

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Executive - 12 September 2005

Report from the Director of Environment and Culture

For action

Wards affected:

All Wards

Report Title: Air Quality Action Plan

Forward Plan Ref: ES-03/04-147

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Brent declared Air Quality Management Areas in April 2001 and is now required to produce an Air Quality Action Plan.
- 1.2 This report summarises the action plan, which outlines the current and future measures to reduce air pollution in Brent and how the Council is working towards meeting national air quality objectives.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Executive is asked to approve the final Air Quality Action Plan.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 **National Policy Framework:** The Environment Act 1995 established the framework of the National Air Quality Strategy (NAQS). The strategy requires all local authorities to carry out detailed air quality assessments against national standards and objectives which are based on health effects. Where any part of the local authority's area is unlikely to meet the objectives, Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) must be declared. Councils are then required to carry out further assessments of air quality and draw up an Action Plan setting out how the objectives will be achieved.
- 3.2 In April 2002, Brent declared large parts of the Borough as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's) based on forecasts of public exposure to nitrogen dioxide and PM₁₀. The AQMA's include the entire area south of the North Circular Road and all housing, schools and hospitals along

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the North Circular Road, Harrow Road, Bridgewater Road, Ealing Road, Watford Road, Kenton Road, Kingsbury Road, Edgware Road, Blackbird Hill, Forty Lane, Forty Avenue and East Lane.

- 3.3 **London Policy:** The Mayor of London has taken over the role of the Secretary of State in respect of the borough's air quality responsibilities. London boroughs are therefore now obliged to consult the Mayor on any AQMAs and Action Plans. In August 2002 the Mayor's office produced the Air Quality Strategy for London that goes beyond the NAQS objectives
- 3.4 **Brent Policy:** Key policies that have influenced the Air Quality Action Plan include the Council's Draft Local Implementation Plan, the Unitary Development Plan and Brent's Energy Strategy, which promotes the take up of sustainable transport and energy policies.
- 3.5 **Brent's Review and Assessment of Air Quality:** Brent has completed 3 Stages review and assessment for air quality. The Stage 3 report showed that the national objectives for nitrogen dioxide and fine particles would not be met across large parts of the borough. On the basis of these findings, the Council declared its AQMAs. Public consultation on the draft Air Quality Action Plan was carried out in 2002/ 2003.
- 3.6 Further modelling work (Stage 4 assessment) was carried out in 2002 based on the new emission inventory which contained amended vehicle data and emission factors for nitrogen dioxide and PM10. In addition, data collected from monitoring stations around the borough was used to validate the analysis and predictions. This confirmed the finding of Stage 3 assessment and the AQMAs remain unchanged.
- 3.7 The action plan summarises
- the challenge posed by the National Air Quality Strategy in Brent;
 - the extent of current air pollution;
 - the areas within which air pollution is expected to fail NAQS objectives and
 - the proposed and existing measures to reduce air pollution.
- 3.7.1 Transport: The majority of air pollution in London is from road transport which contributes to around 60% of nitrogen dioxide and fine particle emissions. Some of the most important measures to reduce vehicle emissions or traffic volumes are highlighted below:
- London-wide Low Emission Zone
 - Promoting alternative modes of transport including Travel Plans for schools and businesses, Walking and Cycling Plans
 - Reducing traffic volumes including controlled parking zones and local traffic management schemes
 - Planning policies aim to reduce the need to travel by encouraging mixed-use developments, provision of local services and car –free housing. The Unitary Development Plan and the Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) are being updated to ensure emissions arising from any major

development are minimised and that developers carry out air quality assessments and traffic impact assessments where applicable.

3.7.2 Other sources: Industrial processes and waste management activities such as those at Neasden Goods Yard also contribute to poor air quality. Therefore other important initiatives and measures need to be taken to help reduce air pollution, these include:

- Working in partnership with for example, the Environment Agency and Transport for London
- Regulating air polluting industries under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999
- Energy conservation measures to reduce the use of fossil fuels
- Minimising particle emissions from construction and demolition activities by encouraging developers to adopt codes of practice
- Supporting and lobbying the Greater London Authority and public transport operators in their efforts to improve public transport.

The full action plan is attached in Appendix 1.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The production of the Air Quality Action Plan has been undertaken primarily by officers from Environment and Culture.

4.2 The majority of the measures in the action plan are either funded through the on-going work programmes in departments within Brent Council or are new schemes or projects for which funding has been secured.

4.3 An example of this is funding secured as Supported Capital Expenditure for the purchase of additional air quality monitoring equipment and implementation of selected Air Quality Action Plan projects.

4.4 The annual (Borough Spending Plan) bid that is submitted to Transport for London will continue to be the main source of Capital Funding for transport related projects.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 Where an area has been declared an Air Quality Management Area then under section 84 of the Environment Act 1995, the Council is required to prepare an action plan setting out measures it proposes to take within the powers available to it, to achieve the necessary air quality standards.

5.2 London Boroughs are required to consult the Mayor of London on any AQMAs and Action Plans

- 5.3 The GLA has been consulted on the Air Quality Action Plan and their comments have been incorporated in the final Air Quality Action Plan.
- 5.4 Once the Air Quality action plan is agreed we will be required to submit an annual progress report to the GLA and DEFRA.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 The most socially and economically deprived areas in the Borough such as the south of the borough and as well as Stonebridge, Neasden and St Raphael's suffer from poorest air quality.
- 6.2 The Air Quality Action Plan should benefit all groups and does not unfairly target specific groups. The Air Quality Action Plan has the potential to improve the health of those living in the most polluted areas.
- 6.3 Improving sustainable forms of public transport will greatly benefit the most economically disadvantaged in our community.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

- 7.1 None

8.0 Environmental Implications

- 8.1 The AQAP should reduce the levels of nitrogen dioxide and fine particles. In addition, the measures taken will also serve to reduce other air pollutants and improve air quality overall.
- 8.2 Most of the measures proposed in the AQAP will also reduce carbon dioxide emissions and therefore contribute to the targets for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases associated with climate change.

Background Papers

The National Air Quality Strategy
The Mayor's Air Quality Strategy
The London Plan
The Mayor's Transport Strategy and the Local Implementation Plan Guidance
Brent's Unitary Development Plan
Brent's Draft Local Implementation Plan
Brent's Community Plan

Contact Officers

Any person wishing to inspect the above papers should contact Yogini Patel, Environmental Health, Brent House, 3rd Floor, 349-357 High Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6BZ. Tel: 020 8937 5262

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