



## Marylebone Low Emission Neighbourhood

### Response to the consultation on the Transformation of Oxford Street

#### **Background**

The Marylebone Low Emission Neighbourhood (LEN) is a partnership between the local authority and local stakeholders, including businesses, landowners and residents. It was established in 2016 to tackle the poor air quality and is one of 5 Mayor's Air Quality Fund Low Emissions Neighbourhoods across London. More information is available at [www.marylebonelen.org](http://www.marylebonelen.org).

The Marylebone LEN centres on the Bryanston and Dorset Square and Marylebone High Street wards, and includes the popular Paddington Street, George Street and Marylebone High Street areas.

Marylebone is situated among some of London's most polluted roads and the area as a whole suffers from some of the highest levels of air pollution in Europe. Poor air quality ranks as the top concern for residents and visitors to the Marylebone area. The main pollutants of concern in Marylebone are NO<sub>2</sub> and Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>). PM<sub>10</sub> levels in the area are roughly borderline with the EU objective level and it is, therefore NO<sub>2</sub> pollution which is of particular concern although resident groups are seeking to make improvements to all pollutants. Road transport accounts for approximately 46% of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions in the area and the project is made up of a number of different work-streams to try and tackle pollution over a three-year period.

The Marylebone Low Emission Neighbourhood is made up of Westminster City Council, Baker Street Quarter Partnership, Marble Arch London, New West End Company, The Portman Estate, Howard de Walden Estate, The Marylebone Association, Marylebone Forum and St Marylebone Society.

#### **Response**

At the last Marylebone LEN steering group, it was agreed that it wished to collectively comment on the Oxford Street proposals only in the context of the potential impacts on local air quality; and does not seek to set out any opinions on the generality of the built environment and transport substance of the proposals.

The proposed removal of traffic from Oxford Street implies to some, the potential for significant displacement of traffic into the Marylebone area.

The stakeholders involved in the Marylebone LEN would like reassurance that the efforts being undertaken to improve air quality in the Low Emission Neighbourhood (see map overleaf) are not undermined by works associated with the Oxford Street



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Transformation, and would be happy to discuss further with you how both projects can make a positive contribution to air quality in the locality.

In particular, the following changes could impact upon air quality in the Marylebone Low Emission Neighbourhood:

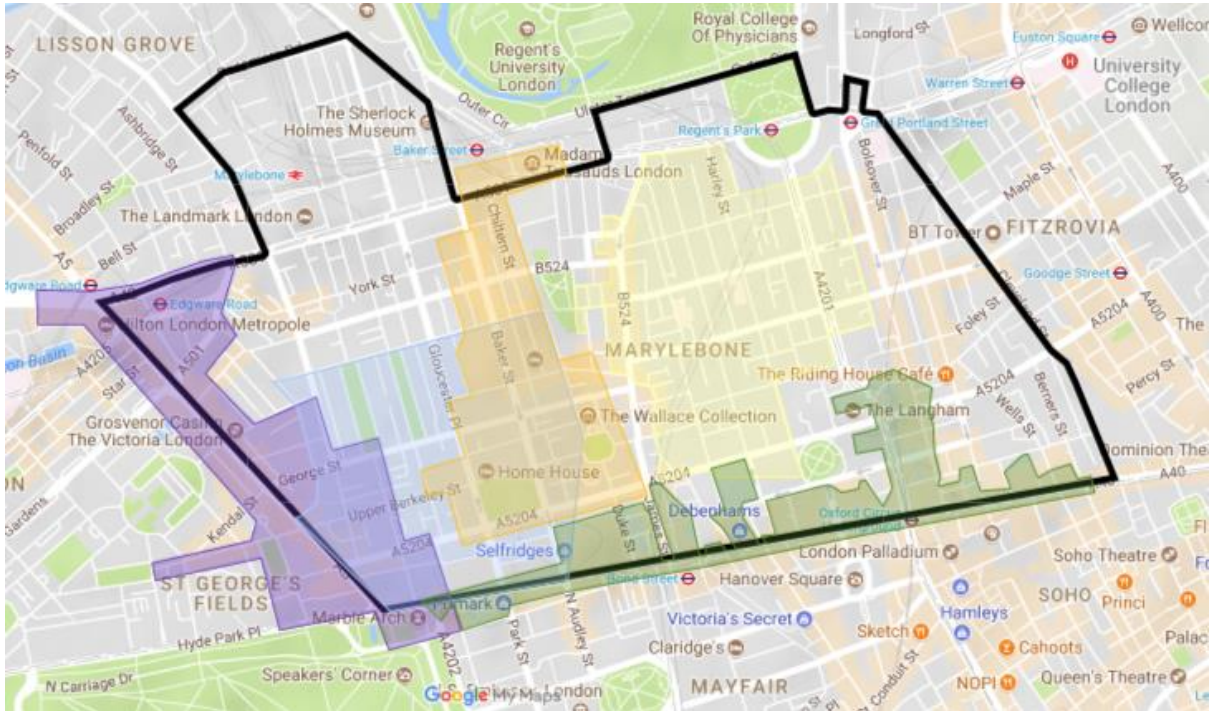
- associated highways works and dust
- potential changes to Buses/Taxis on stand or other vehicles idling
- displaced traffic congestion
- displaced deliveries and servicing/freight vehicles

If there are such impacts, they should be considered as part of the proposals and mitigated to reduce any risk of any potential increases in air pollution levels within the low emission neighbourhood.

We would very much welcome the opportunity to work closely with you to ensure our joint ambitions to improve air quality in Westminster are achieved.

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Map of the Marylebone Low Emission Neighbourhood area (within black outline)