

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee – 9
January 2019

Subject: Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan – Update

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive

Summary

This report provides an update on progress in the preparation of a Greater Manchester wide feasibility study (Clean Air Plan) into the options available to address Nitrogen Dioxide exceedances, and to outline a broad direction of travel in relation to next steps and decision-making.

Recommendations

That the Scrutiny Committee members note and comment on the content of this report and the report at appendix 1 which is due to be considered by the Combined Authority on 11 January 2019.

Wards Affected: All

Alignment to the Our Manchester Strategy Outcomes:

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Improvements in air quality alongside a high quality transport network will help to deliver this outcome by contributing to improvements to public health and helping to promote jobs and investment.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	The consultation on the Our Manchester Strategy received a large number of comments calling for improvements in public transport, cycling and walking infrastructure. Such improvements will be an important part of the overall plan to improve air quality in the city and measures in the plan will help to sustain the city's economic success.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	Improved air quality will play an important role in improving health outcomes and the attractiveness of the city as a place to live, work and visit in the future. It will bring benefits to residents, workers and visitors to the city and has an important role to play in the reducing health inequalities.

A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	Improvements to local air quality have an important role to play in making the city a more attractive place to live, visit and work
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Improvements to the city's public transport network and to cycling and walking networks will form an important part of the overall plan to improve air quality and these plans will be important for the overall future economic success of the city.

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact the officer above.

- Draft Clean Air Plan (Strategic Outline Case) to Reduce Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations and Development of Greater Manchester Mayor's Congestion Plan: Report to Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee (31st January 2018) and Executive (7th February 2018)
- UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations (July 2017)
- Improving air quality: national plan for tackling nitrogen dioxide in our towns and cities (May 2017)
- Improving air quality in the UK: Tackling nitrogen dioxide in our towns and cities (December 2015)
- Air Quality (Standards) Regulations 2010
- Air Quality Task and Finish Group Final Report (November 2017)

1 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 There is an urgent need to improve air quality as its impact constitutes one of the largest public health issues facing the UK. As reported to this committee and the Executive in January and February 2018 respectively, the City Council and seven of the nine other Greater Manchester authorities, along with a number of other urban local authorities in England, have been charged by Government with developing plans to reduce currently unlawful levels of nitrogen dioxide in the atmosphere to the legal limit level in the shortest possible time, pursuant to rulings by the High Court and the Supreme Court. Greater Manchester authorities have agreed to work together to respond to this requirement. A Strategic Outline Business Case was submitted to Government on behalf of the City Council and the other Greater Manchester Authorities in March 2018, setting out the range of measures that were being considered to deliver the required improvements.
- 1.2 Work has been continuing to carry out a feasibility study over the last year. The report attached at appendix 1 is due to be considered by the Combined Authority on Friday 11 January. It provides an update on the progress to date in preparing the feasibility study, it sets out details of the further work which needs to be undertaken before an Outline Business Case can be submitted to members for consideration, prior to a non – statutory public conversation being undertaken to seek feedback on the options for achieving compliance in Greater Manchester and the identified “preferred option” whilst at a formative stage. The report also highlights the requests that the Mayor of Greater Manchester has made of Government relating to the supporting measures that need to be put in place at a national level to support local action.
- 1.3 As the attached report sets out in section 5 it is anticipated that a further report on the Outline Business Case will be brought forward in Spring 2019 to the Combined Authority and all ten Greater Manchester councils.

2 Links to the Previous Work of the Air Quality Task and Finish Group

- 2.1 An Air Quality Task and Finish Group was established by this committee in 2017. The group met on five occasions and heard evidence from a range of experts in the fields of public health and transport on the impacts of poor air quality and potential measures that could be adopted to make improvements. The sub group made a series of recommendations. Many of these have been considered in the development of the work at Greater Manchester level. It is however important to note that the requirement to achieve compliance with legal limits of one pollutant (nitrogen dioxide) in the shortest possible time means that the focus of the current Greater Manchester work is on measures that can have impacts in the short term and therefore some of the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group would not meet the “shortest possible time” test.

3 Conclusion

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the progress that is being made, the requirement for more analysis to develop the Outline Business Case and the intention to report back in the Spring with a preferred option that would then be the subject of a non – statutory conversation.