Report No.
ES20304

London Borough of Bromley

PART ONE - PUBLIC

Decision Maker:	**PUBLIC PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**
Date:	**12th September 2023**
Decision Type:	Non-Urgent
Title:	**ANNUAL STATUS REPORT FOR YEAR 2022 – REPORTING ON BROMLEY'S AIR QUALITY**
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Ward:	All Wards

1. REASON FOR REPORT

Annual Status Reports (ASR's) are designed to report on the air quality monitoring results from LB Bromley's monitoring equipment, and demonstrate the progress made delivering the actions in LB Bromley's Air Quality Action Plan 2020 – 2025 (AQAP). The ASR report was submitted to the Greater London Authority (GLA) for approval on 31st May 2023 and has recently been approved.

As part of our statutory duties for London Local Air Quality Management, the London Borough of Bromley (LBB) is required to produce an ASR each year, for the year before, therefore, this report covers the monitoring results and progress made in 2022.

The ASR 2022 (see Appendix 1) is published on the Council's website.

The current AQAP (2020 – 2025) was approved by ECS PDS Committee on 9th September 2020 – Ref ES20041. Following it's approval and adoption the Environment and Community Services Portfolio Holder requested that an information report on the ASR be presented to ECS PDS to update members on it's content.

A glossary of air quality management acronyms can be found on Page 100 of the Air Quality Action Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to:

1. Note the contents of the Annual Status Report for the year 2022.

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.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: The ASR reports upon progress made against the commitments and actions contained in the Borough's current AQAP.
2. MBEB Priorities: A good start to life: Growing older positively: Healthy and safe lives: A clean and green environment: A carbon neutral environment

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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 is from the agreed staffing budget within the Public Protection Division's existing budget.

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

Legal

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

Procurement

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

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. The report details that monitored levels of NO_2 broadly 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 2022, see Appendix 1, outlines the progress made on the actions within the AQAP, and provides the results of the relevant year's air quality monitoring in the Borough.

3.4 LBB has declared an AQMA for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2). The latest AQAP was approved by ECS PDS Committee on 9th September 2020 - Ref. ES20041.

3.5 The AQAP 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_2 diffusion tube monitoring network to 32 locations. In addition, 5 Breathe London node monitors are currently operational in the Borough, monitoring both NO_2 and $PM_{2.5}$.

3.7 The Borough's permanent continuous Air Quality Monitoring Station (AQMS) at Harwood Avenue did not exceed the annual or hourly mean for NO_2 in 2022.

3.8 There were no monitored exceedences of the annual mean for NO_2 at any of the diffusion tube network locations in 2022.

3.9 There were no monitored exceedances of the annual or daily mean for Particulate Matter PM_{10} in 2022. The annual average was 14.7μgm^{-3}. This is well below the national limit of 40μgm^{-3} and continues to trend downwards.

3.10 The annual mean for Particulate Matter $PM_{2.5}$ concentration in 2022 was 10.6µgm^{-3}. This represents an increase year on year since 2020. The valid data capture for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022 are 56%, 88% and 96.8% respectively and as such the data for the year 2022 is more robust. Valid data capture was compromised due to complications with the installation of this particular monitor. This does not necessarily indicate that levels of this pollutant are increasing, but that because of increased data capture for the year 2022 there is greater confidence in the monitoring. The Council are continuing to enhance the data and future trend data will be important.

3.11 As part of a Breathe London Project, 5 node monitors were installed at hospital locations. These results are detailed in Table I af the ASR. Due to the installation dates, only Poverest Allotments and Princess Royal Hospital have sufficient data capture. For these Nodes, $PM_{2.5}$ levels are already at, or near to, the national target level for this pollutant, which is to be met by December 2040. NO_2 levels from these monitors are well below the Objective level of 40 µgm^{-3}.

3.12 The trend in NO_2 concentrations at the Harwood Avenue permanent continuous monitoring station, shows a decreasing trend. There was a slight increase from 2020 to 2021 of 0.5µg m^{-3}. This was due to life returning to normal following the changes to traffic levels during the pandemic and related lockdowns. For the year 2022 NO_2 concentrations decreased by 1.7µg m$^{-3.}$

3.13 The trend in NO_2 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. 4 sites show a small increase from 2021 levels, the largest of these increases is 0.7µg m^{-3} and it is worth noting that 3 of 4 of these sites are new locations since since 2021 and require further trend data.

3.14 Table J of the ASR provides an update on the progress of delivery of the AQAP measures. These are delivered by multiple departments of the Council.

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 health 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.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Reponsibility for 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 LB Bromley ASR for 2022.

7. PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

Procurement measures are included within the approved 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
	London Borough of Bromley Annual Summary Report 2022