

Air Quality Working Group
MINUTES

HAQWG – 14th of March 2024 – hybrid

Introductions and Attendees:

- Chair
 - BS - Brian Stacey
- Heathrow
 - MP - Matt Prescott
 - EB- Emma Brown
 - HP- Honor Puciato (Ricardo)
- Ricardo
 - NR- Nick Rand
- Buckinghamshire
 - CW- Cerys Williams (online)
- Ealing
 - SS- Surinderpal Suri (online)
- Spelthorne
 - CL- Clair Lucas (online)
- Hounslow
 - CC- Chris Cockburn
- BA
 - AP – Anil Padhra (online)
- CISHA
 - LK - Laura Keight (online)
- Local Community Forum (LCF)
 - RG - Roger Green
- DFT
 - AD - Adele Harbor (online)

Apologies:

- Tim Leech – Heathrow
- Tim Byrne - BA
- Chris Lowe – EA
- David Rushton - EA
- Ian Thynne – Hillingdon
- Sophia Norfolk – Slough

1. Introduction and Apologies:

- The chair BS opened the meeting with apologies from members of the group.

2. Actions from the last meeting

- BS reviewed actions from the previous meeting and provided an explanation to address Action 2. BS explained that approximately 10% of PM2.5 emissions can be attributed to UFPs on average. The relevant graphs have been shared with the group.

3. Updates from Members – Round the table

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- CC (Hounslow)
 - The LA secured funding to completed two projects:
 - ✓ DEFRA bid – projects completed as a part of the West London Cluster Group – monitoring walking routes.
 - ✓ Mayor of London funding – anti-idling scheme.
- CW (Buckinghamshire)
 - The LA was not successful in securing DEFRA funding.
 - The AQAP was not up to date when funding decisions were made, which could influence decisions.
 - CW met with the LA comms team to discuss the delivery of Clean Air Day.
 - The LA has a toolkit aimed to raise awareness across local communities. The tool will be used in engagement with local schools, community groups, and environmental groups.
- CL (Spelthorne)
 - The Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) is currently being updated, and the council is in the process of consultation with stakeholders, including HAL.
 - There was a meeting at the council to discuss a coordinated approach to cycling in the local areas. There were many representatives from Surrey CC. Surrey CC showed an interest in making a connection with HAL to discuss a current option for active travel and connectivity – Action (Connect Surrey CC via CL with relevant HAL colleagues – HP/EB).
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- AP (BA)
 - Introduction of the first electric bus for BA staff servicing between Waterside and Staines.
 - Plans for electrification of other routes going forward.
 - Plans for electrification or hydrogen-powered Ground Service Equipment (GSE) operating at and around Heathrow. Electric push-backs are already in use.
 - Ongoing work to move away from the use of diesel towards biodiesel.
- LK (CISHA)
 - Reminded that the open forum will take place on April 18th. Registration for the forum is open.
- AH (Dft)
 - Introduction to the group
- Ricardo
 - NR – update on monitoring. All analyzers perform well with the exception of the Black Carbon analyzer, which developed a fault. This is being resolved. The monitoring reports for Q1, Q2, and Q3 of 2023 have been published on the Airwatch website. The annual report for 2023 will be published at the end of Q2 when all data are ratified.
- HAL
 - A new Air Quality Manager has been appointed and will start his role at the end of April.
 - HAL attended the LCF meeting and provided responses to community enquiries.

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- LCF members would like the current monitoring network enhanced. HAL did state that the network is one of the most comprehensive in the UK. When relevant data are available (monitoring and modelling), the spatial extent of the monitoring network will be reviewed, and improvements will be considered to close any material gaps.
- This work can also be supported by an airport-wide air quality initiative led by the “Sustainable Aviation” coalition. There is an option for collaboration between airports involving deployment of mobile monitoring units for UFPs in locations such as under flight paths.
- HAL is progressing with the introduction of HAL ULEZ. This should be in place by the end of 2025 subject to currently undertaken feasibility studies. Updates will be provided.
- AQ strategy is currently being updated and will be published as a part of a refreshed Heathrow 2.0 strategy.
- HAL encourages LAs to approach HAL with all ideas for air quality improvement projects.
- RG requested confirmation on HAL's next steps and actions.
- MP confirmed that the business is committed to delivering ambitious targets for emissions reductions. Also, he reiterated the message that the business is open for collaboration with this group on mitigation opportunities.
- MP highlighted that current air quality monitoring data show a reduced trend in measured concentrations, but the work should not stop there, and additional measures will ensure this trend continues.
- MP confirmed that the right communication of air quality information is key to provide perspective and context of information.
- RG commented that HAL needs to bridge the gap in understanding and provide context.

4. Update from Local Community Forum

- Roger Green (RG) a chair of the LCF provided an update from the meeting that took place on 12th of March. The group was discussing the air quality audit completed by Thinks and came out with key conclusions that have been shared with the group:
 - Airwatch website:
 - ✓ should be user friendly – members want the data in easy-to-understand terminology/format with comparable data for the airports and motorways for balance.
 - ✓ one source of truth for local communities
 - ✓ include a breakdown of what's in the data and how its processed.
 - Community understanding:
 - ✓ Would like information on how does wind direction effect air quality.
 - ✓ UFPs – need a clearer understanding of how these are monitored and their health impact.
 - ✓ Air quality impacts from surrounding road networks versus air quality impact from airfield
 - ✓ Ground impact v 1000ft – clear explanation of what particulates are in the different levels that effect local air quality.
 - Monitoring stations:

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- ✓ Would like to understand more about where these are located and future locations that provide the most relevant information.
- ✓ AQ monitoring needs to be more than a 'tick box' exercise.
- Health impacts:
 - ✓ Community perception that air quality is linked to health impacts – notably asthma and skin conditions in children.
- Wider AQ issues:
 - ✓ What is the impact of the extended ULEZ on air quality – understand traffic data.

Discussion:

- RG: The CLF concluded that the HAL response was not adequate.
- RG: It was highlighted that the Thinks report was based on qualitative research of local community perceptions of air quality rather than quantitative science-based monitoring results of air quality in the local area.
- The group engaged in a discussion of each conclusion.
- A few representatives from LAs also confirmed similar challenges with presenting air quality information to a wide variety of audience with different levels of knowledge and understanding of technical nuances of air quality topics. It was suggested that provision of a high-level summary outlining key concepts of air quality can be a desirable tool for engagement with less technical audiences.
- BS stated that the first step is Airwatch website improvements - easier to navigate with simplified air quality information but also with an option to obtain more in detail information. After the development of the website passes a storyboard period, the group will be asked for feedback to help shape the final delivery.
- RG flagged up that information needs to be relevant and understood by communities.
- BS suggested that going forward heatmap can be developed to show visually all sources of pollution affecting the local area. This is not currently within the scope of website development but can be discussed.
- RG – referred to an example of cargo traffic visualizations completed to address queries of communities.
- BS stated that there is nothing in the air quality data yet to provide comments on the impacts of London ULEZ.
- CL – mentioned that she written to London Assembly and requested update report on introduction of ULEZ. This information has not been published yet. The National Highway was also consulted, and traffic data have been requested, however the request has been diverted to TfL.
- CL run sessions with local Cllrs on proposed measures included in the updated AQAP. There was a valuable comment made by one of the Clls that the climate change might change pattern of currently monitored ozone pollution. HAL measures ozone pollution and this information can be useful.
- It was also flagged up by BS that reduce concentrations of NOX increase concentrations of Ozone – this is due to chemistry of atmosphere and interaction of pollutant. Ozone is a pollution that is not under a local control.

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- AP – stated that BA is looking to examine if the change in climate change have coloration to the fog formation and links to air pollutions. BS asked for data. HAL met station has record of 30 years of fog trends.
- CL advised Prof. Martin King can be a good source of information

5. Introduction of the UFPs Technical Advisory Group

- BS introduced the new Technical Advisory Group (TAG) that will focus on Ultrafine Particulate Matter (UFP) pollution. The group will consist of members from the existing Heathrow Air Quality Working Group (HAQWG) and representatives from the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Health Security Agency (HSA). DfT representatives were present at the meeting. BS will seek confirmation from HSA regarding their attendance.
- The key focus of the group will include:
 - Providing technical expertise and guidance on the latest state of knowledge.
 - Reviewing monitoring data in both local and national contexts.
 - Offering advice on disseminating information.
 - Establishing linkages to ongoing monitoring and research, including dispersion and health impacts.
- The first step will be to update the current state of knowledge on UFPs and compile a report. BS suggested involving a PhD student to complete this work.
- The group will provide feedback and comments and support findings with their professional knowledge.
- The input from DfT will help provide context on wider UFP monitoring currently undertaken when available.
- Members also discussed the best ways to disseminate information, ensuring a clear and understandable message reaches communities.
- BS highlighted current challenges, noting that there is currently no policy or guidance standardizing monitoring or impacts of UFPs. Therefore, the results need to be treated with caution, as data may not always be comparable.
- SP noted the importance of exploring the relationship between short- and long-term exposure to UFPs.
- CL emphasized the importance of understanding the speciation of monitored samples.
- MP stated that monitoring is currently undertaken at HAL.
- MP highlighted the need for prioritization of tasks and collaborative work between organizations to achieve the best results and address research needs.
- CL provided a few ideas on how funding can be obtained and how other agencies and academics can be involved.

6. Clean Air Day

- Members of the group were asked to provide ideas for common projects and initiatives for Clean Air Day.
- It was discussed that a study showing the difference in exposure to pollution using different modes of transport (walking, cycling, or driving) could be beneficial to provide context to people.

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- CW shared that there was a project completed last year showing exposure at different walking routes that can be used.
- NR confirmed that there will be a webinar on this subject for Local Authorities (LAs).
Action: NR to share the link.
([Course: Ricardo's Spotlight on local air quality 2024 on Wednesday 20th March 2024](#))
- LW suggested preparing a video with statements from members of the group on air quality initiatives.

7. Any Other Business (AOB)

- New AQ manager appointed.
HP will be departing from her role with HAL end of April and thanks the group for collaboration.