



City of Westminster

City  
for  
All

# Greener City Action Plan

2015-2025

Year 3 Update October 2018

# Introduction

Foreword by Cllr Tim Mitchell

Cabinet Member for Environment  
and City Management



I am delighted to present this update on Year 3 of Westminster City Council's Greener City Action Plan. Launched in 2015, the ten-year plan aims to address noise and air pollution across the City, support a sustainable transport system, and ensure we meet our carbon reduction goals.

Air Quality remains the top concern among our residents and Westminster is home to some of the most polluted areas in the country. Last Spring, we launched our Air Quality Manifesto which lays out our proposals to tackle this issue, with a particular focus on improving air quality around schools. Schools will soon be able to bid for £1 million of council funds to design and implement their own air quality projects.

The #Don'tBeldle campaign to reduce engine idling has gone from strength to strength, with more than 14,000 pledges from local residents and businesses. The diesel surcharge, which was hugely successful in the Marylebone Low Emission Neighbourhood, will be rolled out across Westminster. And we have delivered on our promise for more electric vehicle charging points, with over 200 now in place across the City.

More than a quarter of Westminster is made up of parks and green spaces, which serve as sanctuaries of tranquillity in a bustling city. The Council recently consulted residents on our Open Spaces and Biodiversity Strategy, in order to gather local opinions on the best way to preserve these precious spaces. Westminster already has a record of excellence, with 32 Green Flag Awards for our parks, squares, and other open spaces.

This plan is about building the kind of City we want to pass on to the next generation:

A cleaner, healthier City for All.

# Executive Summary

The Greener City Action Plan (GCAP) is our ambitious 10-year vision for maintaining, protecting and improving the environment of our great city, for everyone that lives, works in and visits here. We're now in the fourth year of this vision, and environmental issues continue to be a top priority for our residents. The importance of this area is reflected by the inclusion of a series of significant environmental commitments in our wider City for All strategy; a healthier and greener city is one of Westminster's five key priorities.

The progress set out in this annual update covers a huge range and breadth of work being undertaken across the council and across all areas of the city. Improving our environment is a challenge for all of us, and one we cannot tackle alone. Financial pressures in the public sector mean we have to be focused on the key areas where we can make a real difference. To help us to do this we have formed strong and productive relationships with a variety of partners and stakeholders, and are working collaboratively with everyone to ensure we are helping create a City for All.

The themes of the Greener City Action Plan:

- 1 Addressing noise pollution across the city**
- 2 Improving local air quality**
- 3 Delivering affordable, secure and low-carbon energy supply**
- 4 Making better use of the City's waste resources**
- 5 Supporting a sustainable transport system for Westminster**
- 6 Making the best use of open spaces and improving local biodiversity**
- 7 Managing water use and flood risk**
- 8 Ensuring that sustainability is delivered through economic development**
- 9 Communicating and encouraging people into environmental action**



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# 1

**Addressing noise pollution  
across the city**

**Page 06**

---

# 2

**Improving our local air quality**

**Page 08**

---

# 3

**Delivering affordable, secure and  
low-carbon energy supply**

**Page 16**

---

# 4

**Making better use of the City's  
waste resources**

**Page 18**

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# 5

**Supporting a sustainable transport  
system for Westminster**

**Page 22**

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# 6

**Making the best use of open spaces  
and improving local biodiversity**

**Page 26**

---

# 7

**Managing water use and flood risk**

**Page 30**

---

# 8

**Ensuring that sustainability is  
delivered through economic  
development**

**Page 32**

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# 9

**Communicating and encouraging  
people into environmental action**

**Page 34**

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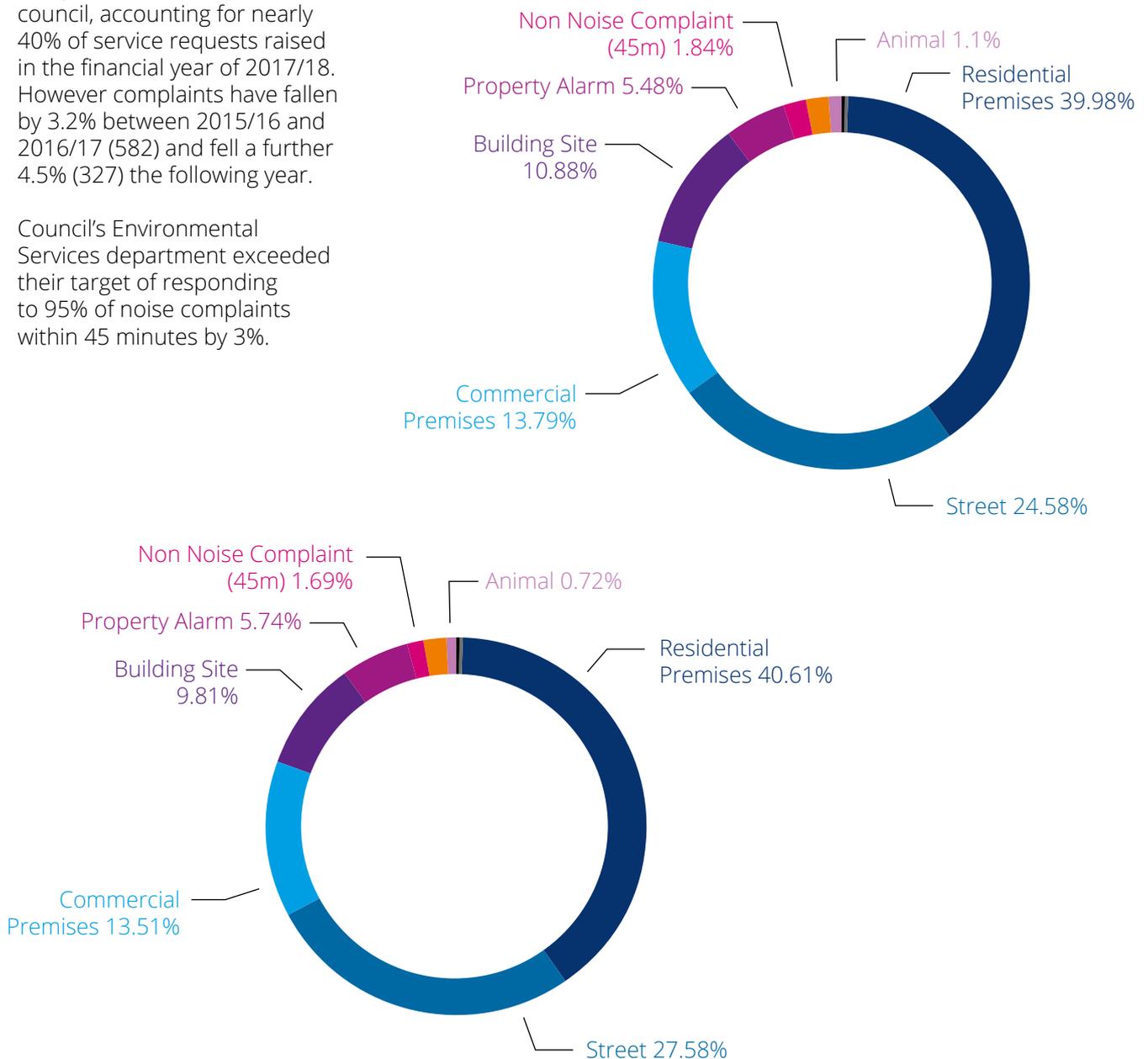
# 1. Addressing noise pollution across the city

Westminster's complex noise environment is part of the hustle and bustle of daily life within the City. However, not all noise can be simply put down to city living, and the noise environment changes significantly across different parts of the city e.g. the night time economy results in very geographically specific noise environments - in the West End in particular.

In the third year of this strategy, residential noise complaints remain the most common complaint received by the council, accounting for nearly 40% of service requests raised in the financial year of 2017/18. However complaints have fallen by 3.2% between 2015/16 and 2016/17 (582) and fell a further 4.5% (327) the following year.

Council's Environmental Services department exceeded their target of responding to 95% of noise complaints within 45 minutes by 3%.

**Figure 1 - Distribution of Noise Complaints by reported source: 2016/17 top & 2017/18 below**





## 2. Improving our local air quality

Poor air quality is a problem for us all. Emissions from dust, pollution from heating and cooling our homes and offices, generating power locally and driving vehicles all has a direct impact on the air that we breathe and consequently our health.

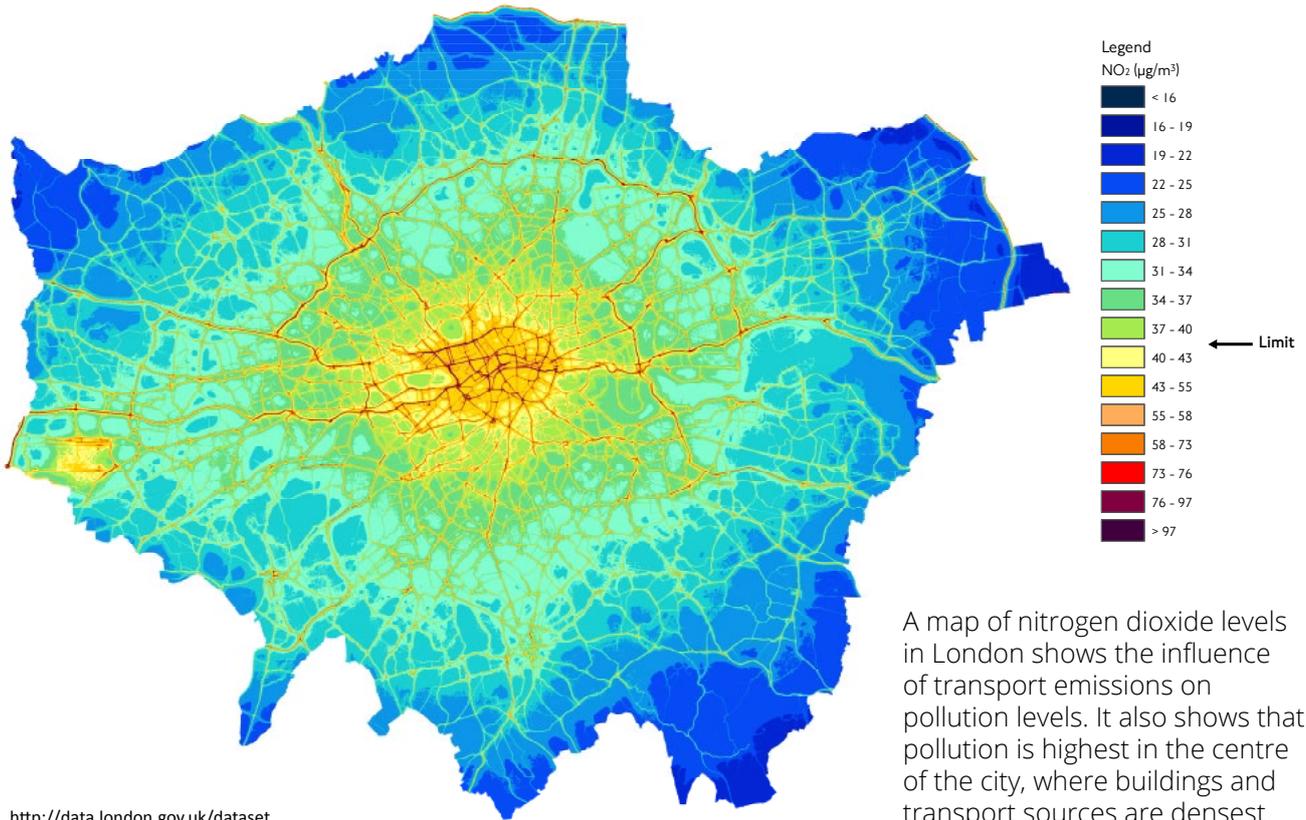
Westminster has some of the highest levels of air pollution in the country and our neighbouring authorities all suffer too, meaning wherever you are in the city – you are affected by poor air. Air quality is a major concern for our residents and we are increasingly seeing residents complaining about vehicles idling in their area. Addressing the detrimental effects of air pollution poses a unique opportunity to achieve multiple co-benefits to health such as reducing obesity, physical inactivity, social isolation and inequality. This is why we are focusing on healthier and greener city through our 'City for All' commitments, as any improvement in air quality will have beneficial health consequences and help reduce health inequalities.

Our work in this area is guided by our Clean Air Action Plan, and we are working on a new five year version of this to be published in 2019. In 2018 we also published our Air Quality Manifesto, which sets out our ten key priorities to tackle air quality across the city.

-  We will deliver a new £1m Schools' Clean Air Fund, giving schools the resources they need to tackle poor air quality.
-  We will launch a new healthier schools programme, bringing together action on air quality, oral health and obesity to make sure the 42,600 children who live, learn and grow up here get the best start in life.
-  We will expand #DontBeldle, setting the ambition for 1,000 businesses to sign up and play their part in reducing their own and their customers' emissions.



Figure 2 – Annual mean NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in 2013 in Greater London



<http://data.london.gov.uk/dataset>

A map of nitrogen dioxide levels in London shows the influence of transport emissions on pollution levels. It also shows that pollution is highest in the centre of the city, where buildings and transport sources are dense.

Figure 3 – Modelled NO<sub>2</sub> air pollution according to 2013 measurements, LAEI 2016

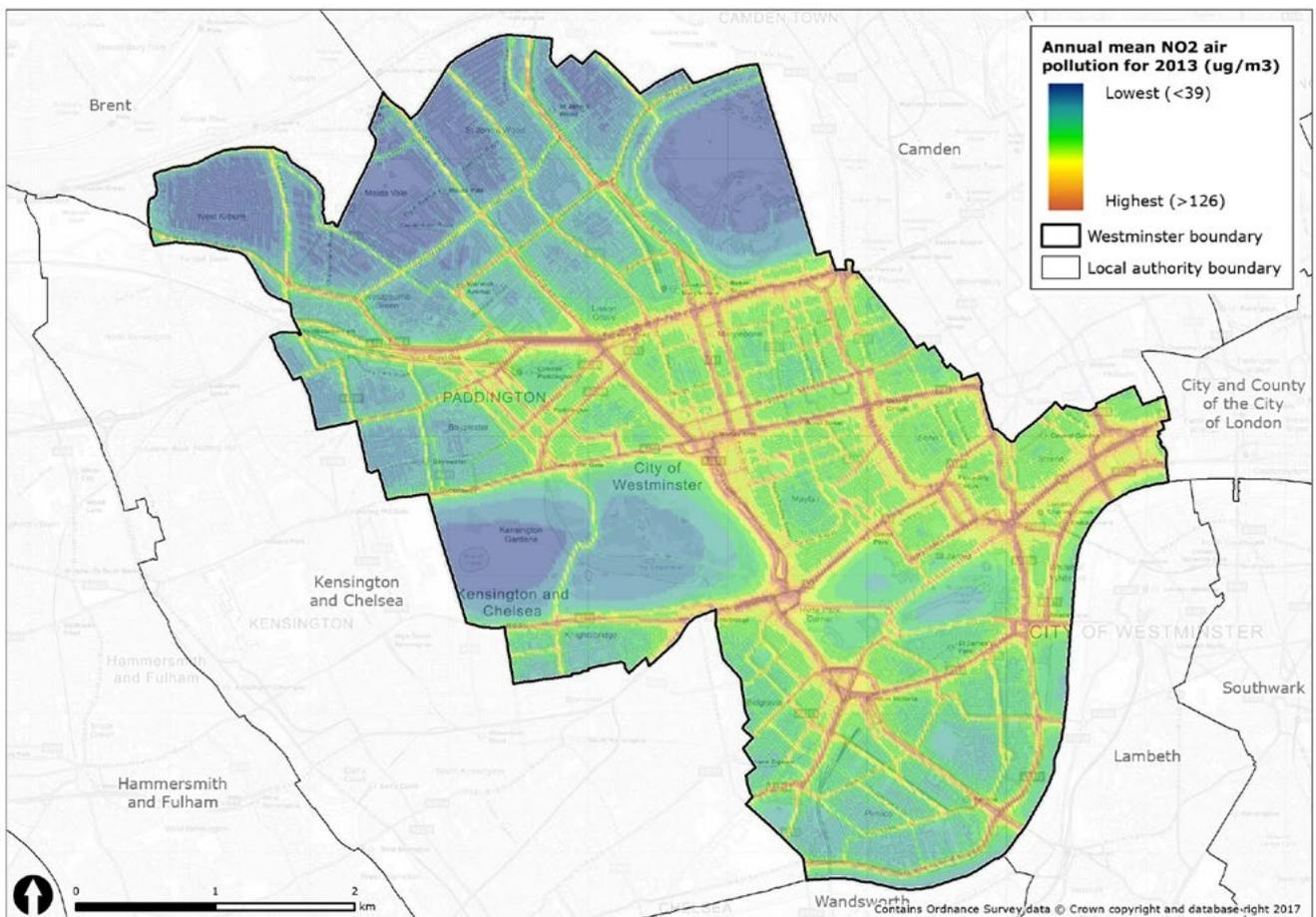
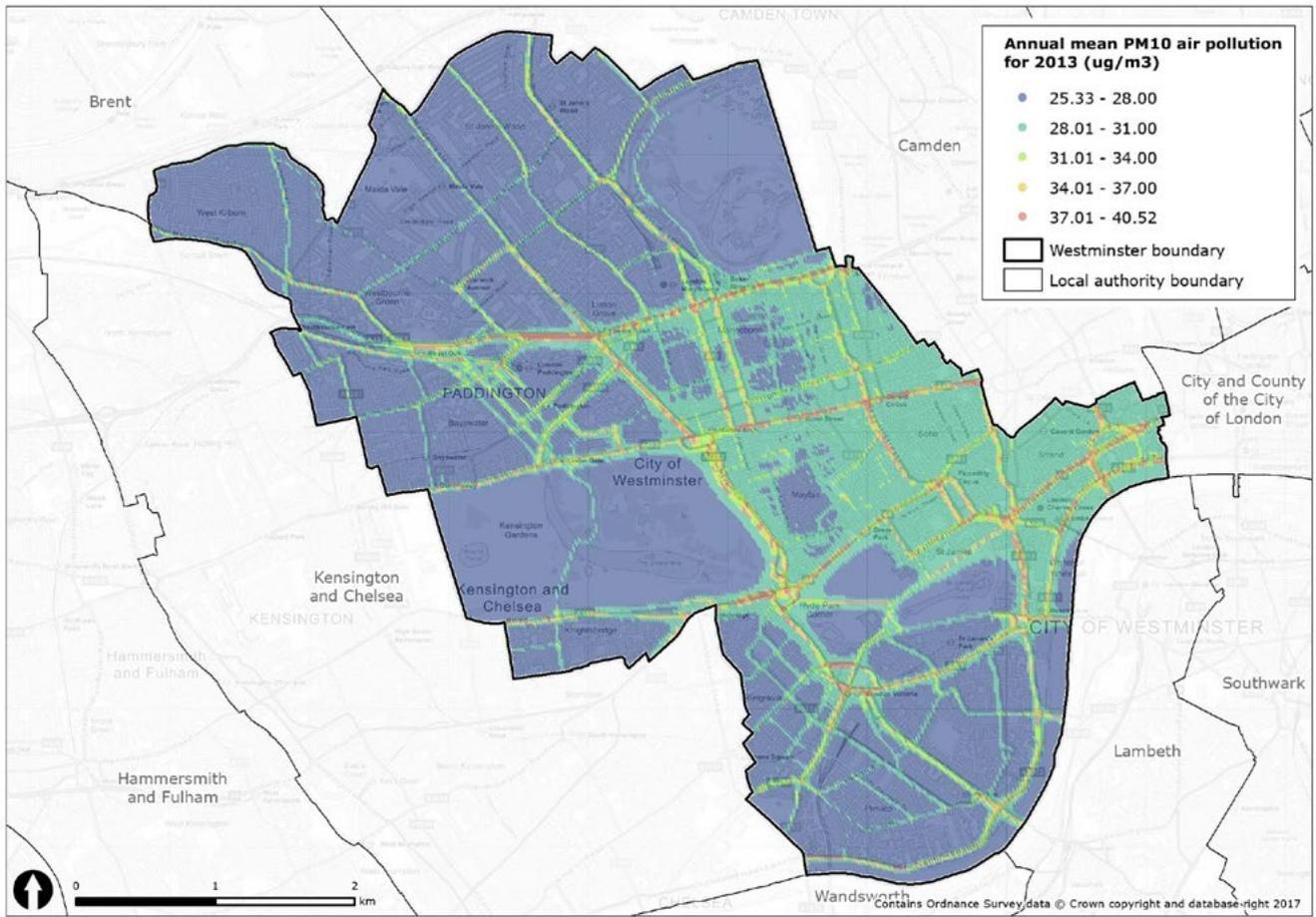


Figure 4 – Modelled PM10 air pollution according to 2013 measurements, LAEI 2016



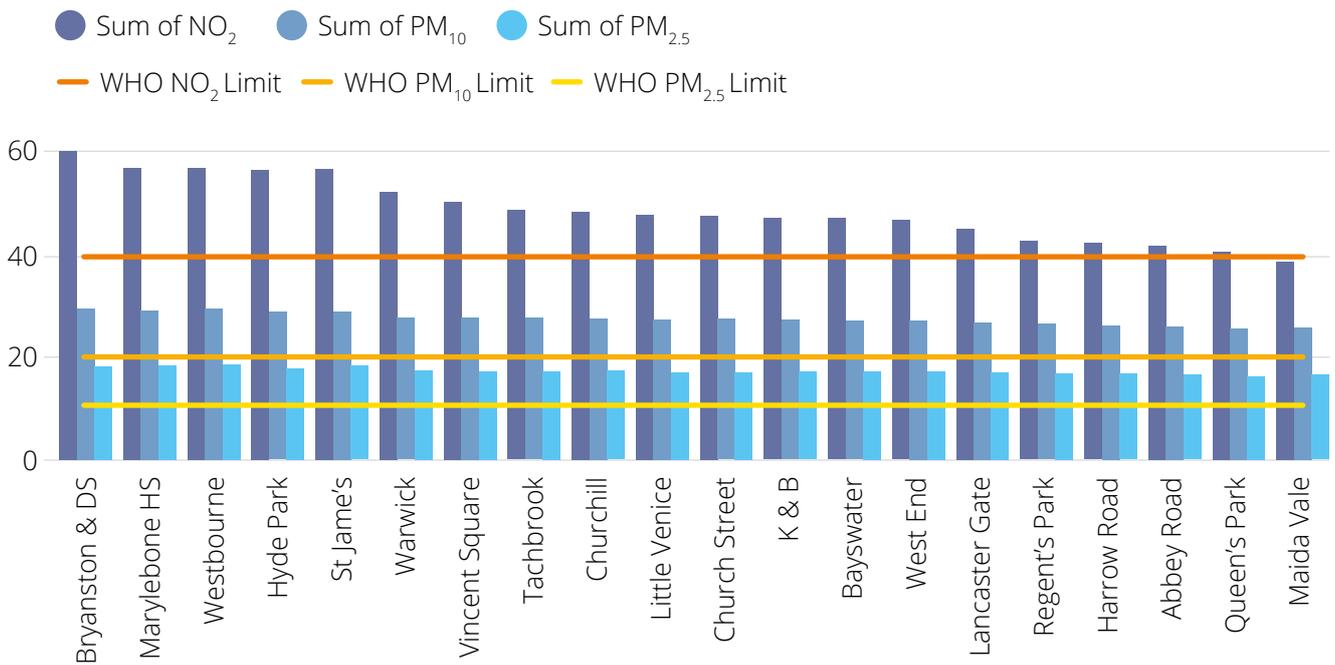
Modelled Data, GLA LAEI Report released 2016 based on 2013 figures

The below data is taken from the GLA’s London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (LAEI), released in 2016 but based on 2013 measures.

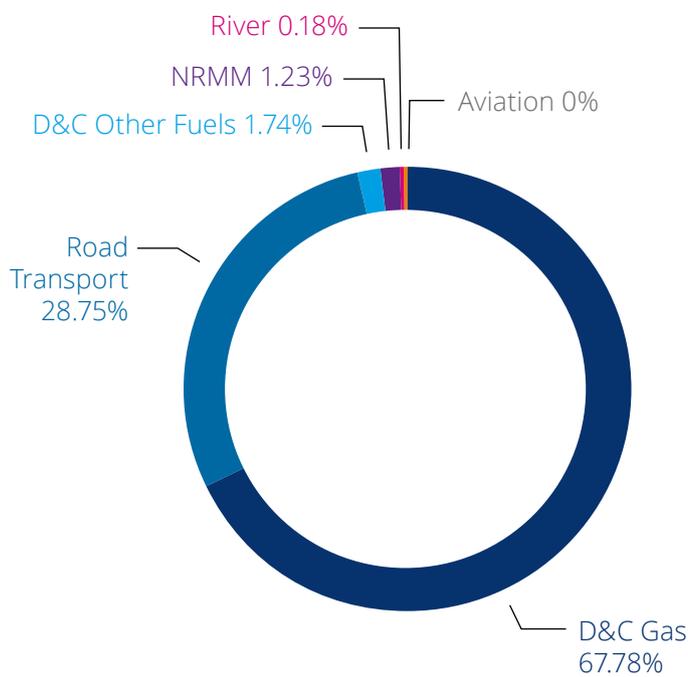
Figure 5 – Air Quality Concentrations in Westminster against EU & WHO guidelines

Pollutant	EU annual mean limit values	WHO annual mean guidelines <sup>2</sup>	Westminster annual mean concentration (2013) <sup>3</sup>	London annual mean concentration (2013) <sup>3</sup>
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	25µm/m <sup>3</sup>	10µm/m <sup>3</sup>	17.7µm/m <sup>3</sup>	15.3µm/m <sup>3</sup>
PM <sub>10</sub>	40µm/m <sup>3</sup>	20µm/m <sup>3</sup>	28.0µm/m <sup>3</sup>	24.0µm/m <sup>3</sup>
NO <sub>2</sub>	40µm/m <sup>3</sup>	40µm/m <sup>3</sup>	50.2µm/m <sup>3</sup>	30.6µm/m <sup>3</sup>

**Figure 6 – Air Quality Concentrations in Westminster at Ward Level**

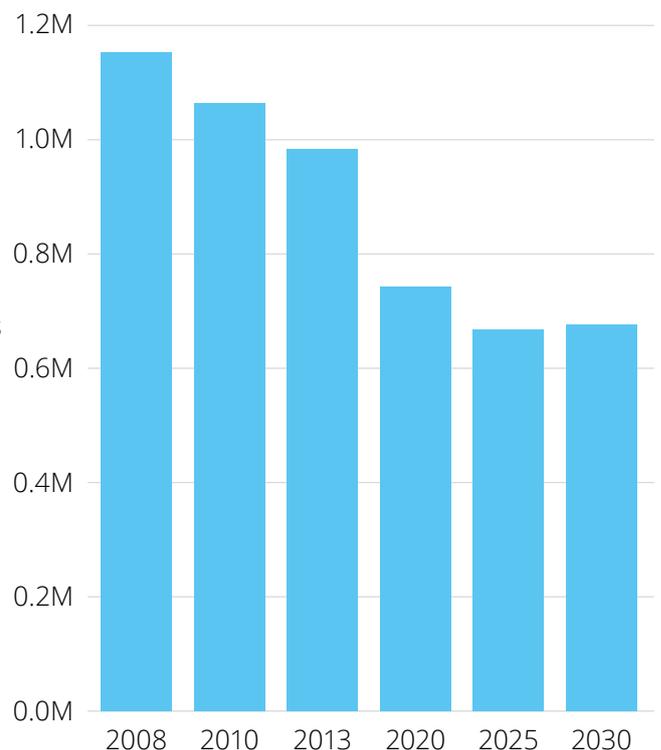


**Figure 7 – Westminster Emissions by Source Type (LAEI 2016, 2013 measures)**



A GLA Updated Analysis on Air Pollution, released in February of 2017, reported pollution concentrations are expected to be significantly lower in most areas by 2020, reducing the number of people exposed to poor air quality compared with the present. However, there are still expected to be 72,000 people exposed to exceedances of the EU limit value for NO<sub>2</sub> predicted in 2020 based on the modelling which includes planned measures.

**Figure 8 – Total estimated Emissions (LAEI 2016, 2013 measures)**



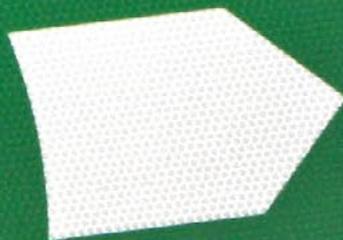
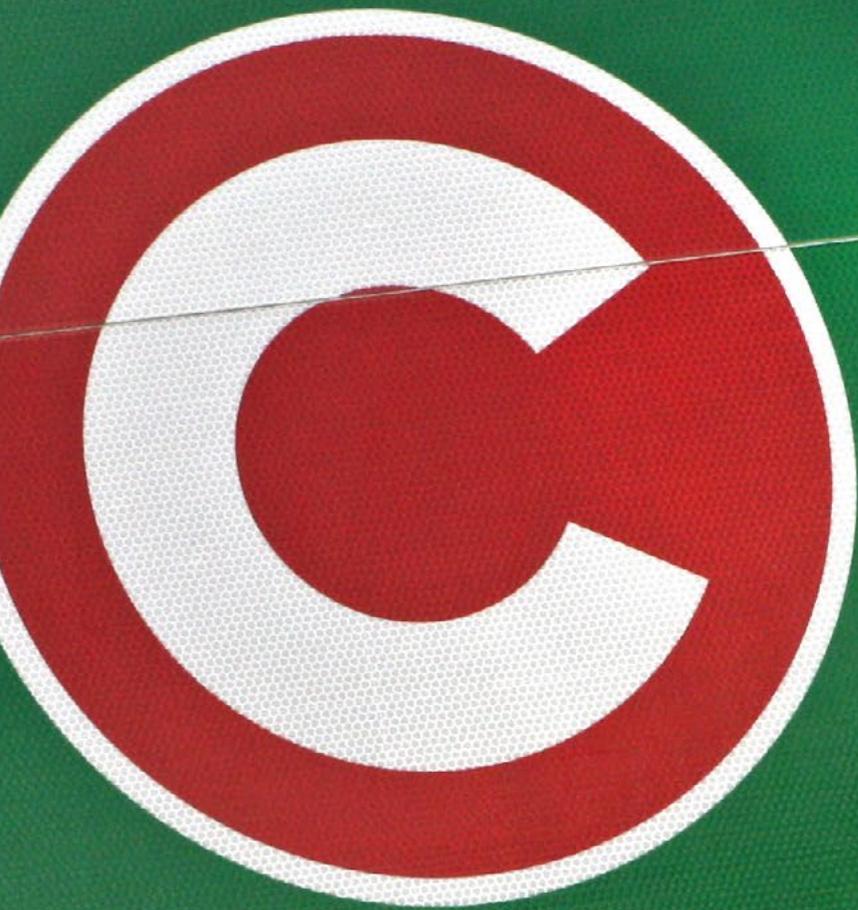
## What we did in Year 3

### Tackling emissions from the built environment

- Minimising and mitigating emissions from our built environment is a key area of our work on air quality. Air quality issues continue to be addressed proactively via planning application responses. We have assessed 32 major planning applications which included consideration of air quality issues. We successfully secured air quality off set funding of £10,000 in connection with a planning application where the transport emissions were not predicted to be air quality neutral. This was the first time in Westminster that air quality off set funding in connection with air quality neutral policy was achieved.
- Air quality monitoring continued at six locations across the borough for a variety of pollutants including Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulate Matter. We collect and publish real time air quality data on [londonair.org.uk](http://londonair.org.uk), helping residents and visitors be aware of current conditions.
- We commenced a robust proactive audit programme of Non Road Mobile Machinery on major construction sites to ensure compliance with emission standards and have completed 20 audits thus far.

### Tackling emissions from transport

- As the heat maps above of pollution levels in London show, tackling emissions from transport is a key priority for us. In 2018 we produced a Walking Strategy and an Active Westminster strategy to promote healthy living and active transport, helping influence changes in behaviour that reduce motor vehicle use in the city while also helping people lead healthier lifestyles.
- We have continued our national award winning **#DontBeldle** campaign to encourage everyone who drives in the city to switch off their engines when stationary to reduce unnecessary emissions. Over 14,000 people have signed our online pledge to help improve the air we all breathe.
- We have carried out a major public consultation on expanding our successful diesel parking surcharge to the whole of the city. This London-first policy was trialled in the Marylebone Low Emission Neighbourhood (see below) and successfully saw a surcharge of 50% added to pay to park charges for older diesel vehicles. We are now exploring the next steps for this policy.
- We're taking the lead on our own fleet, increasing the numbers of ultra low emission vehicles we operate, working with our suppliers to help them take action in this area, and retrofitting our waste fleet vehicles so they exceed the current highest standards for vehicle emissions.
- There are now currently 214 electric vehicle charge points including over 50 lamp column chargers as well as 44 charge points serving the car clubs in the city. We have written a new Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy to maintain Westminster's position as the UK's leading local authority for charging infrastructure.



**West  
End**

## CASE STUDY – MAYOR VISIT TO ST MARY'S BRYANSTON SQUARE PRIMARY SCHOOL AS PART OF THE CLEAN AIR AUDITS

Under the School Air Quality initiative launched by the Mayor of London last year, detailed air quality audits carried out in 50 schools across 23 London boroughs. These audits assessed the air quality in some of the capital's worst polluted schools and made a series of recommendations to protect pupils. Four Westminster schools received an audit:

- St Mary's Bryanston Square CE Primary School
- Hallfield Primary School
- St Clement Danes CE Primary School
- St Peter's Eaton CE Primary School

These include major infrastructure measures, such as closing roads or moving playgrounds and school entrances, as well as targeting indoor pollution using improved ventilation systems, and installing green 'pollution barrier' hedges, tackling engine idling outside schools and promoting cycling and walking.

On Thursday 24th May 2018 during Walk to School Week, the Mayor of London visited St Mary's Bryanston Square Primary School in Westminster, close to the busy Marylebone Road, where staff have already started working with City Hall, Transport for London and Westminster Council to implement some of their audit recommendations.

### Improvements at St Mary's include:

- Installing and testing a new filtration system to reduce pollution inside the school. This is being delivered with £20,000 in new funding from the Mayor and Westminster Council;
- The school has worked with the borough to trial a year-long closure of the busy road, Enford Street, outside its entrance, to traffic at the start and end of the school day. The trial will start this winter;
- Turning the staff car park into a garden and encouraging all staff and pupils to walk, cycle or use public transport;
- Working with British Land to install a 'green wall' – a variety of plants across a playground wall - to screen students playing outside from nearby traffic pollution;

- Involving pupils in a 'no-engine idling' campaign to help educate their parents on reduce harmful emissions.

The Mayor's new £1 million fund will provide each of the 50 audited schools with a £10,000 starter grant and enable any of the other London schools located in areas exceeding legal air pollution limits to apply for green infrastructure funding. Westminster council has pledged to match the Mayor's funding for our four audited schools.

The school had been chosen for the visit due to being truly invested in the promotion of active travel and air quality awareness.

The school not only have a travel plan but a Gold level of Accreditation under Transport for London's STARS programme.



There have been a further five schools that have taken part in air quality lessons and filming project within the Marylebone Low Emission Neighbourhood.

St Mary's Bryanston Square CE Primary School have also been awarded with Transport for London's Top School Award 2018 within the category of School of the Region (West) which recognises the work they have done for promoting active travel, improving air quality and road safety for their school community.

## CASE STUDY – ACTIVESTREETS

Our Air Quality Manifesto and ActiveWestminster strategies set out the importance of encouraging walking and cycling to schools, and the ways in which we can promote and further encourage healthy and active living. To do this, we are implementing our ActiveStreets initiative, which consists of 'School Streets', which temporarily closes the roads around school start and end times, 'Play Streets' which designates roads as a children's playground

during prescribed periods and also 'Street Play' which is temporary road closes to allow for events and activities to take place.

Westminster's first 'School Street' has been activated on Enford Street outside St Mary's Bryanston Square CE Primary School at the end of 2018. Our first 'Play Street' is due to be activated in Fisherton/Luton Street in April 2019.



### Marylebone Low Emission Neighbourhood (LEN)

In July 2016 the council obtained funding from the GLA to create a Low Emission Neighbourhood (LEN) in Marylebone. With the LEN ending in April 2019, we are completing our LEN projects and ensuring where we can, the successes of the LEN are being transferred into wider council policy:

#### 50% Diesel Surcharge

The trial diesel surcharge for older diesel vehicles using Westminster's pay and display bays has now been operational for 18 months in the LEN. There has been a 16% reduction in the number of older diesel vehicles parking in the LEN, without any obvious displacement to nearby zones. As a result, in 2018 we consulted on rolling this surcharge out across the rest of the city.

#### Urban realm improvements

Improvements to the streetscape in Marylebone began as part of the Marylebone Low Emission Neighbourhood. Once completed in summer 2019 the works will deliver a greener, people-friendly environment supporting more walking and cycling including:

- New and improved pedestrian zebra crossings
- Additional cycle parking
- Over a dozen new street trees
- Low-level planting to support wildlife and absorb pollution

## MARLEBONE LOW EMISSION NEIGHBOURHOOD

### Schools engagement programme

Schools engagement programme is ongoing, with a full uptake of schools participating in the final year of the programme. Three informational videos have already been produced in collaboration with schools, and five School Street events have been held.

### Air quality monitoring 'backpack'

Air quality monitoring walks using an innovative mobile 'backpack' air quality monitor have taken place in collaboration with a variety of partners, helping to build a picture of relative concentrations of black carbon (closely attributable to diesel vehicle emissions) around the LEN area.

### Vehicle Idling

The anti-idling campaign has provided two dedicated Air Quality champions alongside traffic enforcement officers for one year. They engaged with nearly 1000 idling drivers per month. We have also have over 14,000 pledges to our award-winning **#DontBeldle** campaign. An informational training video has been developed for fleet drivers educating them on the harms caused by engine idling, which can be found at <https://youtu.be/Uih2k7q1sKI>

# 3. Delivering affordable, secure and low-carbon energy supply

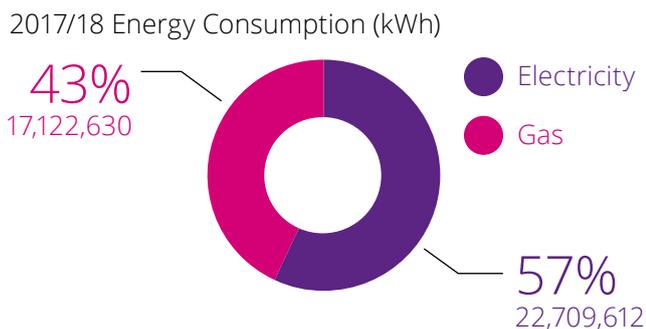
Westminster has one of the highest levels of energy consumption in the UK and uses more energy in our authority boundary than whole cities like Newcastle, Glasgow and Cardiff. Powering heating and cooling in our homes and offices often produces wasted energy resulting in high levels of carbon emissions and air pollutants being pumped into the atmosphere.

In supporting a significant economic output, 24 hour living and transport systems and the heritage nature of most of our buildings, we put extreme pressure on our localised energy infrastructure. This is especially true in the busy West End.

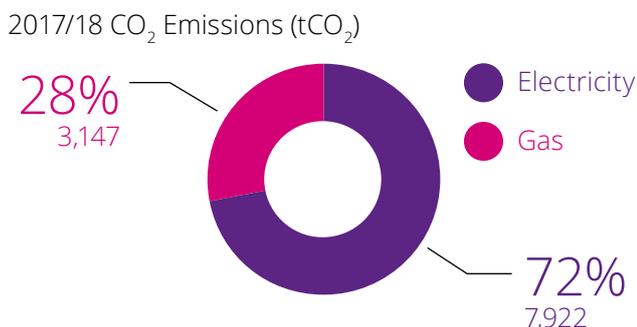
We understand how important it is to make sure we are doing all we can with our own building stock to show leadership in this area. In 2017, Westminster City Council's total consumption for electricity and gas in our corporate and operational assets was 39,832,242 kWh.

In terms of our own energy consumption, in 2017 the Council spent £3,747,589 on gas and electricity; this is £51,750 less than 2016. This has been achieved by way of the rollout of energy efficiency upgrades in a number of our libraries (further detailed below). It is our ongoing ambition and commitment to reduce the energy consumption, thereby reduce the carbon emissions, from our corporate operation assets against a 2014/15 baseline by 20% by 2019 and £750K has been set aside for next year to work towards this target.

**Figure 9 - The individual figures and percentage split are detailed in the pie chart below:**



**Figure 10 - These kWh figures equate to the respective CO<sub>2</sub> emissions provided in the pie chart below.**



## What we did in Year 3

- We have installed energy efficiency measures in five of the libraries in Westminster. We expect to see substantial reductions in the utility cost, consumption and emissions from these sites, which will improve the savings already achieved. We have seen overall reduction of 95,974 kWh consumed by the electricity and gas supplies at the sites, resulting in subsequent emissions reductions of 29 tCO<sub>2</sub>.
- Additionally, there are a further 15 Corporate Operational sites being surveyed for energy efficiency upgrades and these will yield further savings moving forward.

## CASE STUDY– ACTIVEWESTMINSTER, LEISURE CONTRACT

Reducing carbon emissions across the council's leisure centres through a programme of capital investment and refined operational practices.

Through a series of capital schemes and by appointing a Carbon Reduction champion at each site, the Council's Leisure Contractor – Everyone Active, have reduced electricity use by 6.24% and gas use by 13.4% 2017 vs 2016 (July-November) Further reductions are targeted over the next period.

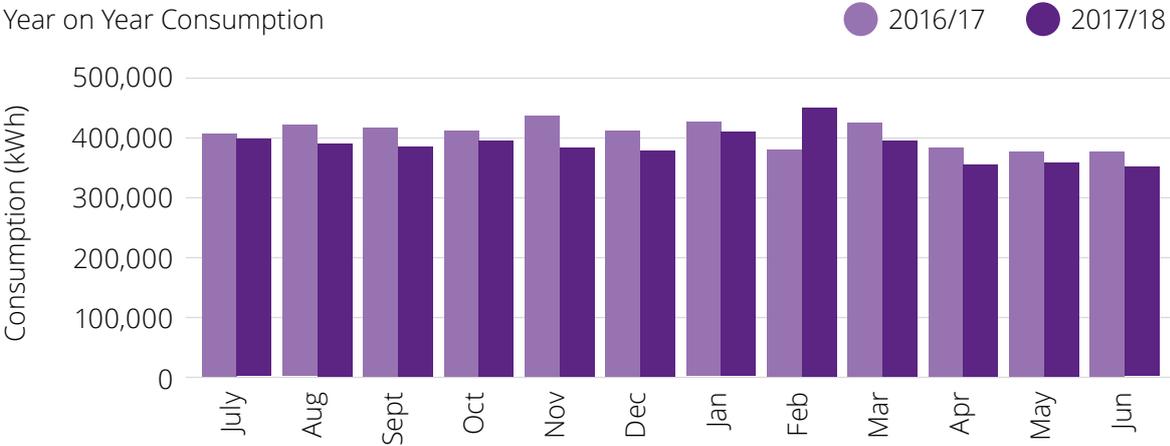
Since the start of our new Leisure contract on the 1st July 2016, Everyone Active have committed to installing a number of energy reducing initiatives, from Variable Speed Drives in the plant rooms for pool pumps and air handling plant to a number of LED light replacements across sites. The majority of this work was undertaken in contract year one, however, we continued to look at opportunities across the sites to install LEDs as and when there have been lighting failures as well as sourcing more energy efficient replacements whenever there have been mechanical and engineering and pool plant works.

Everyone Active also continue, as a company standard, to have a Carbon Reduction Champion (CRC) nominated at each site who works with the teams to ensure best practices are undertaken to reduce our carbon footprint. These range from signage across the sites encouraging colleagues to turn lights and computers off when not in use, as well as ensuring air conditioning units are only turned on when necessary and are always kept within certain parameters.

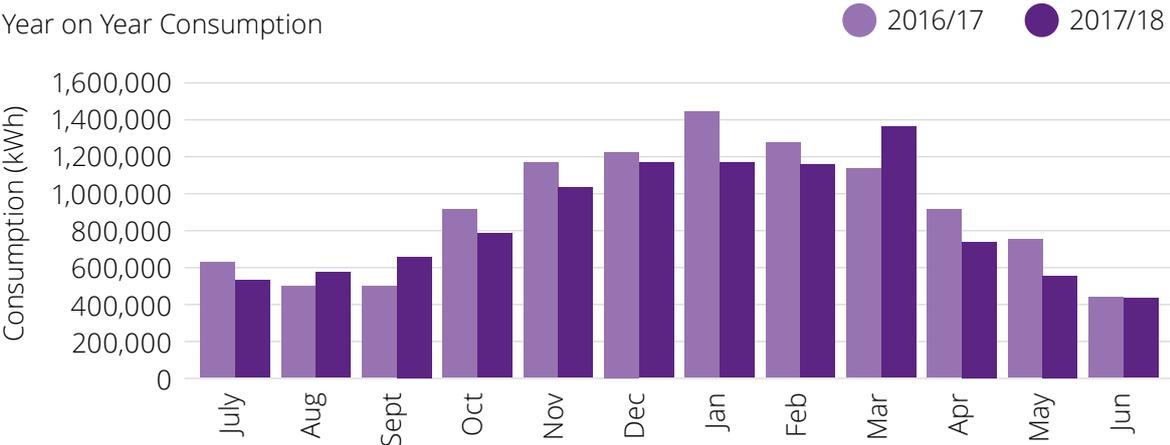
They also hold CRC seminars twice yearly to ensure that current industry best practices are shared with our CRCs to take back to site to ensure we are operating as 'greenly' as possible.

With the help of both the Council and our waste contractors, Veolia we have also introduced recycling bins across our sites in the past year, along with educational posters, to help our customers and colleagues recycle as much as possible to reduce our impact on the environment.

**Figure 11 – Electricity Consumption for Westminster leisure centres**



**Figure 12 – Gas Consumption for Westminster leisure centres**



# 4. Making better use of the city's waste resources

Westminster collected nearly 190,000 tonnes of municipal waste in 2017/18. The recycling rate was 20.36% in 2017/18, up from 19.31% in 2015/16.

Increasing the recycling rates in the city is extremely challenging. The reasons for this are numerous: we have over 23,000 households with a daily waste collection service; we provide a commercial waste collection service to 14,000 customers; a high turnover of residents; waste is managed by gate keepers (cleaner, porter, managing agent, concierge etc) rather than the waste producer; large number of short term lets; a high proportion of flats making storage and segregation of waste difficult; streets being swept 24 hours a day generating 10% of the total waste arising; and historic building design; and waste generation patterns necessitating many commercial streets having three waste collections a day, which can dis-incentivise the segregation of waste.

We have agreed a target with the Mayor of London to recycle 35% of City Council collected waste by 2020, and we are making gradual progress through our awareness campaigns and Recycling Champions scheme. Plans are in place to continue increasing the quantity and quality of recycling collected, but this will take time, especially when the economy is strong and household waste collected increases.

**We will launch a new Recycling Information Hub and roll out five neighbourhood pilots including the expansion of our In It To Win It campaign, working with local neighbourhoods to achieve a step change in recycling rates across the city**

**Figure 13 - Percentage growth in municipal waste**

2017/18 waste tonnage pcm

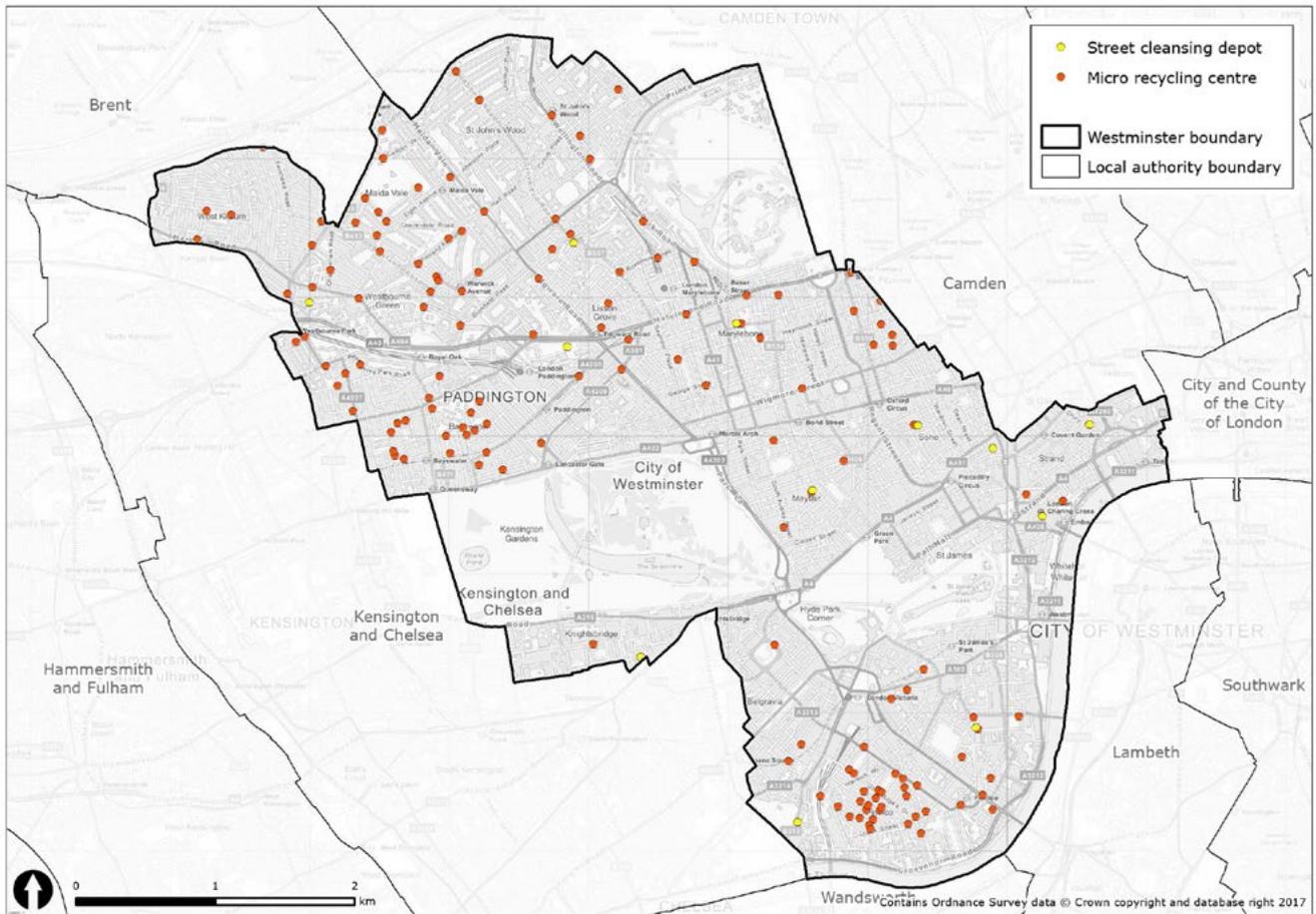


**Figure 14 - Municipal waste recycling rate**

2017/18 recycling rate pcm



Figure 15 – Municipal waste and recycling infrastructure



### Coffee cup recycling scheme to be expanded

London's first coffee cup recycling scheme is to be expanded into new areas following a three-month trial in the West End. The scheme, called 'Good to-go', uses street sweepers to collect used coffee cups from the pavement and directly from members of the public. Dedicated recycling bins for coffee cups have also been placed on the street. Over 250,000 cups were recycled from April to November from Westminster businesses and from street cleansing operations in St James's, Piccadilly, Leicester Square, Baker Street and the Carnaby Street area. Westminster City Council and recycling company Veolia are working on expanding the scheme further.



## What we did in Year 3

- Less than one per cent municipal waste sent to landfill
- Bulky waste reuse and recycling began in September 2017. During 2017/18 643 tonnes of bulky and fly tipped waste was collected. 63% of it was segregated for recycling and 27% of it was turned into Refuse Derived Fuel for energy from waste treatment.
- Coffee cup recycling trial on Victoria Street and in St James' Ward in partnership with Heart of London Business Alliance and Veolia. The scheme was extended in September 2018 to cover Baker Street Quarter and the Carnaby Estate (Shaftesbury PLC)
- A number of high profile commercial waste contracts have been activated enabling businesses to recycle more
- Street Action Waste Team (SWAT) project in progress to improve local environmental quality in residential areas
- Community engagement, 25 events organised with help from the Recycling Champions
- Recycling rewards for 5 CityWestHomes Estates totalling £5000
- Further expansion of commercial waste recycling, proposal for 2 new recycling collection rounds
- Ultra low emission refuse and recycling fleet. Trial of electric powered and hydrogen powered collection trucks
- Community engagement at South West Fest, MyWestminster Day, Westbourne Green Summer Festival and Queens Park Summer Fair
- Project with Resource London and Peabody Homes to increase recycling in flats
- Nomination for the National Clean Air Awards for the Heart of London waste consolidation scheme
- Baker Street Quarter won a Westminster Lions Awards after being nominated for their waste consolidation scheme project



# 5. Supporting a sustainable transport system for Westminster

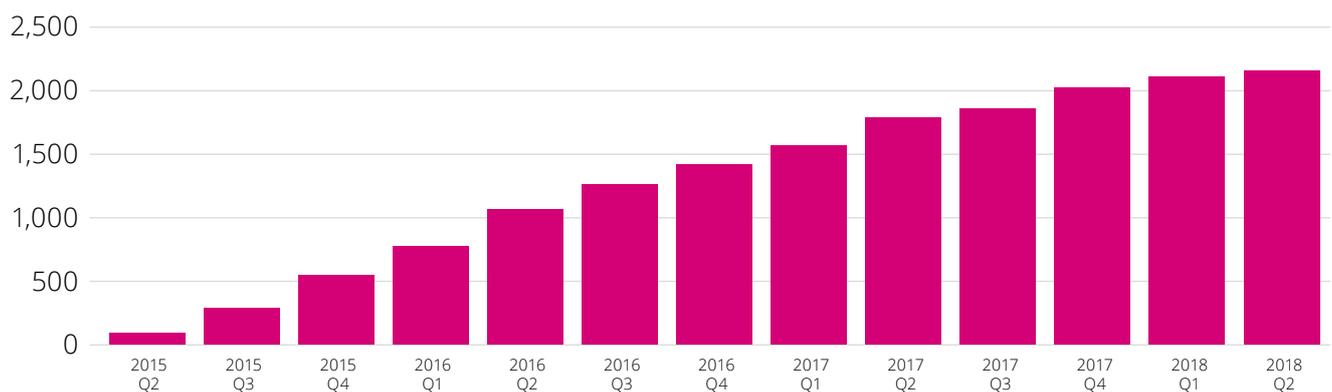
Westminster is one of the best served locations by public transport in the world. Given the numbers of people in Westminster (residents, visitors and workers) the transport network and public realm can struggle to cope with the demands. With this intensity of use, there are issues such as overcrowding, poor air quality, social isolation, noise and road safety.

 We will expand our network of 165 electric charging points by 25%, making it as easy as possible for people to switch to electric vehicles.

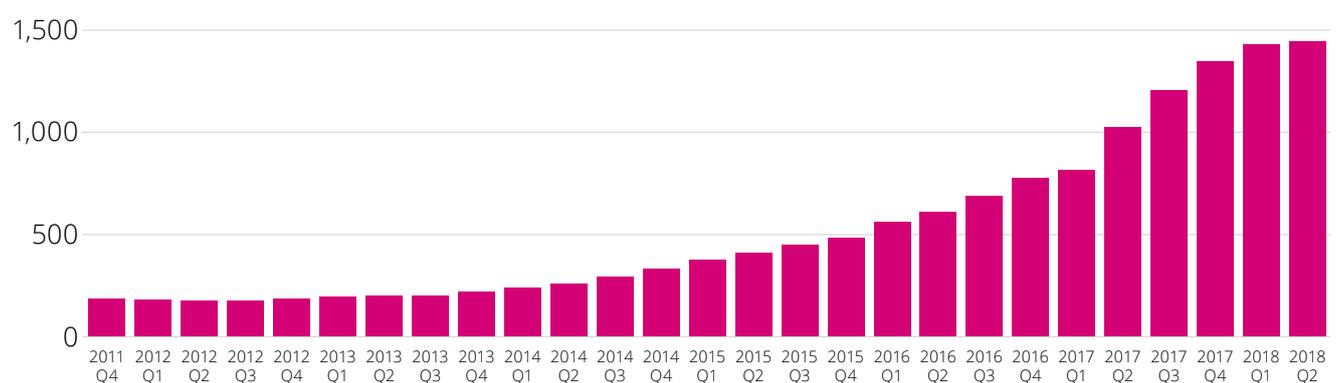
## Expansion of On-Street Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging

There are currently 214 electric vehicle charge points including 73 lamp column chargers as well as 44 charge points serving our car sharing club. Sales of EVs and their corresponding new registrations to Westminster addresses and plug-in hybrid vehicles (PHEVs) have continued to grow in recent years and the Council has tried to complement this growth by expanding the number of charge points available to drivers. There are currently 1857 active resident Eco permits, which is up 26% from the previous year.

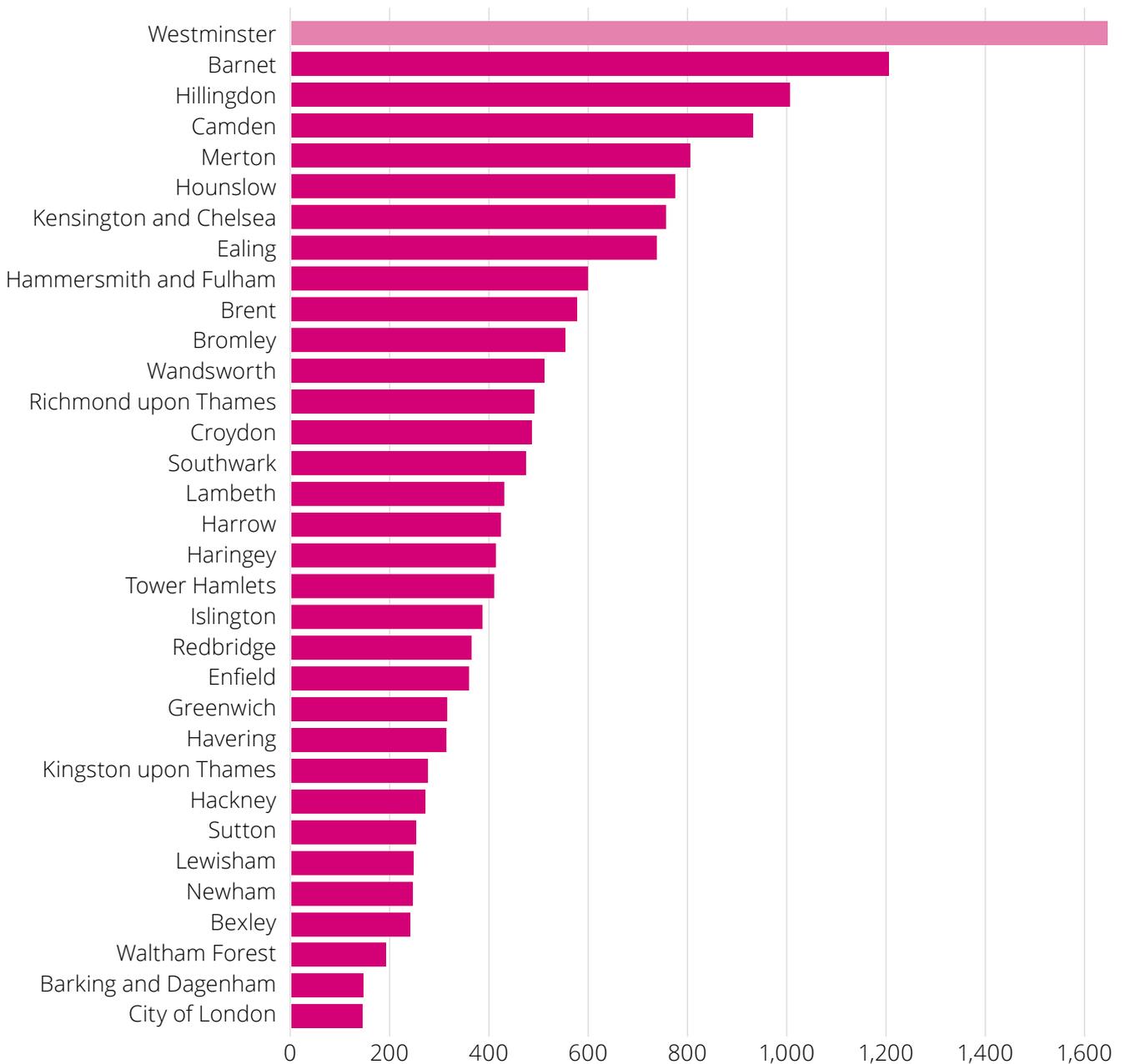
**Figure 16 - EV Permits**



**Figure 17 - EV Registered**



**Figure 18 – Westminster city council is leading other London boroughs in the number of registered ultra-low emission vehicles.**



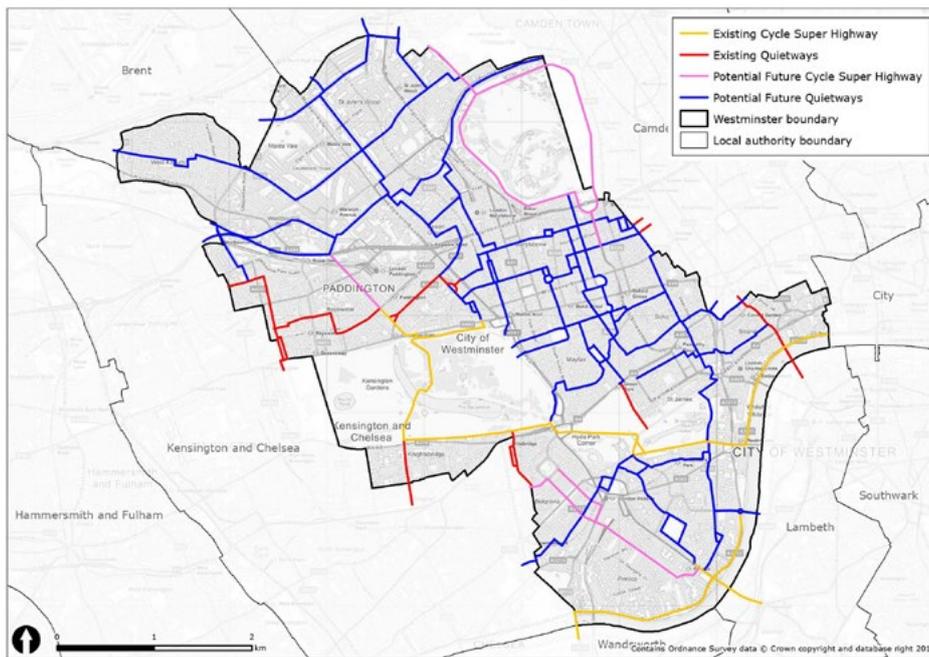
**Figure 19 – Westminster’s EV Bays and Lamp column charge points (alongside bays) by Supplier, October 2018**

Operator	Points/ Pillars	Bays
Podpoint	9	11
Chargemaster / Electromotive	39	47
Electromotive Car Club	25	44
BPL	39	39
Ubitricity	73	0
<b>Total (excl Car Club)</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>97</b>

Note – Most charging pillars have two 7kW connections, so in many cases a single pillar serves two bays simultaneously. Therefore the network currently allows 214 vehicles to charge simultaneously in Westminster.

A contract has been procured through the TfL framework delivering rapid chargers for taxis. This will deliver 10 50kW charge points at 6 locations throughout the City to support the transition of the London taxi fleet to Zero Emission Capability. Planning applications have been submitted, with plans for roll out at taxi rest and refreshment ranks early in the new year.

**Figure 20 – Existing and potential Cycling ‘Super Highways’ and ‘Quietway’s’ in Westminster City Council**



Research indicates that the approach to city planning with the greatest potential to health benefits is one where walking, cycling and public transport are supported by a safe infrastructure and given prioritisation over private motorised forms of transport.

### Westminster Car Club

The City Council procured new contracts for the car club, with Zipcar being awarded a two year contract to continue to provide the round trip service from the 185 car club bays across the City, including 44 EV bays. In addition, flexible car sharing was introduced to Westminster in the summer, through contracts with DriveNow and Zipcar, that deliver approximately 150 additional car sharing vehicles for use by residents and businesses. Both suppliers have committed to 30% of their fleet being fully electric at contract start with plans to move to a fully electric fleet by 2025. Zipcar have already introduced over 300 full EVs into their London wide fleet and are reporting that approximately 25% of flexible journeys in Westminster are in EVs. The introduction of flexible car sharing has seen significant increases in membership too with an increase of nearly 20% since the new contract started in July to 13,500 members.



Sources: Zipcar and DriveNow 2018

## What we did in Year 3

- The Westminster Walking Strategy was adopted in December 2017. [https://www.westminster.gov.uk/sites/www.westminster.gov.uk/files/wcc\\_walking\\_strategy\\_2018.pdf](https://www.westminster.gov.uk/sites/www.westminster.gov.uk/files/wcc_walking_strategy_2018.pdf)
- ActiveWestminster strategy launched in March 2018
- We have already started on the delivery of a small number of new Pedestrian schemes following the adoption of the Walking Strategy.
- Cycling schemes include the relet of the large Cycle Training contract which enables accredited free of charge training to all residents, workers and visitors to Westminster. We continues to support its Cycle Loan, Doctor Bike, Cycle Stand and Cycle Superhighways and Quietways schemes.
- The City Council's trial of 20mph Limits at up to 40 locations across Westminster has been made permanent.
- There are currently 214 electric vehicle charge points including 73 lamp column chargers as well as 44 charge points serving the car club.
- An electric vehicle strategy is in production with an aim to formally complete in January 2019 which will determine how the council moves forward with electric vehicle charging.
- Approval has been granted the expansion of the number of charge points available on the highway in the City. This includes for a further 10 rapid charge points for taxis, as well as 10 publically available rapid charge points. In addition approval has been given to install 35 additional BPL charge points including 15 7kW and 20 22kW charge points alongside dedicated EV bays. Approval has also been granted to expand the number of lamp column charge points alongside resident parking bays, providing a total of approximately 240 by mid-summer 2019.
- There are 93 schools in Westminster City Council and currently 88 schools (95%) have renewed their travel plan as of 31st July 2018.
- 20 schools have been awarded Transport for London's STARS Accreditation Level which recognises the work, time and effort schools have made to increase sustainable mode of travel use and road safety awareness. We currently have seven Bronze, one Silver and 12 Gold accredited schools.
- A new round trip car club contract was procured and awarded to Zipcar to continue to provide the service for the 185 vehicles located in the City. A new flexible car sharing service was introduced through two new contracts awarded to DriveNow and Zipcar that nearly doubles the number of available car club vehicles in Westminster.



# 6. Making the best use of open spaces and improving local biodiversity

Our latest audit shows a total of 204 open spaces, the majority of which offer free access to the public. This means Westminster is able to provide more than the national average amount of publicly available open space, with 2.17 hectares per 1000 resident population.

The number of green walls and roofs are steadily increasing, creating more green space aiding air quality and biodiversity, as well as making people feel happier. There is strong evidence that green spaces directly improve our health. Green spaces are associated with a raft of health benefits. Promoting green spaces encourages pro-environmental behaviour and mitigates climate change by encouraging low carbon travel. While these new green spaces are broadly spread out across the City, we do have some areas of wildlife deficiency; something that our new Green Spaces and Biodiversity Strategy (2018) aims to tackle.

Our new four year ActiveWestminster strategy will ensure we maximise the use of our Parks and Open Spaces for physical activity, leisure and sport, ensuring that this is supported, permitted and enabled, supported by our ParkMakers scheme.

Remove restrictive signage and byelaws such as 'No Ball Games' and 'No Cycling' to create a more permissive and supportive environment for physical activity, leisure and sport, wherever possible and where appropriate.

**Figure 21 – Sites of Importance for Natural Conservation in Westminster City Council (GiGL, 2016)**

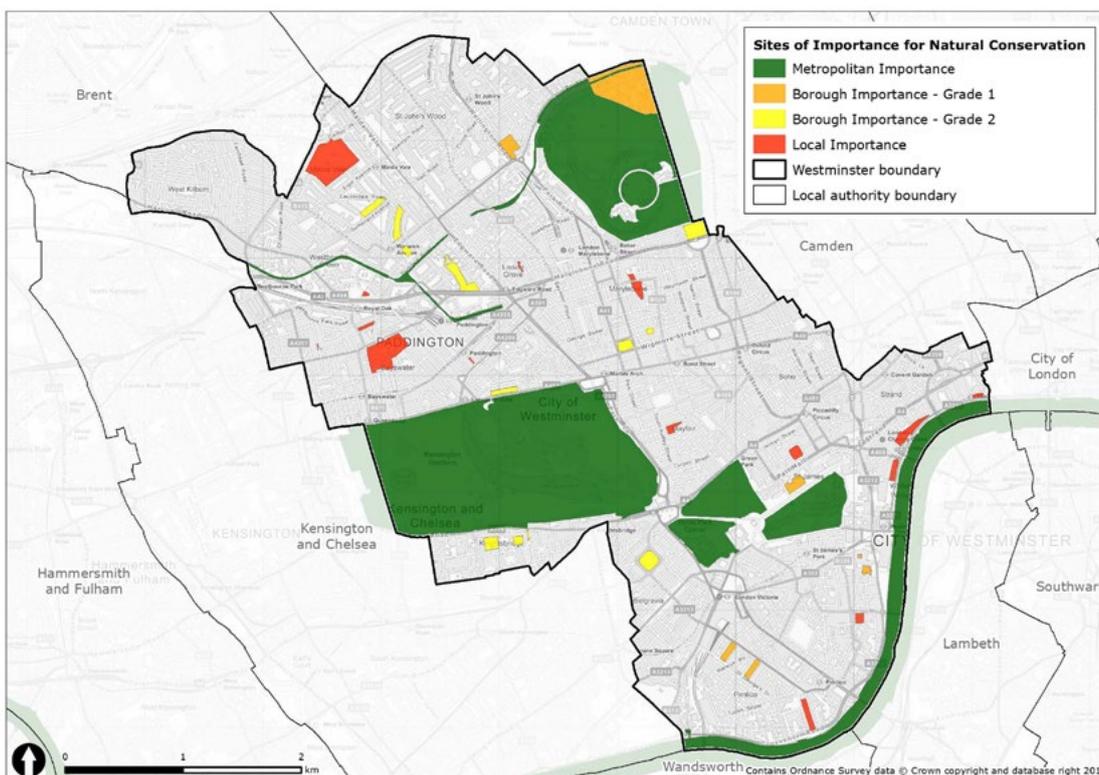


Figure 22 – Areas estimated to experience Wildlife Deficiency in Westminster City Council (GiGL, 2016)

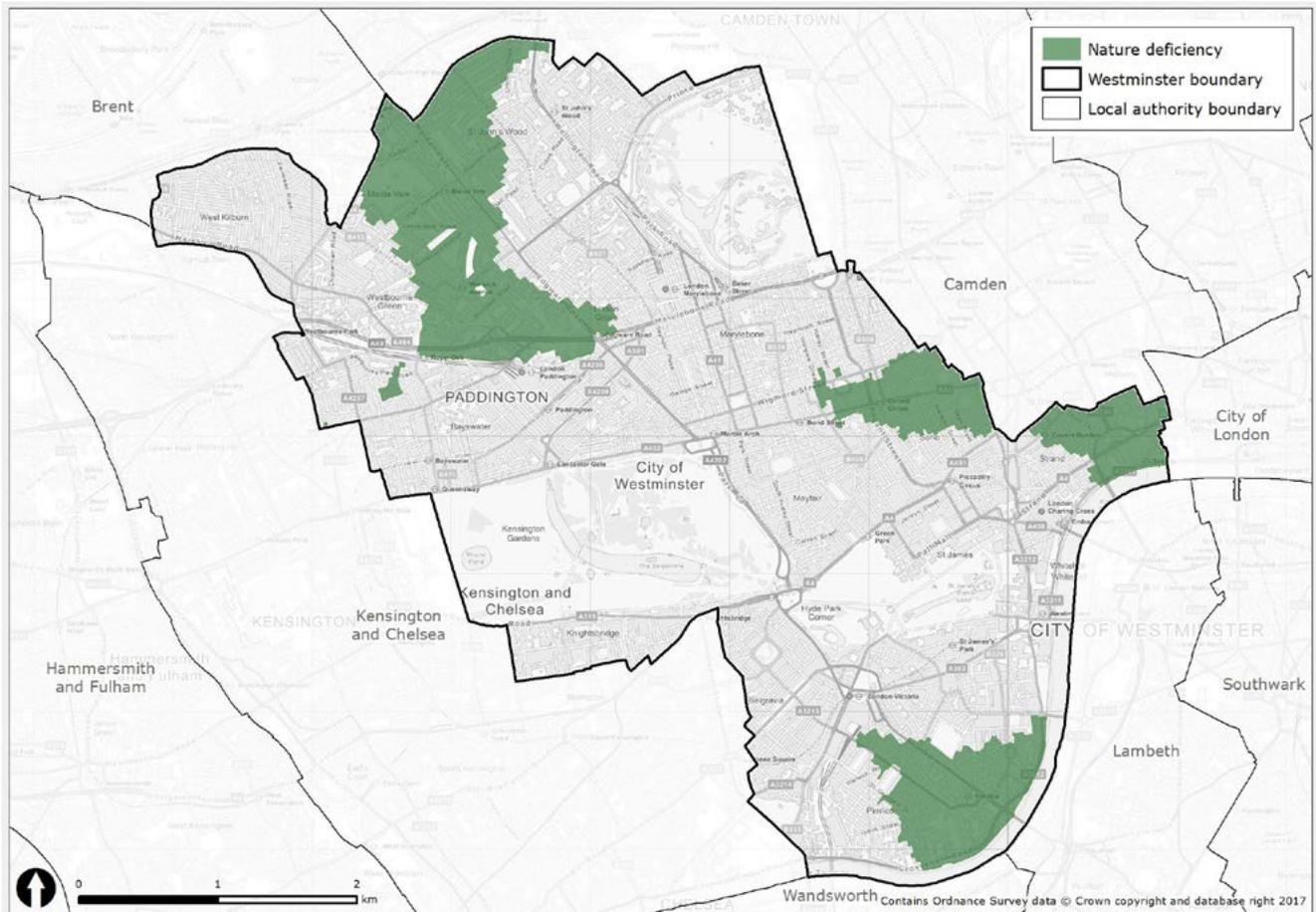
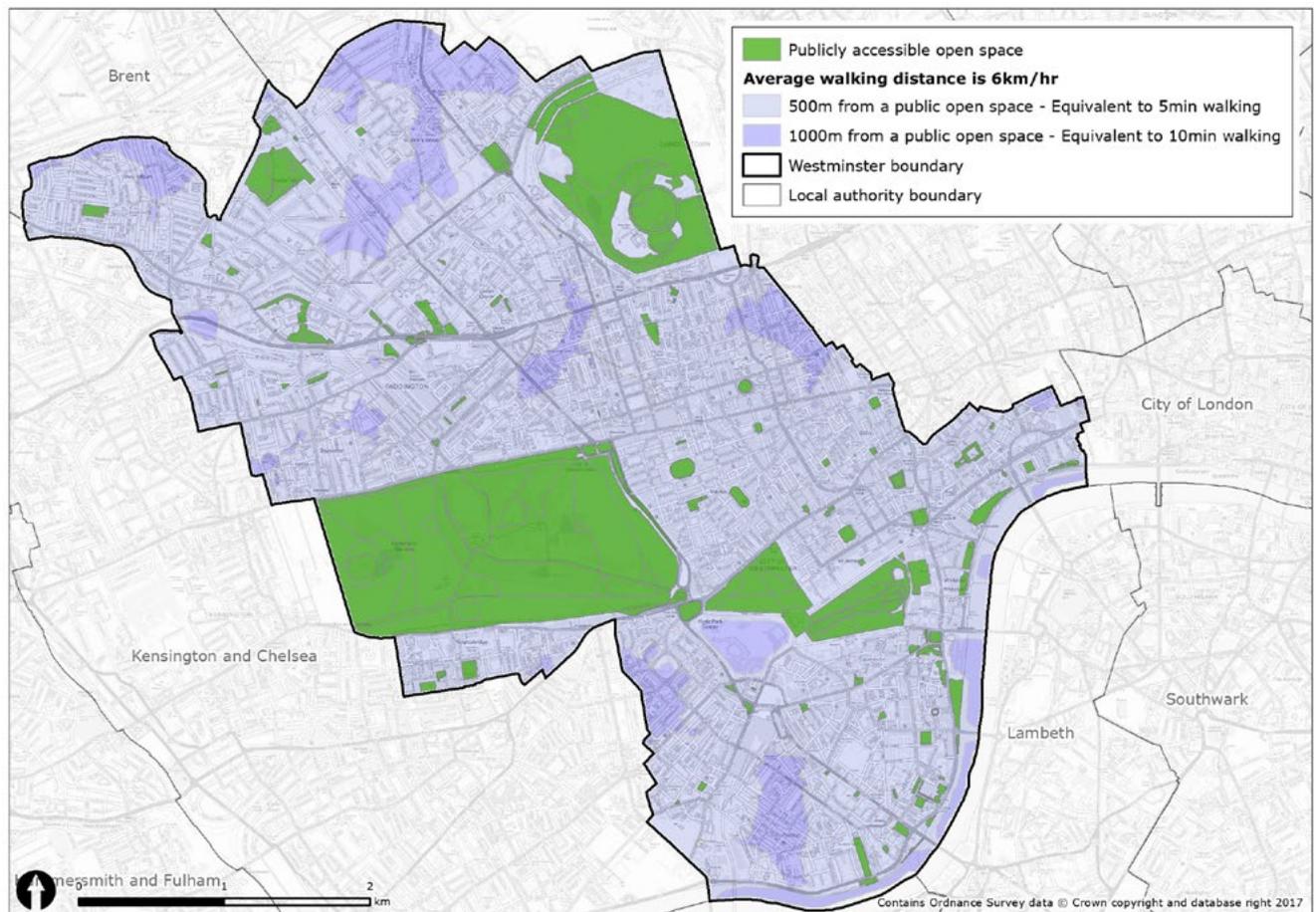


Figure 23 – Modelled accessibility of open space in Westminster within 500 and 1000m walk, 2016



## Open and Green spaces

The wildlife garden at Paddington Recreation Ground has been extended and further developed, enabling more children and families than ever to benefit from opportunities to learn about nature, through our Forest Schools programme. The number of children participating in our outdoor learning sessions in 2017/18 are:

	Sessions Participated
April 2017	322
May 2017	861
June 2017	2191
July 2017	552
August 2017	471
September 2017	510
October 2017	702
November 2017	486
December 2017	260
January 2018	671
February 2018	742
March 2018	830
<b>Total</b>	<b>8598</b>

At Paddington Recreation Ground (PRG) we have also planted a number of trees, plants and shrubs to improve the open spaces for visitors.

### Bluebell Glade

New planting approx: 763 sq m

### Edible Forest Garden

New planting approx: 636.5 sq m

New trees: 26

### Playground development

New planting approx: 606 sq m

New trees: 43

### Wildlife Area

New planting approx: 516 sq m

New trees: 6

Pond areas: 27 sq metres planting

### Memorial Trees

New trees: 6

Total new planting: 2,548.5 sq m  
(just over half an acre of new planting)

### Total new trees = 81

This is not including the 16 new trees to be planted on the boundary with CWH project which are not yet planted and the 19 new trees in the gym extension. Including these trees would take the tree total to 116 new trees in PRG.



There is strong evidence that green spaces directly improve our health. Green spaces are associated with a raft of health benefits including; improved mental health and wellbeing as well as improved cognitive function and stress reduction, increased self-esteem and improved sleep quality.

**From a physical view point, green spaces are linked with:**

- Improved respiratory health through improved air quality
- Increased physical activity and fitness
- Reduced obesity
- Reduced cardiovascular morbidity, particularly for stroke
- Lower rates of type 2 diabetes
- Better pregnancy outcomes
- Overall reduced mortality.

**Communities also benefit from green spaces in other ways than just health and wellbeing:**

- Reducing air pollution
- Buffering noise pollution
- Helping with urban cooling by reducing high temperatures by providing natural shade
- Increasing social capital
- Reducing social isolation and improving community cohesion
- Reducing crime.

One of the UK's busiest parks, at the heart of Leicester Square, has been awarded a Green Flag by Keep Britain Tidy. The Green Flag scheme recognises well managed parks and green spaces, and is Westminster City Council's 24th this year.



# 7. Managing water use and flood risk

In Westminster, water is needed for human consumption, dust damping, washing and cleansing, waste removal, and watering planting. Our current demand for water is unsustainable, and as the number of Londoners increases and summer rainfall decreases, there are challenges to meet demand. As well as using water, the water courses we have transport goods, people, and waste and the demand on this is likely to increase.

Westminster is well protected against tidal flooding with the Thames Barrier, but during periods of extreme weather events, which are anticipated to increase in frequency and intensity, heavy rainfall is the most likely source of surface water flooding. The Council, and partners have a role to play in managing this risk and improving the resilience of people and property to future flooding. New developments can help mitigate this by complying with planning policies designed to improve drainage locally through the introduction of sustainable urban drainage schemes (SUDS).

There were 449 flooding incidents recorded by the London Fire Brigade in 2017/18, an overall rise of 8% upon the previous year. The overall pattern of monthly call outs varied, there were fewer call outs in Spring 2017, a rise over the summer and a peak in March of 2018 which saw 75 call outs.

We are currently in the process of doing a feasibility study in all WCC leisure centres to install water fill up station as part of the 'single plastic use' campaign. We will then look to extend this to all WCC libraries.

With support from the Council, our Leisure Contractor, Everyone Active, secured funding from the Mayor to install additional water fountains in Paddington Recreation Ground in autumn 2018.

**Figure 24 - Flooding Incidents in Westminster by month recorded by London Fire Brigade, 2016/17 & 2017/18**





# 8. Ensuring that sustainability is delivered through economic development

London's green economy continued to grow between 2008 and 2013 in contrast to national growth trends. Over 9,200 green businesses in London (18% of the national total) now employ over 163,500 people. This sector was worth approximately £25.4bn to London's economy in 2011/12, and has grown by more than 5% over each of the last two years, one of the quickest growing sectors in London.

The same study shows that this growth is predicted to continue to the end of the decade by approximately 6% per year. Within London this sector includes financial institutions trading on carbon, consultancies and small start-up energy efficiency companies. It is a high value sector which requires a range of skills. This is a longer-term ambition, but initial work is underway to enable us to meet the ambitions.

## Connect Westminster

To date the Economy Team have issued 472 vouchers of which 153 have live connections.

The impact on the businesses connectivity is a 1,657% download speed uplift and a 9,367% upload speed uplift. This is a transformational increase in speeds which will enable firms to implement cloud computing, agile working, etc which help to mitigate their impact on the environment.

## Green Business Information

The Business Unit have compiled a list of business support programmes that support SMEs in Westminster to access green business support. The pages will include:

- Cycling schemes
- Freight consolidation schemes
- Plug-In Vehicle scheme
- Boiler Cashback Scheme
- Feed-in tariff scheme
- Recycling and waste schemes
- Grant schemes
- Energy Efficiency fund

The pages will also explore how a business can map their carbon footprint.



# 9. Communicating and encouraging people into environmental action

Effective communications play a vital role in helping to achieve the council's vision for a sustainable Westminster. It demonstrates the council taking the lead and strengthens the council's position when lobbying central government. Our communications work encourages those in Westminster to adopt more environmentally-friendly behaviours such as recycling more and not dropping litter, taking steps to protect and improve their health, and everyone's environment.



## CASE STUDY– SURPRISE VISIT TO FOREST SCHOOL

Children at Paddington Recreation Ground were treated to a very special surprise visitor in October, when the Duchess of Cambridge dropped in to the Forest School

The visit was Kate's first royal engagement since the birth of Prince Louis in April and she took the time to learn more about bugs, enjoy story time and help the children with their arts and crafts.

Zoe Stroud, head of outdoor learning, said: "The children were thrilled to have the Duchess with them, some calling her 'your Majesty', and rushing to show her the lovely leaf crowns they had made.

"When it was time to say goodbye one of the children asked the Duchess for a hug. She of course obliged, which just sums her up – she was so great with the kids."

Children from St Augustine's and St Stephen's primary schools were on site at Paddington Recreation Ground and had the chance to meet the future queen.

And the Duchess did not disappoint, chatting to them about the natural world and all the many things they could learn in the wildlife garden.

She told them that she regularly goes out to look for spiders with Prince George and Princess Charlotte.

Cllr Lindsey Hall, Lord Mayor of Westminster, greeted the Duchess at the start of the visit.

She said: "The Forest School is one of Westminster's great places for learning and play, and a centre of excellence in improving children's emotional and physical wellbeing. We were proud to welcome Her Royal Highness."

The Paddington Recreation Ground site is funded by Sayers Croft, Westminster City Council's Community Services Department and gives inner city children a unique opportunity to learn about and engage with the natural world.

The Sayers Croft Forest School at Paddington Recreation Ground had over 8,500 visits in the past year by schoolchildren from across Westminster and neighbouring boroughs.

As well as the London site, Sayers Croft also has a residential activity centre based in Surrey.

"The Duchess was really interested in how the Forest School has helped increase the children's confidence and self-esteem," added Zoe Stroud.

"She spoke with parent helpers to learn how their children had benefited from the programme.

"Everyone was absolutely thrilled to see her and she seemed to enjoy Sayers Croft just as much as the thousands of children who visit us every year."





If you have any queries or want to get involved, please contact:

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