

Sustainability & Transport Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Clean Air Strategy Update

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1. Summary

- 1.1. The Clean Air Strategy (CAS) has progressed to a publication version incorporating the new “Be Bold, Be Green” branding.
- 1.2. Sustainability & Transport OSC have requested an update on the progress in developing the CAS and this short report updates Committee on that progress.
- 1.3. Following any comments from OSC the document will be published and the Strategy will move to implementation and progress tracking throughout 2022.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Clean Air Strategy for the City of Birmingham was designed to help direct interventions by Birmingham city council and key partners to improve air quality and to link across to the climate change agenda.
- 2.2. A consultation draft was produced in January 2019 and this was consulted upon during the course of the year. The response from the consultation was intended to form the basis for a final strategy to be launched early the following year but due to focus on the CAZ and the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic this was unfortunately delayed.
- 2.3. A post consultation draft has now been produced that both incorporates the key messages from the consultation and reframes the pledges in response. The key messages from the consultation and the Council’s response were:
 - A stronger link between air quality and transport policies and improvements.
We have brought together planning and highways policies in one Pledge “Planning for the Future” to show how better design can lead to improved air quality.
 - More information about the forth coming Clean Air Zone and clarity on where the revenue would be spent.
We have answered concerns in the pledge “Clean Air Zone (CAZ) for Birmingham’s City Centre” which provides more detail and sign posting to the relevant information.
 - A desire to ensure the most vulnerable and less able are not forgotten in the changes that we need to implement.
We have introduced a new pledge “Inclusivity and Protecting the Vulnerable” to ensure this message is captured and delivered.
 - A strengthening of the pledge focused on schools.
We have strengthened our pledge “Clean Air for Schools” to reflect these views and ideas.

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2.4. A final draft version was circulated at Brum Breathes Exec Board on 19 October 2021 seeking any final comments.

2.5. No further comments were received and it was proposed to progress the CAS for publication.

2.6. The publication version of the CAS is attached to this report at Appendix 1.

3. Next Steps

3.1. It is proposed to launch the Clean Air Strategy in the new year with the launch event taking place at a school in Birmingham.

3.2. The strategy includes provision for increased public awareness and engagement via a community engagement platform where anyone (the public, schools, organisations, etc.) can submit ideas for actions to improve air quality. This “suggestion box” will make use of the existing Birmingham Beheard consultation platform. Suggestions submitted will be regularly reviewed and where possible categorised into common themes. A summary of the suggestions will be provided to the BrumBreathes board along with initial views on feasibility / inclusion in existing projects. Where a proposal is considered workable and is not part of the existing project plan within the Clean Air Strategy, the proposal will be recommended to be taken forward for inclusion in future updates of the Clean Air Strategy project plan.

3.3. Following launch it is proposed to produce a status report on the implementation of the Strategy on a six monthly basis, the first aligning with the anniversary of the launch of the CAZ and the formal reporting date for the air quality Annual Status Report. This status report will capture progress to date and provide direction on when the first formal review of the Strategy should be undertaken.

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