

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 16 March 2023	Meeting Name: Health and Wellbeing Board
Report title:		Air Quality Action Plan 2023 – 2027, Air Quality Management Area extension, and Air Quality Joint Strategic Needs Assessment	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director of Public Health, Southwark Council	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. The Southwark Health and Wellbeing Board note the new Air Quality Action Plan 2023 – 2027, extension to the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), and recently updated Air Quality Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The health effects of air pollution are well known, contributing to cardiovascular illnesses, respiratory illnesses, and cancer.
3. Air pollution is caused by road traffic, as well as industrial, commercial, and domestic sources.
4. Southwark has been taking action to improve air quality in the borough. Three of the recent updates in this area are the new Air Quality Action Plan 2023 - 2027, the expanded AQMA, and the Air Quality JSNA

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. The Air Quality [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#) was updated in December 2022. The JSNA provides a holistic understanding of air quality in the borough and its impact on the health of local people.
6. The JSNA was created alongside the Air Quality Action Plan, and informed its contents. It was written with support from multiple teams from the Council, as well as external air quality experts and members of the public.
7. The JSNA covers legislation and policy related to air quality and health, information about outdoor air quality in Southwark, and information about indoor air quality in the borough.

8. The JSNA notes that NO₂ and particulates are particularly harmful for health, and that indoor air pollution is also important to consider because people tend to spend up to 90% of their time inside. It notes that nitrogen oxides are the main contributors to local air pollution, but emissions fell by 34% between 2013 and 2019. PM_{2.5} fell by 19% and PM₁₀ by 13%. These changes were mostly driven by a reduction in transport-related emissions. 2019 concentrations of NO₂, PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ are highest in north-west Southwark and along main roads.
9. The full JSNA is available [on Southwark Council's website](#).
10. The Air Quality Action Plan 2023 – 2027 and Air Quality Management Area Order were published in January 2023.
11. The Air Quality Action Plan 2023 – 2027 was developed through internal and Lead Member consultation that commenced in 2021, and public consultation during 2022. All internal departments with actions on the draft plan were consulted.
12. Public Health were a key partner in the consultation, and the emerging JSNA helped to shape the Air Quality Action Plan 2023 – 2027.
13. The Air Quality Action Plan 2023 - 2027 lists the actions that the council will take to reduce air pollution emissions, to reduce exposure to poor air quality, and to educate people on how to mitigate the effects of poor air quality on their health. The actions are assigned to multiple different teams widely across the council.
14. Actions in the Air Quality Action Plan 2023 – 2027 can be applied across the Air Quality Management Area.
15. Oversight of progress on the Air Quality Action Plan 2023 – 2027 is conducted by the Air Quality Steering Group, comprised of officers with responsibilities for actions on the plan, and chaired by the Director of Public Health.
16. The Air Quality Management Area 2023 extended the area of the Air Quality Management Area to include the whole borough. The previous Air Quality Management Area 2003 had excluded the area of Southwark to the south of the South Circular Road.
17. The Air Quality Action Plan and Air Quality Management Area Order are published on [Southwark Council's website](#).

Policy framework implications

18. The Air Quality Action Plan has been produced as part of our statutory duties to work towards air quality objectives under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, as set out in UK Clean Air Strategy 2019, and under London Local Air Quality Management.

19. An additional feature of the Air Quality Action Plan 2023 – 2027 is that it will work towards new non-statutory targets set out in World Health Organisation (WHO) objectives, in support of the Mayor of London's aim to achieve the WHO objectives across London by 2030. The WHO targets are more ambitious than the national targets set by central government.
20. The Air Quality Action Plan 2023 – 2027 contributes to:
 - a) Southwark's Council Delivery Plan which has themes on closing the gap to tackle inequalities and provide a great start in life, amongst other commitments. The Air Quality Action Plan includes actions that will directly tackle health issues that particularly affect Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, provide support to vulnerable residents, and make it easier for residents to lead healthy and active lives. The plan includes actions that will make it easier for children and their carers to mitigate the health effects of air pollution, thereby improving their opportunities to reach their potential.
 - b) actions for tackling the climate emergency, as many sources of air pollution are also carbon emitting combustion sources.
 - c) actions that help keep Southwark safe from COVID-19. There is evidence that air pollution can worsen the symptoms of Covid-19. In addition, the Air Quality Action Plan supports Streetspace measures that improve the potential for social distancing by reclaiming road space from vehicular traffic and allocating it to active travel.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

21. The JSNA highlights how communities are affected by air pollution and can be used to inform how the council supports these communities. The Air Quality Action Plan also takes into account differences between communities and geographies, while the expansion of the AQMA highlights that air pollution ultimately affects everyone, especially given its trans-boundary nature.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

22. Air pollution impacts people differently. Those who are most affected by the health effects of air pollution often contribute to air pollution the least.
23. Low income people in Southwark are often at a higher risk of health effects of air pollution due to factors including living closer to outdoor pollution sources, having houses with worse ventilation and smaller rooms, and being at greater risk of cardiovascular and lung conditions.

Health impact statement

24. Exposure to poor air quality is associated with ill health and premature death. It can cause both short-term and long term health problems. As well as contributing to cardiovascular illnesses, respiratory illnesses, and cancer, a growing body of evidence suggests air pollution is also associated with cognitive function and mental health.
25. Children, older people, and people with certain chronic conditions are particularly affected by air quality.

Climate change implications

26. Tackling air quality contributes to a wide range of outcomes, including assisting with climate change adaptation and mitigation. Many measures that reduce air pollution, for example increasing active travel, are also beneficial in terms of climate change.

Resource implications

27. There are no resource implications

Legal implications

28. There are no legal implications

Financial implications

29. There are no financial implications

Consultation

30. No consultation

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance

31. None sought

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance

32. None sought

Other officers

33. None sought

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Title of document(s) Air Quality JSNA 2022	Title of department / unit: Public Health Address: London Borough of Southwark 1 st Floor, Hub 1 PO BOX 64529 London SE1P 5LX	Name: Kate Smith Phone number
Wider determinants of health - Southwark Council		
Air Quality Action Plan 2023 - 2027 Air Quality management Area Order 2023	Title of department / unit: Regulatory Services Address: London Borough of Southwark 3 rd Floor, Hub 1 PO BOX 64529 London SE1P 5LX	Name: Paul Newman Phone number 07824 387367
Air quality strategies, plans and letters - Southwark Council		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Sangeeta Leahy, Director of Public Health	
Report Author	Paul Newman, Team Leader - Environmental Protection Team Project Manager – airTEXT redevelopment	
Version	Final	
Dated	16 March 2023	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		7 March 2023