

Scrutiny Streets & Environment Sub- Committee Supplementary Agenda



6. Air Quality Action Plan 2023-2028 (Pages 3 - 12)

This supplement contains an updated version of Appendix A to the report to correct a previous error.

The original Appendix A stated that air pollution contributed to the deaths of an 'estimated 4,000 Londoners in 2019'; this has now been corrected to 9,400 (page 4 of this pack).

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New Air Quality Action Plan 2024 – 2029

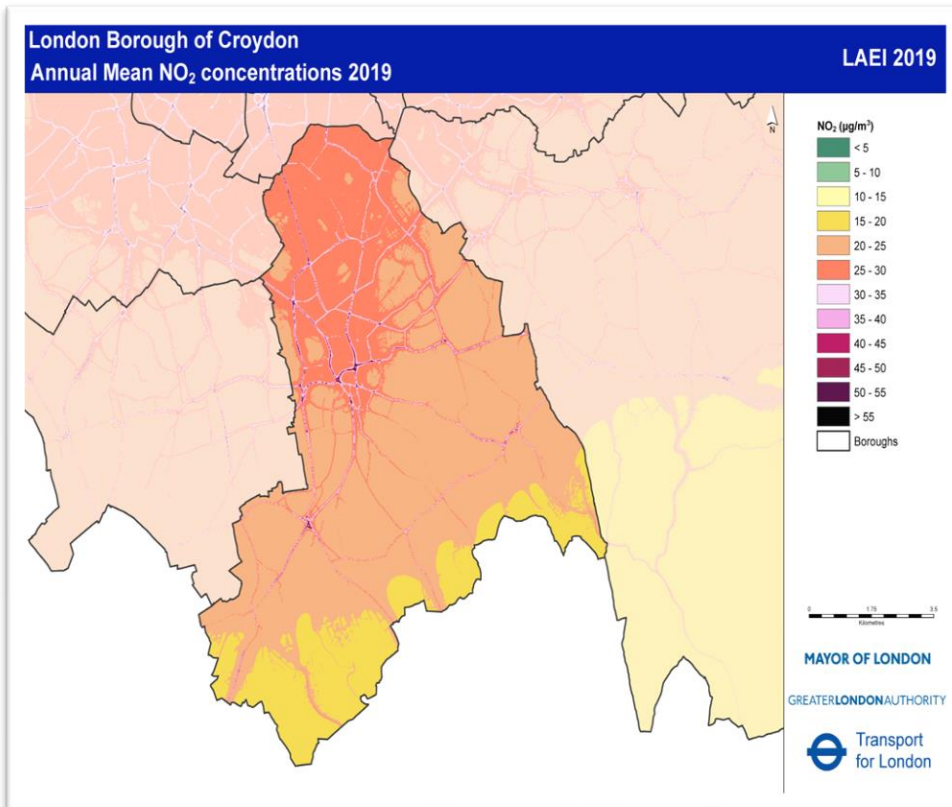
Air Pollution



- Toxic air pollution is a matter of life and death and affects Londoners in all stages of life
- Contributes to the premature deaths of an estimated 9,400 Londoners in 2019
- Over 1,700 hospitalisations related to asthma and COPD. Higher number of asthma and COPD patients in Croydon. Due to larger population exposure
- Increased risk of dementia and lung cancer

- Over 600,000 Londoners live with a lung condition and are more vulnerable to the impacts of air pollution, with more than half of these people living in outer London.
- Exposure to toxic air is disproportionately higher for those communities that have higher levels of deprivation.

The reason why:



- Road transport still accounts for:
44% NO_x emissions
33% PM_{2.5} emissions
- The highest air pollution levels are in the North of the borough
- Greatest number of deaths attributable to air pollution were in outer London boroughs mainly due to the higher proportion of elderly people, who are more vulnerable.
- In December 2020 the coroner made an unprecedented ruling that air pollution contributed to the death of Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrahin 2013

- Without air quality measures, it would have taken 193 years from 2016 to meet legal pollution limits for NO₂

London position



- The Mayor of London's air quality policies have had a significant impact reducing older, more polluting vehicles.
- Estimated nitrogen oxides reduced by 13,500 tonnes over 4 year period.

- Estimated fine particulate matter (PM2.5) have reduced by 180 tonnes.
- Carbon emissions from vehicles have also reduced. (around 800,000 tones of CO2 emissions over the four-year period).

Actions:

- Reducing exposure to harmful pollution - especially at priority locations like schools – and tackling health inequality
- Achieving legal compliance with UK and EU limits as soon as possible
- Establishing and achieving new, tighter air quality targets for a cleaner London

Croydon Local position



- This Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) has been produced as part of our statutory duty to improve air quality in Croydon under London Local Air Quality Management as required by the Environment Act 1995.
- It outlines the actions we propose to take to improve air quality in Croydon between 2024-2029.
- Croydon continues to exceed the air quality objectives for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) along busy roads
- Croydon currently meets the particulate matter (PM₁₀) and PM_{2.5} objective however it does exceed WHO objective however it is expected we would work towards meeting this objective.
- It has been estimated that up to 40% of pollution in Croydon is from outside London and Europe therefore actions to reduce pollution in Croydon are limited. We need to engage with residents and businesses to reduce exposure to air pollution and to raise awareness to change people's behaviour by encouraging people to walk and cycle more.

Air Quality Action Plan Priorities

- This Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) has been produced as part of the council's statutory duty to improve air quality in Croydon as required under London Local Air Quality Management (The Environment Act 1995).
- The actions in the AQAO 2017-2022 undertaken by previous administration includes:
 - Installation of 380 Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCPs)
 - Undertake Idling vehicle patrols and carried out 5 anti-idling events at schools
 - Implementation of Healthy School Streets across the borough
 - Improved Green infrastructure by planting 800 trees
- The proposed priorities link into the Mayor's Business Plan 2022-2026 which sets out priorities to ensure that Croydon is a cleaner, safer and healthier place, and to improve resident health and reduce health inequalities.
- The new actions build on previous actions and will line up with the councils Carbon Neutral Action Plan and other Transport Policies.
- The plan will undertake a review of council policies and strategies to ensure they are embedded into existing policies where relevant.
- The actions proposed are aimed to be SMART Objectives (Specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) s

Croydon's Air Quality Action Plan 2024-2029

Key Priorities

1. Work towards meeting the WHO guidelines for PM_{2.5}
2. To increase the network of air quality monitoring across the borough. We currently operate 4 continuous monitoring stations, 30 Diffusion tubes and new network of 38 small lamp post AQ sensors, many are at located as part of Healthy School streets and are temporary and will be relocated to other where required.
3. Continue to engage schools with the introduction of Croydon Healthy School Streets (this can include, traffic calming measures, Air Quality audits and increase of green infrastructure working with Trees for Cities).
4. Undertake a consultation on extending the current Smoke Control Zone to the whole of the borough. Recent research suggests that wood burning is responsible for between 23 and 31 per cent of the urban derived PM_{2.5} in London. This is not about banning wood burning or bonfires it is about ensuring that appropriate wood burners are used across the whole of the borough

Croydon's Air Quality Action Plan 2024-2029

Key Priorities

5. Ensure enforcement of Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) on construction sites in Croydon.
6. Minimise emissions from construction and develop Section 106 guidance for air quality and planning.
7. Continue to raise awareness and encourage behaviour changes through air quality campaigns
8. Develop a Fleet Strategy - address the wider role of Fleet within the services which the Council provides
9. Align with other policies at the Council, such as the Local Plan and Parking Policy

Funding / Costs

- The pollution team has no budget for any air quality projects these are funded through a number of funding streams:
- Mayors Air Quality Fund
- DEFRA Air Quality Grant:
 - No Idling project
 - Wood burning project
- Section 106 Funding
- Local Implementation Plan (LIP)

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