

## Appendix One

### Recommended actions to improve air quality in the London Borough of Barnet

#### Air Quality Action Plan Update 2023

The primary source of poor air quality (high air pollution) in Barnet is traffic on the main roads. Therefore, actions are recommended that tackle congestion, promote alternatives to the traditional petrol and diesel vehicles, and promote active travel (cycling and walking).

#### Recommended new measures to include in the updated air quality action plan:

Action	Description
1	Enforce Air Quality Neutral policy
2	Promoting and delivering energy efficiency and energy supply retrofitting projects in workplaces and homes and Government and Borough Funding
3	Master planning and redevelopment areas aligned with Air Quality Positive and Healthy Streets approaches
4	Shared responsibility between Public Health and Environmental Health for borough air quality issues and AQAP implementation
5	Ensuring that Transport and Air Quality policies and projects are integrated
6	Discouraging unnecessary idling by taxis and other vehicles
7	School Streets, Town Centre pedestrianisation schemes/Road Layout modification

#### 1. Enforce Air Quality Neutral Policy.

The New London Plan (2021) has expanded the eligibility requirements of air quality neutral policy; all developments must now have an assessment of air quality neutrality, where thresholds are met regardless of the development's size (major or minor) and type. Therefore, we have responded to this by modifying relevant planning conditions. The new Barnet Local Plan also includes this requirement in line with the London Plan, and through this action we will satisfy the requirements of both documents.

#### 2. Promoting and delivering energy efficiency and energy supply retrofitting projects in workplaces and homes and Government and Borough Funding

Following Barnet's first RE:FIT project, the Council will promote opportunities for the reduction of emissions for buildings within the borough. The current project, retrofitting the Council's non-domestic buildings is estimated to save 139 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. This reflects Barnet's commitment not only to improving air quality, but also to lessen our impact on Climate Change, in line with our Sustainability Strategy.

#### 3. Master planning and redevelopment areas aligned with Air Quality Positive and Healthy Streets approaches.

The London Plan 2021 requires that very large developments, i.e. those requiring Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), are planned using Air Quality Positive and Healthy Streets initiatives. The Healthy Streets initiative has been used in Barnet for developments such as the Brent Cross Regeneration Scheme, however Air Quality positive is a relatively new initiative. This will be addressed by use of planning conditions, to ensure that applicants are aware of the requirements of these approaches.

#### 4. Shared responsibility between Public Health and Environmental Health for borough air quality issues and AQAP implementation

The Public Health directorate and Environmental Health have been collaborating closely on the improvement of Air Quality in Barnet with increasing frequency over the duration of the last air quality action plan (2017-2022). This measure seeks to fully integrate responsibility for air quality improvements between the departments to ensure that air quality is a material consideration where relevant, for example, The Edgware School Superzone project will commission a school air quality audit to provide an assessment of the constraints and opportunities available to the school, in order to get the best out of the Superzone project. Air Quality will also be integrated into Barnet's Joint Strategic needs assessment.

#### 5. Ensuring that Transport and Air Quality policies and projects are integrated

In this action plan, emphasis is placed on the integration of air quality in sustainable transport projects. Road traffic is the primary source of air pollution in Barnet. An example of this includes the retention of the A1000 cycle lane, which was originally established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The retention of this cycle lane was subsequently assessed for feasibility, using air pollution data as a material consideration.

This measure is an overarching action which also includes measures which were in the previous AQAP (2017-2022), such as:

- Cycle lanes on key roads in Barnet
- better parking provision for cyclists (in shopping areas, rail and tube stations, and other transport hubs).

#### 6. Discouraging unnecessary idling by taxis and other vehicles

Barnet's Anti idling campaign started in June 2022. Idling activity is an unnecessary contributor to localised air pollution where cars are parked, and/or not in active traffic (e.g., parents waiting outside of schools, idling of vehicles on construction sites, busses and taxis at stops/taxi ranks waiting for passengers). It became apparent that after the 2021 air quality annual status report that conditions in Barnet's transport hubs were not improving as quickly as other areas, therefore, more attention needs to be paid to the activities occurring in these areas, of which idling is very likely to be one of. Idling close to schools and health centres is a direct risk to the health of the most vulnerable members of Barnet's communities, and therefore, requires prioritisation.

#### 7. School Streets, Town Centre pedestrianisation schemes/Road Layout modification

This measure focusses on a scheme of improvements to highways, which will reduce air pollution in our town centres, high streets, and around schools in Barnet. Barnet Highways are currently embarking on an extensive programme to offer and introduce school streets at all schools in Barnet where feasible. The potential for more cycle lanes for leisure and commuting are to be proposed with defined destinations such as town centres and high streets, following the successful retention of the A1000 cycle lane. Town Centre areas such as Finchley Central and Burnt Oak are undergoing enhancement/regeneration works to improve the quality of these locations with the aim of improving air quality in these locations among other things.

Improvements on the M1 also falls into this category, as improvements to the motorway will have a positive effect on Mill Hill Broadway and the residential areas surrounding it. A noise barrier and potential reduction of speed limits are proposed to improve noise and air quality conditions in this location. This work will be carried out in conjunction with the Highways Agency.

### **Recommended current measures to keep in the air quality action plan**

It is proposed to retain the following measures within the updated air quality action plan.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Description</b>
8	Using parking policy to reduce pollution emissions
9	Raising awareness of and fully enforcing the borough-wide Smoke Control Zone.
10	Promote alternative forms of transport for businesses and commercial properties
11	Work to improve council fleet emissions
12	Promote travel planning and alternative forms of transport in schools
13	Promote and support dissemination of Air Quality data
14	Rollout of the requisite infrastructure to support the shift to low and zero emissions vehicles
15	Encourage cleaner energy sources for buildings
16	Monitor air quality and other statutory duties (PPC)
17	Improve Air quality in and around schools
18	Update of procurement policies to reduce pollution from logistics and servicing

#### **8. Using parking policy to reduce pollution emissions**

Potential revisions to the Transport strategy will include the use of parking policy to reprioritise space for active travel and installation of infrastructure for low/zero emissions vehicles. The rate uptake of residential low/zero emissions vehicles is a key metric. This action also reflects Barnet's current Parking Policy and encourages the take-up of low emission vehicles.

#### **9. Raising awareness of and fully enforcing the borough-wide Smoke Control Zone.**

We will continue to raise awareness of Barnet's smoke control area (SCA). The SCA encompasses the vast majority of the borough. Active enforcement of smoke emissions will continue to be dealt with, and a new awareness campaign is to be planned and implemented.

#### **10. Promote alternative forms of transport for businesses and commercial properties**

In 2021 Barnet embarked on an e-cargo bike delivery project in Finchley in collaboration with the Cross River Partnership (CRP). In 2022 Barnet and the CRP offered business the opportunity to monitor and assess their fleet for electric vehicle (EV) suitability; this is ongoing. Barnet is looking to extend and publicise projects like these to foster a more sustainable way for businesses to deliver goods and services in the borough.

#### 11. Work to improve council fleet emissions

This action contained a variety of measures, some of which have been completed (see below). However, it is important to maintain good practise so this action should be developed and kept in the action plan to demonstrate the Council's commitment to cutting its own pollutant emissions.

#### 12. Promote alternative forms of transport in schools (TfL Stars)

Over 100 Schools in Barnet are accredited with TfL STARS The School Travel Team in Highways, will continue to work with schools to promote safe and sustainable travel to school. This includes initiatives to increase cycling and walking, and the engagement of charities such as Sustrans to run workshops and sessions for schools. Schools have their own school travel plans and junior travel ambassadors. This work is very important, not only for the health and wellbeing of pupils, but also to decrease congestion and improve air pollution.

#### 13. Promote and support dissemination of Air Quality data

This includes actions such as the development of a direct alerts service for high pollution events, along with general information on air pollution and what can be done to reduce it. In conjunction with the Public Health Directorate this measure will help to bring this data to the more vulnerable members of our communities. This may also include the reassessment of AirTEXT as a suitable way to provide alerts to people within Barnet.

#### 14. Rollout of the requisite infrastructure to support the shift to low and zero emissions vehicles

Barnet is supporting the move towards Zero/Low emissions vehicles by providing requisite infrastructure. 500 charge points have already been installed across 34 residential streets. EV charge points are also encouraged through planning, especially where proposed developments are not air quality neutral for transport emissions.

#### 15. Encourage cleaner energy sources for buildings

Buildings are a source of air pollution, caused by the type of energy used for heat and electricity. Council planning requirements encourage the use of renewable energy, especially given that gas boilers are to be phased out for purchase in 2025. Environmental Health advise planners on the environmental impacts of new local heat and power stations (CHP plants), as they produce nitrogen dioxide a key air pollutant. Barnet has not had any new applications for CHP plants since 2021, and an increase in the uptake of air/ground source heat pumps has been observed.

#### 16. Monitoring and other Core Statutory Duties Control air pollution from industrial / commercial and residential sources

LB Barnet’s Scientific Services team continues to maintain two air quality stations at Tally Ho and Chalgrove School (measuring particulates, PM10 and nitrogen dioxide, NO2. These results are published on the web at [www.airqualityengland.co.uk](http://www.airqualityengland.co.uk). Nitrogen dioxide is also monitored using 15 diffusion tubes across the borough. The results allow us to report to Defra and the GLA, as well as informing residents, and consultants acting on behalf of developers. We are currently in the process of obtaining a new monitor at Tally Ho Corner, which will enable the measurement of PM2.5; a smaller particle which is able to travel more deeply into the body.

The Council has a statutory duty to regulate certain premises to reduce emissions to air, including cement batchers, dry cleaners, crematoria, printing press, petrol stations. vehicle re-sprayers and concrete crushers. It also has a duty to investigate complaints of dust nuisance including complaints about construction sites. Scientific Services (Environmental Health) performs this task.

Scientific Services (Environmental Health) also consult with the planning department to ensure that air pollution is considered when applications for new developments are received.

#### 17. Improve Air quality in and around schools.

Several actions are encompassed within these measures including the establishment of school streets where feasible, air quality projects with schools, awareness projects for anti-idling measures around schools, and the provision for air quality audits, especially for schools which are in poor air quality locations. The Barnet ICP and schools have come together to talk about the importance of clean air with students, parents, and staff. Sustrans are delivering workshops to schools to encourage active travel among students and parents.

#### 18. Update of procurement policies to reduce pollution from logistics and servicing.

As part of this measure Barnet will review its social value delivery through procurement activity which links with the adoption of a social value policy. Delivery will also be assessed against the potential to improve air quality. Barnet will continue to comply with FORS, which sets minimum standards for the council fleet, as well as standards for any vehicles used by contractors.

#### **Previous measures in the air quality action plan**

These measures were in the original air quality action plan and have been completed. Other measures have been removed to create a more stream-lined action plan with fewer actions. So, although they do improve air quality, they exist as part of other Council strategies and policies or are incorporated into other actions within the Action Plan.

Action	Description
19	Explore the option of extending the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (currently proposed to stop at the A406) to cover whole of London Borough of Barnet
20	Briefing members; Publicise ULEZ to residents; consider and plan for consequences of ULEZ.
21	Investigate the possibility of increasing the number of hydrogen, electric, hybrid, bio-methane and other cleaner vehicles in the borough’s fleet
22	Accelerate uptake of new Euro VI vehicles in borough fleet
23	Enforce Air Quality policies and monitor sustainable Travel Plans for developments

24	Regularly brief Director of Public Health (DPH) on air quality issues in Barnet; what is being done, and what is needed.
25	Director of Public Health to sign off statutory Annual Status Reports and all new Air Quality Action Plans
26	Air quality projects with schools
27	Schools Audits at schools in poor air quality areas
28	Public Health and Environmental Health Joint Communications Plan
29	Actions on M1 (Highways Agency-managed)

19. Explore the option of extending the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (currently proposed to stop at the A406) to cover whole of London Borough of Barnet

The Ultra-Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ) is due to expand from the A406 include the whole of Barnet from April 2023.

20. Briefing members; Publicise ULEZ to residents; consider and plan for consequences of ULEZ.

The Ultra-Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ) is due to expand from the A406 include the whole of Barnet from April 2023.

21. Investigate the possibility of increasing the number of hydrogen, electric, hybrid, bio-methane and other cleaner vehicles in the borough's fleet

This Action is part of Barnet's commitment to decarbonise the fleet by 2030.

22. Accelerate uptake of new Euro VI vehicles in borough fleet

This action was delayed for completion in 2022 due to a global shortage of parts (the final 10 buses were scheduled for replacement in 2020). This air quality action plan is no longer relevant to the completion of this action.

23. Enforce Air Quality policies and monitor sustainable Travel Plans for developments

This action has been incorporated into a new action within this action plan.

24. Regularly brief Director of Public Health (DPH) on air quality issues in Barnet; what is being done, and what is needed.

This action has been incorporated into a new action within this action plan.

25. Director of Public Health to sign off statutory Annual Status Reports and all new Air Quality Action Plans

This action has been incorporated into a new action within this action plan.

26. Air quality projects with schools

This action has been incorporated into a new action within this action plan.

27. Schools Audits at schools in poor air quality areas

This action has been incorporated into a new action within this action plan.

28. Public Health and Environmental Health Joint Communications Plan

This action has been incorporated into a new action within this action plan.

29. Actions on M1 (Highways Agency-managed)

This action has been incorporated into a new action within this action plan.