Hither Green and Lee Healthy Neighbourhood'. Led by Lewisham Transport Planning team looking at the transport interventions similar to the sole bid application but within an area that is shared, in part, with Greenwich. *This is in a particular focus area for us for air quality, and where we are looking to continue to work with businesses in Lewisham Town Centre, through hopefully another DEFRA funded bid application 'Cleaner Air Villages'.*
- Exceptional projects – We are offering our support to a Croydon pan-South London Construction Consolidation Centre on the A23.

4.0 School air quality

- 4.1 The London Mayor carried out an Air Quality Audit at three schools within the borough, which were St James Hatcham Primary, Haseltine Primary and Deptford Park Primary and was part of the first of 50 primary schools audited where levels were exceeding limit levels. The identified intervention measures are being programmed and progress updates are being provided, on a quarterly basis to the Council's Strategic Air Quality Board and TfL. There has also been a recent Nursery School Air Quality Audit at Clyde Nursery.
- 4.2 The Council has a focus through the TfL STAR program to reduce car use and is providing support to schools for air quality promotion and education events and has recently introduced [School Streets](#).
- 4.3 The Council, with Idling Action London are running seven events at schools in

the academic year 2018/19. This provides an assembly, volunteer training and engagement with drivers at the time children are picked up from school. Encouraging the turning off of engines when stationary.

- 4.4 Lewisham Council's Public Health team are managing health interventions around a school in the south of the borough, Haseltine Primary School. This is being carried out as part of the School Superzone pilot across some London boroughs, looking at health interventions within 400m radius of the school. One of the major intervention measures will be around air quality in the area.

5.0 Low-emission vehicle charging strategy

- 5.1 Lewisham Council has been developing a dedicated 'Low Emissions Vehicle Charging strategy 2018-2022' for the borough in direct response to the growing appetite for electric and hybrid vehicles in both the private and commercial communities. It is also in response to the strategy objectives set out in the Mayors Transport Strategy and the emerging London Plan.

- 5.2 The draft strategy sets out a clear vision: "To ensure that all of Lewisham's residents, businesses and visitors are within 500m of an electric charging point by 2021, with a range of options available that remain fit for purpose and encourage further uptake of low emission vehicles"

- 5.3 In order to achieve the proposed vision, objectives and targets, the Council intends to deliver three main types of charging infrastructure:

- 5.3.1 **Lamp column charging:** This type of charging unit is a 3kw unit also known as a 'trickle charge'. This has to be developed with Skanska who manage the lamp columns in Lewisham. Cables from charge points can create a trip hazard, the positioning of units and selection of lamp columns therefore will consider this within the delivery plan.

- 5.3.2 **Standard/fast 7-22 Kw chargers:** Lewisham already has 10 electric vehicle charge points located across the borough. Other than those provided by private sites, such as supermarkets, those on Lewisham highway and carparks have been provided by a private enterprise called Bluepoint London (BPL) under the 'Source London' framework. Users are charged a membership or pay as you go option for charging. The 7kw charge points are seen as an important element of Lewisham's strategy to providing fit for purpose charging. As a result officers are looking to procure similar units to those offered by BPL from other contractors to ensure competition in the market for the benefit of the consumer.

- 5.3.3 **Rapids:** These units are able to charge in 30 minutes delivering 50kw of charge. These units will be essential for the future commercial fleet of electric vehicles such as taxis and delivery vans who will require quick charging. TfL currently have a programme of delivering these rapid units on the TLRN (Transport for London Road Network) and officers are working with TfL on finding appropriate locations in the borough.

6.0 Transport infrastructure

- 6.1 Lewisham Council was successful in securing funding for the Deptford Parks Liveable Neighbourhoods from TfL. Current feasibility work is going to be carried out over 2018/19 to inform concept designs for 2019. Schemes include: re assigning road space to create a pocket park, reducing traffic and greening roads, creating a traffic-free walking route from the River Thames to New cross via a new green way and other smaller intervention identified through public consultation. This work will compliment all other planning and developments within the area, providing an opportunity to shape a place, considering aspect of green ways and green measures to support air quality improvements.
- 6.2 A cycling strategy for the borough was published in 2018.
- 6.3 A LiP funded scheme for [Healthy Neighbourhoods](#) has been developed and the Council has carried out a prioritisation process. It will look at a number of cells each year, each year introducing traffic infrastructure measures to reduce the use of the car, which will bring associated air quality benefits.
- 6.4 Parking policy review that includes an emission based charging mechanism, will go through consultation in summer 2019 with a planned submission to Mayor and Cabinet in autumn/winter 2019.
- 6.5 Delegated powers for enforcement of idling vehicles by civil enforcement officers with a planned submission to Mayor and Cabinet in autumn 2019.

7.0 Conclusion

- 7.1 Air Quality is a priority area for the Council and they will continue to work on actions that can bring air quality improvement, behavioural change and reduce the exposure to poor air quality of those that live, work and learn within the borough. The Council will continue to prioritise working with the GLA and neighbouring boroughs, as much of the issue with air quality is due to the London road network and travel patterns and behaviour of people across the City. The Council is for instance, campaigning for the extension of the proposed Bakerloo Line to improve public transport in the south of the borough.
- 7.2 The Council with the introduction of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone, in 2020, London wide for heavy vehicles and 2021 for the Inner Area for all other vehicles, will be working with other boroughs and the GLA in applying pressure on the government for a scrappage scheme to assist those that are needing to change their vehicle to become compliant. The introduction of the zone is crucial in bringing the air pollution levels down, and is going to be the most effective solution to meeting the health criteria levels and as a Council we will support and promote any campaigning and promotional work that facilitates its introduction.