

Decision Maker: ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY
DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: 6th September 2022

Decision Type: Non-Urgent

Title: ANNUAL STATUS REPORT FOR YEAR 2021 – REPORTING ON
BROMLEY’S AIR QUALITY

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Ward: All Wards

1. Reason for report

As part of our statutory duties for London Local Air Quality Management, the London Borough of Bromley (LBB) is required to produce an Annual Status Report (ASR) each year for the year before, this report is for 2021.

ASR’s are designed to demonstrate progress against the actions contained within LBBs Air Quality Action Plan 2020-2025 (AQAP) (See Appendix 1). The report was submitted to the Greater London Authority (GLA) for approval on 30th May 2022 and has recently been approved.

The ASR 2021 (see Appendix 2) will soon be published on the Council’s website.

The current AQAP was approved by ECS PDS Committee on 9th September 2020 Ref ES20041. Following adoption the Environment and Community Services Portfolio Holder requested that the ASR 2021 be presented to ECS PDS.

A glossary of air quality management acronyms can be found at Page 100 of Appendix 1.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Committee is asked to:

1. Note the contents of the Annual Status Report for the year 2021.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: Air pollution disproportionately affects the most vulnerable in society. This includes children, older people, those with heart and lung conditions, and those vulnerable to stroke.
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Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: The ASR reports upon progress made against the commitments and actions contained in the Borough's AQAP.
 2. BBB Priority: Quality Environment Healthy Bromley
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Nil
 2. Ongoing costs: Costs are stated within the approved AQAP on a low (0-50k), medium (50-100k) and high (>100k) basis. These are presented within the AQAP Matrix. The current AQAP was approved by ECS PDS Committee on 9th September 2020 Ref ES20041.
 3. Budget head/performance centre: The departments and service areas responsible for the implementation of each action point are identified within the AQAP Matrix.
 4. Total current budget for this head: N/A
 5. Source of funding: The ASR is produced using staff time, thus agreed staffing budgets, within the Public Protection Division.Existing budgets.
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Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): The ASR has been produced by the Pollution Control Team in the Public Protection Division, in collaboration with the internal stakeholders identified within the AQAP.
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable:
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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: N/A – Any matters relating to procurement are highlighted within the attached AQAP.
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): All Borough residents, workers and visitors, as well as providing wider benefits to neighbouring authorities, the London region, nationally, and globally as air pollution impacts have no defined boundaries.

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 Bromley enjoys very good air quality, in comparison to other London boroughs, having not measured an air quality Objective Level exceedance since 2019. Across London, levels of all pollutants of concern continue to trend downwards.
- 3.2 Where measured levels of a specified list of air pollutants exceed their national air quality Objective Limit/s, local authorities, are required to declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). Where an AQMA exists, the local authority is required to produce an AQAP. Further, for London local authorities there is a statutory obligation to submit an Annual Status Report (ASR) to both the Mayor of London and the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA).
- 3.3 The ASR (Appendix 2) outlines the progress made on the actions within the AQAP (Appendix 1) and provides the results of the relevant year's air quality monitoring in the Borough.
- 3.4 LBB has a declared AQMA for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂). The latest AQAP was approved by ECS PDS Committee on 9th September 2020 - Ref. ES20041.
- 3.5 The AQAP (Appendix 1) outlines actions that will be taken to fulfil the statutory responsibility for Local Air Quality Management, and for reducing the health impact of air pollution on residents, workers, and visitors to the Borough.
- 3.6 The number of locations where air quality monitoring takes place in the Borough has increased due to the extension of the NO_x diffusion tube monitoring network. This network was increased following the member approved expansion of the Borough's AQMA in 2020.
- 3.7 The Borough's permanent continuous Air Quality Monitoring Station (AQMS) at Harwood Avenue did not exceed the annual or hourly mean for NO₂ in 2021.
- 3.8 There were no monitored exceedances of the annual mean for NO at any of the diffusion tube network locations in 2021.
- 3.9 There were no monitored exceedances of the annual or daily mean for Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) in 2021. The annual average was 15.4µgm⁻³. This is well below the national limit of 40µgm⁻³.
- 3.10 The annual mean for Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) concentration in 2021 was 9.7µgm⁻³. This was also well below the national limit of 20µgm⁻³.
- 3.11 Historically, the trend in Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) concentration at the Harwood Avenue permanent continuous monitoring station, shows a decreasing trend. There was a slight increase from 2020 to 2021. This was due to life returning to normal following the changes to traffic levels during the COVID-19 pandemic and related lockdowns.

3.12 The trends in NO₂ concentrations for diffusion tube monitoring sites (for those with more than one year of data) for the 2015 – 2021 period also show evidence of a decreasing trend and all sites were below the national limit. Some sites show an increase between 2020 and 2021. Again, this is likely due to the COVID-19 related lockdowns which led to a decrease in road traffic emissions during 2020 and it's bounce back in 2021.

3.13 Table J of the ASR provides an update on the progress on delivery of the AQAP measures. These are delivered by multiple departments of the Council. Key delivery successes to date include:

- 22 additional air quality monitoring locations
- 320 idling drivers were engaged with and educated
- a notable uptake in alternatively fuelled lease vehicles, and
- 1000+ trees have been planted.

4. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

The AQAP is applicable to the whole Borough so is of value to all who live, work and visit the Borough. However, as air pollution disproportionately affects the most health vulnerable in society, these groups derive a greater benefit from improved air quality.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs associated with implementation of the AQAP's action points are detailed within the matrix in the approved AQAP in Appendix 1.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Air quality in London is devolved to the Mayor of London, who has a supervisory role, with powers to intervene and direct London local authorities under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995. London Local Air Quality Management (LLAQM) Guidance has been followed in devising the ASR for 2021.

7. PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

Procurement measures are included within the AQAP as a means to improve air quality.

Non-Applicable Sections:	POLICY IMPLICATIONS, PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Draft LONDON LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT (LLAQM) Technical Guidance 2019 (LLAQM.TG (19))
	London Borough of Bromley Air Quality Action Plan 2020 – 2025 (attached)
	London Borough of Bromely Annual Summary Report 2021 (attached)