



<b>DATE</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2022
<b>REPORT OF</b>	Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg
<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	Cabinet Member for City Management and Air Quality
<b>REPORT AUTHOR AND CONTACT DETAILS</b>	Daniella Bonfanti ( <a href="mailto:dbonfanti@westminster.gov.uk">dbonfanti@westminster.gov.uk</a> )

---

The following serves as a brief outline of my key priorities and the work that I have undertaken in the eight weeks that I have held the position of Cabinet Member for City Management and Air Quality.

### **Air Quality (AQ)**

The improvement of Air Quality across Westminster is a key priority for the new administration. Work is already underway to revise and redraft the current Air Quality Action Plan, more information can be shared on this at the next meeting of this Committee.

**Awareness raising - pollution forecast alerts:** Together with officers I am currently reviewing options to deliver a programme of social media messaging and email triggers to schools and GP surgeries when pollution is forecast to be high. This would also include adding pollution forecasts to the council's website in July.

**Two further projects are currently being scoped out with Public Health funding tentatively secured:**

- Staff training: air quality training for health / social care professionals with high levels of face-to-face interactions with residents, to help signpost to information on Air Quality.
- Indoor air quality: awareness raising project on indoor air quality, with potential for indoor Air Quality monitors to be loaned out to schools, community groups, and businesses alongside guidance on reducing indoor pollution.

**Defra AQ Grant projects:** Work has commenced on two projects WCC are either lead borough or partner on:

**Clean Air Logistics for London:** WCC led, delivered by Cross River Partnership. £1m, 10 partners (boroughs and BIDs), focusing on non-traditional low emission sources of freight and delivery (including focus on river freight).

**Wood burning awareness raising:** Camden and Islington led. £300k, 15 partner boroughs. Project split into two parts – commissioned academic research into wood burning stove emissions, then targeted public awareness communication campaign. Phasing out the burning of wood is a clear manifesto commitment and one we will work closely with the GLA on.

**Schools' Clean Air Fund (SCAF):** around £700k of SCAF is available; officers are looking at providing options for engaging with schools ahead of relaunching the Fund for the start of the next academic year.

### **Air Quality Events and Community Engagement**

**National Clean Air Day – 16<sup>th</sup> June:** A new public portal built by Earthsense was launched on Clean Air Day so that the parents and pupils of four schools (St Joseph's Primary, St Saviour's Primary, Wilberforce Primary, Edward Wilson Primary), can access air pollution data in real time. It is hoped that providing access to this type of information will encourage behaviour change towards more sustainable travel habits.

**Climate Action Week 25<sup>th</sup> June – 3<sup>rd</sup> July:** As part of the Council's activities around Climate Action week there will be a mobile real-time air pollution monitoring van aka a "smogmobile" outside of Charing Cross Station from 8.30am -11.00am and in St. John's Wood High Street from 1pm – 4pm.

**Community engagement:** We are out in the community raising awareness of Air Quality at a number of events this summer. Officers attended the launch of Clean Air Bayswater on the 15<sup>th</sup> June and will be attending SouthWest Fest on the 24<sup>th</sup> June and Westbourne Summer Festival on the 25<sup>th</sup> June.

### **City Management**

#### **Waste, Recycling & Street Cleansing**

My priority is to protect bin collections, improve recycling, and crack down on flytipping. To date we have:

- Began work on the Waste and Street Cleansing contract relet, we can share more information on this re-let with the Committee at a future meeting.
- Started to develop a new community-focused Waste Action Team to engage, educate and then enforce, with City Inspectors being seconded into a dedicated team. The focus of this team will be to change behaviours, tackle dumping and the other similar problems that irritate residents.

#### **Cleansing activity – Queens Jubilee**

A 24 hour round the clock cleansing operation with 80 additional staff supporting throughout 20 tonnes of sand laid in preparation for the pageant and cleared within 2 hours once ended.

- Litter bins emptied countless number of times
- Additional 1100's placed throughout the area to assist with footfall from royal parks.
- Extra Road Cleansing Vehicle parked in Charles II Street to assist.
- Staff placed at all access/egress points to help with public entering/exiting the park.

## **Public Conveniences (PC)**

- Temporary toilets contract is currently out for re-let, with a 3 + 2 contract rather than a 1-year contract in previous times. We have also changed the contract to be urinals and chemical toilets as opposed to just urinals due to equality.
- Refurb on Broadwick Street APC is soon to be underway, once completed we will start work on refurbs on another 4. These refurbs will make them new APCs in existing cladding.
- Currently working on refurbishment project, with designs almost complete for our 7 central London PCs.
- The existing APC and PC contracts are expected to go out again for tender this summer. However, we will be looking at possibility of what could be in-house services before doing this.

## **Highways**

### **Cycle Hangars**

The increased roll-out of cycle-hangars throughout the city is an absolute priority and look to introduce creative solutions for streets where hangars are not appropriate.

There are currently only 862 secure cycle parking space in Westminster despite an excellent uptake of the service across the City with over 95% of secure storage spaces occupied. Due to such high demand, there are no significant waiting lists for spaces, with the total number of residents waiting for spaces now approaching 1300.

In order to increase the roll-out of cycle-hangars we are looking at new locations to install hangars and will consult on any proposals.

### **TfL Relations**

I want to get TfL relations back on track and have regular engagement with senior management at TfL.

### **So far we have:**

- Confirmed a series of quarterly meetings with myself and senior management colleagues at TfL have been agreed. Raj Mistry and other officers will also be in attendance,
- That the Leader of the Council is to meet Seb Dance, Deputy Mayor of London, and TfL regarding our concerns about the current TfL public consultation on the cutting of Central London Bus routes.
- Engaged with TfL on current consultations, including; proposed expansion of the London ULEZ, the future of new road user charging systems, the future of the Park Lane cycle lane and the future of the Cycleway 8 (Pimlico Road Cycleway).
- Expressed deep concern about the lack of a Government/DfT and Mayor/GLA agreement over a long-term funding settlement for the support of London's public transport network and the funding of Borough on-street schemes and projects.

### **Flooding Update**

- Stage 3 of the Independent Review report was published on 31<sup>st</sup> May. <https://londonfloodreview.co.uk/stage-3-report/>
- The stage 4 report is scheduled to be published at the end of June 22.

- Thames Water are currently trialing a sewer resilience programme to reduce the incidence of sewer recharge flooding by installing Non-Return Valves and FLIPS in high risk locations with the consent of property owners.
- We expect to finalise the section 19 report in the Autumn once the independent review of the July 21 flooding has been concluded.