1. Communities, Businesses and Education

Action Plan: Appendix C, 1.1-1.8

Targeted Interventions We aim to target vulnerable communities disproportionately affected by air pollution. This involves developing communication strategies that address their specific needs, conducting workshops, and establishing support networks. We will collaborate with community organizations and healthcare providers to ensure that those suffering from air pollution-related health issues receive the necessary information and support. Additionally, we will prioritise air quality initiatives for disadvantaged neighbourhoods and engage community members in the planning and implementation.

Empowering Communities We will provide accessible resources and share real-time air quality data to keep residents informed. Educational programs will be organised to teach practical ways to reduce emissions, such as sustainable transportation and energy efficiency. Community action initiatives, like clean-up days and campaigns promoting sustainability, will be encouraged. We will also support local leaders and collaborate with stakeholders to expand our outreach and enhance the effectiveness of these programs.

Indoor Air Quality We will launch a public health campaign to raise awareness about indoor air quality, focusing on common pollutants and the impact of poor ventilation. Workshops will be organized to educate residents on how to improve air quality in their homes, schools, and workplaces. Practical measures, such as improving ventilation and using low-VOC products, will be promoted. We will collaborate workplaces to improve indoor air quality, promote healthy home audits and collaborate with research projects such as UEL's Health Energy Efficient Dwellings.

Schools Newham has the highest proportion of schoolchildren in Greater London, and it is essential this plan priorities this most sensitive cohort. The plan will improve classroom air quality by implementing filtration systems and expand upon Healthy School Street Programme. We will support "TFL Travel for Life" and other campaigns to encourage active travel. Educational programs will teach students about air quality and sustainability, while community involvement will encourage collective action.

Health Facilities We will also focus on reducing exposure to air pollution outside hospitals and health centres by installing air quality monitoring sensors, promoting green infrastructure, and encouraging active transport. Public awareness campaigns will inform the community about pollution sources and health risks, while collaboration with healthcare providers will ensure a coordinated approach to health and air quality.

Other Sources Additionally, we will take action on other sources of outdoor air pollution such as commercial events and firework displays by establishing guidelines for sustainable practices and promoting cleaner alternatives. To address emissions from canal boats, we will encourage the transition to cleaner fuel options and explore financial incentives for upgrades.

External sources of information:
- Sustainable Transport Strategy;
- Newham School Travel Plans;
- TfL Travel for Life school programme.
- Healthy Energy Efficient Dwellings, UEL research project

Air Quality Action Plan Matrix

*Cost key: **£ Low:** £4,000; **££ Moderate:** £4,000 - £10,000; **£££ Medium:** £10,000k - £50,000; **££££ High:** £50,000 +; **££££* Funded:** Low to Borough
GLA key: Action labelled 1 to 25 where it aligns with the GLA's matrix table actions. For referencing progress alongside other London Boroughs Action Plans

Action		Outcome	Emissions Benefits	Cost	GLA	Responsibility
Communities, Businesses and Education	1.1 Reduce Exposure and Emissions Through Targeted Communications, Interventions to Tackle the Inequitable Impact of Air Pollution On Vulnerable Communities and Those Disproportionately Impacted by Air Pollution	A. Develop communication strategies that specifically address the needs and concerns of vulnerable communities, using culturally relevant messaging and languages to ensure understanding and engagement.	Engagement with vulnerable residents is an effective measure in protecting health and helping to reduce exposure by supporting behaviour change.	£		Communications Policy and Impact, Environmental Control, Public Health, Community Neighbourhoods
		B. Conduct workshops and informational sessions in community centres, schools, and local organisations to raise awareness about air pollution and its health effects and empower residents with the knowledge to protect themselves.				
		C. Conduct assessments to identify vulnerable populations most affected by air pollution and prioritise interventions in those areas, ensuring resources are allocated where they are needed most.				
		D. Establish support networks that connect vulnerable individuals with resources, such as air quality monitoring tools and health services.				
		E. Collaborate with non-governmental organisations and community groups that focus on environmental justice to leverage their expertise and reach within affected communities.				
		F. Work with healthcare providers to identify patients suffering from air pollution-related health issues and ensure they receive the necessary information and support.				
		G. Advocate for policies prioritising air quality improvements in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, ensuring that Council actions are equitable and inclusive.				
		H. Establish a system to assess air quality in vulnerable areas. This will allow us to track improvements and adjust interventions as needed.				

	Action	Outcome	Emissions Benefits	Cost	GLA	Responsibility
Communities, Businesses and Education	1.2 Empower Communities to Take Action Locally and Reduce Emissions and Exposure Through Information Sharing and Educational Programmes	A. Educate residents about the sources of air pollution, its impact on health, and actions they can take to reduce emissions and protect themselves from exposure. B. Host workshops such as community compositing, food waste reduction, repair cafes, clothes swaps, and bike repair sessions to equip community members with the knowledge and tools to reduce their exposure to pollution and adopt practices that lower emissions. C. Create and promote easy-to-use digital tools, such as air quality data maps, to help residents monitor air pollution levels where they are and adjust their activities accordingly. D. Work with local gardening and environmental groups to amplify messages on air quality and develop joint projects that engage the public in pollution reduction efforts. E. Engage with local businesses to encourage the adoption of cleaner practices.	Engagement with residents can be a very effective measure for reducing exposure by supporting behaviour change. However, modelling meaningful direct emissions benefits from behaviour change measures is challenging.	£££	11	Environmental Control and Public Health, Communications, Policy and Impact, Waste Reduction, Community Neighbourhoods
	1.3 Reduce Exposure and Emissions by Increasing Awareness of Indoor Air Quality	A. Pilot environmental sensors in social homes to measure indoor air quality and flag early damp and mould risks in real time for remediation before they become a hazard. B. Work with businesses to promote opportunities to improve indoor air quality in workplaces. C. Lead, facilitate and support research projects examining indoor air pollution and home exposure and their potential health impacts.	Pilot studies at schools (GLA) have shown that air filtration systems can positively impact achieving this.	££	11	Environmental Control, Public Health, Planning and Development, Housing Needs, Community Neighbourhoods

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	Action	Outcome	Emissions Benefits	Cost	GLA	Responsibility
Communities, Businesses and Education	1.4 Reduce Exposure to Air Pollution Outside Hospital and Health Centres	A. Utilise or install air quality monitoring sensors around the perimeter of Newham General and health centres to gather real-time data on pollution levels and identify peak exposure times, allowing patients and visitors to make informed decisions about which route to take to visit these facilities.	Green infrastructure and air quality monitoring may not directly reduce emissions, but data is essential for raising awareness and understanding the impacts of measures to improve air quality. Any resulting behaviour change, i.e. walking via clean air routes and using sustainable transport, can also reduce emissions and exposure.	£££	25, 10	NHS North East London, Public Health, Sustainable Transport and Highways, Community Wealth Building, Environmental Control
		B. Promote planting trees and installing green barriers around Newham General and health centres to absorb pollutants and improve air quality.				
		C. Encourage improvement of healthcare facilities' outdoor spaces by creating gardens and green areas that provide patients and staff with a clean and pleasant environment.				
		D. Develop infrastructure to support walking and cycling, such as safe bike lanes, secure lockers and pedestrian paths, to encourage patients and staff to use sustainable modes of transportation to reach healthcare facilities.				
		E. Launch awareness campaigns informing the community about the sources of air pollution near healthcare facilities and encourage residents to reduce their contributions.				
		F. Work with healthcare professionals to develop initiatives to reduce patients' and staff's exposure to air pollution, ensuring a coordinated approach to health and air quality.				
		G. Encourage healthcare facilities to advocate for policies prioritising air quality improvements, leveraging their influence to promote healthier environments.				

Action		Outcome	Emissions Benefits	Cost	GLA	Responsibility
Communities, Businesses and Education	1.5 Reduce Emissions and Exposure in and Around Schools	A. Continue to monitor air quality in and around schools to provide data on pollution levels, enabling proactive measures to be taken when air quality is poor.	The Travel for Life scheme has saved about 22 million vehicle kilometres (VKM) annually between 8 and 9 a.m. The total is 44m VKM a year. Calculations show this can be estimated as an equivalent saving of around 96 tonnes of NOx per year. If all London schools took part, savings of around 215 tonnes of NOx a year might be achieved.	££££*	13,14	Sustainable Transport and Highways, Climate Action, Public Health, Planning and Development, Environmental Control
		B. Continue to support and promote "TFL Travel for Life" and other campaigns to encourage walking, cycling, and using public transport for school commutes, helping to reduce reliance on cars and associated emissions.				
		C. Offer cycle training and promote events such as "Walk to School Week" and "Bike to School Day," incentivising families to choose active travel methods.				
		D. Continue to offer Zero Carbon Schools programmes and similar programmes that integrate environmental education into the school curriculum, teaching students about the importance of air quality, climate change, and sustainable practices.				
		E. Provide a platform for teachers to explore funding and project opportunities offered by the Council and our partners.				
		F. Participate in local initiatives, such as tree planting and green space enhancement, to improve air quality and reduce emissions in the vicinity of schools.				
		G. Work with schools to improve indoor air quality by supporting the GLA's classroom filtration scheme and reducing the use of harmful cleaning products. Encourage schools to introduce the topic of indoor air quality into school curriculums to educate children and their families on maintaining healthy indoor environments at home.				
		H. Encourage schools to produce travel plans and work with partners to deliver clean air walking/cycle maps.				