

Air Quality Strategy

Mayor's response to the London Assembly's Environment Committee's comments on the Mayor's draft Air Quality Strategy

I would like you to thank the Environment Committee of the London Assembly for its submission on the Assembly and functional bodies' version of my draft Air Quality Strategy. Many of its comments have been useful in contributing to the development of the public consultation draft, which I am going to publish later today. The Committee's earlier investigation into air quality also informed the drafting of the London Assembly and functional bodies version of this Strategy.

I am glad that the Committee's submission recognises that my Strategy adopted or endorsed the majority of the recommendations made in its report "Every Breath you Take", published in May 2009. However, I recognise that the Committee had some concerns over the London Assembly draft Strategy, particularly in the following areas:

- The need for more information about the health impacts of poor air quality;
- The lack of detail about measures for pollution 'hotspots'; and
- The need for clarification on the funding and implementation of measures.

The following document sets out my response to these and the other concerns raised by the Committee and indicates where changes have been made to the Strategy as a result (or if not, why this is the case). It constitutes my formal report to the Chair of the London Assembly as required by s 42A of the GLA Act 1999. The next draft of the Strategy will be subject to public and stakeholder consultation, and therefore those proposals I do accept will be subject to that consultation.

The Assembly's contribution to the debate on air quality in London has been considerable and constructive. I look forward to continuing to work closely with the Assembly on the further development of my Air Quality Strategy, which I hope to publish finally in the autumn.



Boris Johnson
Mayor of London
March 2010



The Mayor is required by law to consult the Assembly and the functional bodies (i.e. the London Development Agency, Transport for London, the Metropolitan Police Authority and the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority) on the draft Air Quality Strategy and to respond formally in writing to the Assembly's submission. This response must set out whether the Mayor intends to revise the strategy as a result of the Assembly's comments and, where these are not taken on board, give reasons for this.

Assembly comment	Mayor's response	Strategy change
The next draft of the Strategy should show projections under the following scenarios for emissions and concentrations: • the baseline if the Strategy were not to be implemented; • the effect of the proposals in the Strategy; • the effect of the measures still needed to achieve the Strategy's goals.	The revised public consultation draft of the Strategy will include the emissions reductions impact of each of the main measures or packages of measures to be implemented by the Mayor. It will also include concentration modelling showing the estimated impact of these measures on air quality compared to the baseline if the measures were not implemented. The Assembly and functional bodies draft of the Strategy made clear that action will be needed by central Government if the NO₂ limit values are to be met and this remains the case. The revised Strategy will therefore set out what the impact would be in terms of emissions and concentrations if the Government provided the assistance we are seeking.	Updated emissions modelling and concentration modelling to be included in revised Strategy. Impacts of policies will be explained throughout the document.
PM₁₀ emissions and concentrations should be estimated for 2011 and NO_x emissions and NO₂ concentrations for 2010.	The GLA is working with the Government in providing further information to the Commission to support its application for a time extension until 2011 for the PM₁₀ limit values. The modelling in the Strategy for PM₁₀ will therefore focus on 2011. The Government has indicated that it is planning to apply to the Commission in 2011 for a time extension to 2015 for the NO₂ limit values and the Mayor will support the Government in this application. Therefore the detailed modelling for NO₂ will focus on 2015.	The revised Strategy will include emissions and concentrations modelling for PM₁₀ for 2011 and for NO₂ for 2015.
The results of the study commissioned by the GLA into the health impacts of poor air quality should be published.	The GLA has received the initial results of the study it commissioned into the health impacts of poor air quality and these will be reflected in the revised draft of the Strategy. The GLA will publish the full report of the study shortly.	The revised Strategy will include updated health impacts information.

Assembly comment	Mayor's response	Strategy change
The Strategy should include an implementation timetable.	The GLA and the functional bodies have developed an outline implementation plan for the measures in the Strategy that are under the Mayor's control. However, many of the measures require support from central Government. Discussions on these measures are ongoing, so the implementation timetable for these elements of the Strategy is still indicative.	The revised Strategy will include an implementation plan.
The Strategy should show how the NO ₂ margin of tolerance will be met from January 2010 to January 2015 if a time extension for the NO ₂ limit value is granted and what steps will be undertaken to meet the limit value prior to 2015 if the extension is not granted.	The Mayor is committed to meeting limit values as soon as possible. The Mayor is working with the Government on a joint package of measures that will be part of the Government's application to the European Commission for a time extension to 2015 for the NO ₂ limit values. This will include measures to allow the NO ₂ margin of tolerance to be met as soon as possible. The revised Strategy will include details of the actions the Mayor believes that Government should be taking to meet NO ₂ limit values and the margin of tolerance. However, there is as yet no detail on proposed Government measures to meet the margin of tolerance and these are not expected until late 2010.	The revised Strategy will include detail of the measures that the Mayor will take to reduce concentrations of NO ₂ as well as actions the Mayor believes the Government should take.
The Strategy should include detail of how measures will be funded.	The GLA and TfL have agreed budgets to ensure that short-term actions to meet PM ₁₀ limit values as soon as possible are funded. Longer-term measures, including many that will contribute to reduced concentrations of NO ₂ have also been costed. The detailed funding programme for these measures will be decided as part of business planning processes. Funding requirements also depend in part on what measures and support will be available from central Government as part of its own action plan for NO ₂ which is currently being developed.	Details of funding will be addressed through business planning processes for the GLA Group.

Assembly comment	Mayor's response	Strategy change
The Strategy should make clear how local government will be incentivised and enabled to take action.	The GLA already works closely with boroughs on air quality management. The first draft of the Strategy set out how the Mayor will work with boroughs on joint action to improve air quality in London. This will include providing advice and technical support through the Local Air Quality Management process and liaison through borough groups and forums. In addition, the LIPs Guidance to boroughs includes requirements for specific outputs that will ensure that air quality management and transport management are systematically joined up.	The revised Strategy will include additional information on how transport and air quality management should be more closely aligned within boroughs.
The Strategy should include further information on the measures to be taken at PM₁₀ priority locations.	Since publication of the first Assembly and functional bodies draft of the Strategy, TfL has been working with boroughs to develop packages of measures for each of the PM₁₀ priority locations. It is imperative that improvements are made in concentrations at these locations as soon as possible, so some elements of the packages will be implemented even before the Strategy is finally published.	The revised Strategy will include full details of the for priority locations packages.
The public consultation draft of the Strategy should initiate engagement with Londoners on air quality issues and set out how broad levels of engagement will be achieved.	The first Assembly and functional bodies draft of the Strategy included proposals to raise public awareness of air quality issues, including setting up a central information website and organising regular events to encourage people to change behaviour. It will be important that the results of the GLA's recent health impacts study are used to present air quality as a health issue as much as an environmental problem.	The revised Strategy will include proposals to make Londoners more aware of the health impacts of poor air quality.