

# Equality Analysis

## Birmingham City Council Analysis Report

<b>EA Name</b>	Joint Air Quality Unit Early Measures Fund For Local No2 Compliance - Approval To Submit Application For Funding
<b>Directorate</b>	Economy
<b>Service Area</b>	Economy - Transportation Services Growth & Transportation
<b>Type</b>	New/Proposed Policy
<b>EA Summary</b>	<p>This equalities analysis reviews the request to seek retrospective approval to submit a funding application to the Government's Joint Air Quality Unit (Department for Transport and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) for the, 'Early Measures Fund for Local NO2 Compliance'.</p> <p>The funding will support a Traffic Signal Technology Package / Greening the Bus Fleet project for Birmingham City Centre. The estimated cost of the project, and the subject of the funding bid, is £2.05m. No local contributions are required.</p>
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### Introduction

The report records the information that has been submitted for this equality analysis in the following format.

#### **Initial Assessment**

This section identifies the purpose of the Policy and which types of individual it affects. It also identifies which equality strands are affected by either a positive or negative differential impact.

#### **Relevant Protected Characteristics**

For each of the identified relevant protected characteristics there are three sections which will have been completed.

- Impact
- Consultation
- Additional Work

If the assessment has raised any issues to be addressed there will also be an action planning section.

The following pages record the answers to the assessment questions with optional comments included by the assessor to clarify or explain any of the answers given or relevant issues.

## **1 Activity Type**

The activity has been identified as a New/Proposed Policy.

## **2 Initial Assessment**

### **2.1 Purpose and Link to Strategic Themes**

#### **What is the purpose of this Policy and expected outcomes?**

The purpose of this policy is to retrospectively seek approval to submit a funding application to the Government's Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU) (Department for Transport and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) for the 'Early Measures Fund for Local NO2 Compliance'.

The funding will support a Traffic Signal Technology Package / Greening the Bus Fleet project for Birmingham City Centre. The estimated cost of the project, and the subject of the funding bid, is £2.05m. No local contributions are required.

The expected outcome is that approval is given for the bid.

JAQU set out the application process for Early Measures Fund for Local NO2 Compliance on 15th December 2017. The process has been iterative with initial proposals submitted by 26th January 2018. The proposals were subsequently reviewed twice by JAQU and a final proposal resubmitted on 28th February 2018. The tight timescale including the Christmas and New Year period has led to the need to request retrospective approval for the submission of a funding application. A final decision on funding will be made during March, so that awards can be made no later than 31st March 2018.

Bus-based traffic management measures are proposed that would enable a genuine transformation in bus transit across the city centre. Buses are one of the most efficient people-carriers on the road network, are flexible and able to deliver extra capacity quickly. When combined with priority measures, buses can reduce delay and promote modal shift to reduce congestion and improve air quality. All bus measures can be delivered quickly, cost effectively and at low risk.

Highway Infrastructure measures are proposed that will be coupled with measures to promote the benefit of bus travel and improve the off-board customer experience. This will see up to 34 bus stops along the highway schemes priority routes, improved to provide enhanced customer comfort and information. A targeted marketing campaign to promote improved journey times and reliability, network branding, better travel information and promotion of the green credentials of our buses will also take place. Through the West Midlands Bus Alliance the City Council and Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) will explore the potential for match-funding from Alliance partners, to complement the government investment and maximise the benefits for passengers.

The funding application is consistent with the City Council's Vision and Priorities:

Children - We want Birmingham to be a great city to grow up in - this project supports reduction in NO2 which is particularly harmful to children's health in the city.

Housing - We want Birmingham to be a great city to live in - this project will contribute to improved air quality and bus access in the city centre, which is a key growth area for new housing, housing renewal and student accommodation

Jobs and skills - We want Birmingham to be a great city to learn, work and invest in. This project invests in bus technologies and infrastructure to improve journey reliability and passenger experience - which will support access to jobs and skills, particularly for people on low incomes.

Health - We want Birmingham to be a great city to grow old in. This project supports the wider 'Brum Breathes' air quality improvements which address serious health issues associated with transport emissions in the city.

The project is consistent with the Council's key policies and priorities as set out in the West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan, Birmingham Development Plan and the Birmingham Connected transport strategy. In addition, the proposed package of works offers synergies with several other current projects:

- . City Centre Resilience Measures
  - . Air Quality Early Measures Funding Tranche December 1st 2017
  - . Greenwave Project
  - . National Productivity Fund Tranche 1 - Traffic Signal Upgrades
  - . National Productivity Fund Tranche 2 - Birmingham Growth Point Public Transport Package)
- This project therefore supports early delivery of reductions in NO<sub>2</sub>, moving the city closer to air quality compliance.

Internal consultation has been undertaken with our transport partners TfWM, National Express West Midlands (NXWM) and Amey in the development of the package of works. Consultation has been undertaken with the City Council's Cabinet member for Transport and Roads.

Local ward Councillors will be briefed and detailed consultation will be undertaken at Project Definition Document and Full Business Case stage in accordance with standard practice, subject to funding approval by JAQU.

Officers from City Finance and Legal and Governance have been involved in the preparation of this report. In line with the delegation approved at Cabinet on May 16th 2017, the bid has been prepared in conjunction with the Corporate Director of Finance and Governance, who supports its submission.

Subject to funding approval by JAQU, external consultation on the Traffic Regulation Orders is planned for April 2018. Consultation with key stakeholders and the public will be undertaken at Project Definition Document (PDD) and Full Business Case (FBC) stage in accordance with standard practice.

**For each strategy, please decide whether it is going to be significantly aided by the Function.**

Children: A Safe And Secure City In Which To Learn And Grow	Yes
Health: Helping People Become More Physically Active And Well	Yes
Housing : To Meet The Needs Of All Current And Future Citizens	Yes
Jobs And Skills: For An Enterprising, Innovative And Green City	Yes

## **2.2 Individuals affected by the policy**

Will the policy have an impact on service users/stakeholders?	Yes
Will the policy have an impact on employees?	Yes
Will the policy have an impact on wider community?	Yes

## **2.3 Relevance Test**

Protected Characteristics	Relevant	Full Assessment Required
Age	Not Relevant	No
Disability	Not Relevant	No
Gender	Not Relevant	No
Gender Reassignment	Not Relevant	No

Marriage Civil Partnership	Not Relevant	No
Pregnancy And Maternity	Not Relevant	No
Race	Not Relevant	No
Religion or Belief	Not Relevant	No
Sexual Orientation	Not Relevant	No

## **2.4 Analysis on Initial Assessment**

All schemes proposed within the 'Early Measures Fund for Local NO2 Compliance' bid are provided as a 'public good' and are available for all members of the community and visitors alike to use.

Individual schemes will be subject to further screening for equalities analysis.

It is considered that there are no aspects of the scheme that could contribute to inequality. The facilities and measures proposed are for all users and none are excluded. No measures are considered to discriminate against protected groups in terms of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, or sexual orientation.

### **3 Full Assessment**

The assessment questions below are completed for all characteristics identified for full assessment in the initial assessment phase.

#### **3.1 Concluding Statement on Full Assessment**

All schemes proposed within the 'Early Measures Fund for Local NO2 Compliance' bid are provided as a 'public good' and are available for all members of the community and visitors alike to use.

Individual schemes will be subject to further screening for equalities analysis.

It is considered that there are no aspects of the scheme that could contribute to inequality. The facilities and measures proposed are for all users and none are excluded. No measures are considered to discriminate against protected groups in terms of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, or sexual orientation.

### **4 Review Date**

17/03/19

### **5 Action Plan**

There are no relevant issues, so no action plans are currently required.