

# Equality Analysis

## Birmingham City Council Analysis Report

<b>EA Name</b>	Consultation On The Implementation Of Clean Air Zones In England
<b>Directorate</b>	Economy
<b>Service Area</b>	Transportation Services Growth And Transportation
<b>Type</b>	New/Proposed Policy
<b>EA Summary</b>	The Government are consulting on proposals to implement Clean Air Zones in five cities in England, including Birmingham. This Equalities Assessment reviews the city council's response to the government's consultation.
<b>Reference Number</b>	EA001673
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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 approve the city council's response to the consultation by the Government's Departments for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and for Transport (DfT) on the implementation of Clean Air Zones (CAZ) in England. Clean Air Zones are areas where action is focussed to improve air quality and the cleanest vehicles are encouraged. They combine immediate action to improve air quality with broader approaches, supporting the growth of cities while delivering sustained reductions in pollution and a transition to a low emission economy. Where there are the most persistent pollution problems this is supported by access restrictions for the most polluting vehicles.

The expected outcome is the city council's response will be approved, and that it will shape the final CAZ framework so that it is suitable for Birmingham.

The National Air Quality Plan for nitrogen dioxide (2015) set out that the Government will be requiring the implementation of chargeable CAZ in five cities. These cities are Birmingham, Leeds, Nottingham, Derby and Southampton. CAZ in these cities will cover older buses, coaches, taxis and lorries.

Birmingham and Leeds will also discourage old polluting diesel vans and implement other measures. Newer vehicles that meet the latest emissions standards will not need to pay. The Government requires the cities to implement the CAZ before the end of 2019.

Under the NO2 Plan, the Government is not requiring any of these five cities to implement a charging CAZ that includes private cars, motorcycles or mopeds.

The precise extent of the CAZ in Birmingham has yet to be finally defined, but it is likely to include some or all of the city centre. The CAZ applies to vehicles rather than people, so the proposal is not applicable to people with the protected characteristics.

With regard to Blue Badge holders; the proposals state that vehicles within the disabled passenger vehicle tax class, i.e. specially adapted vehicles, will be exempt from paying a charge in a CAZ; but that holders of a Blue Badge should not generally be exempt from a charge in a CAZ, whether driving a vehicle, or as a passenger. However, a local authority may choose to give a discount or exemption should, after analysis, local circumstances warrant such an approach.

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

A Strong Economy	Yes
Safety And Opportunity For All Children	Yes
Children : A City To Grow Up In	Yes
Thriving Local Communities	Yes
A Healthy City	Yes
A Modern Council	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

An initial Equalities Analysis has been carried out, and it has been considered that none of the protected characteristics are affected by the city council's response to the Government's consultation on the implementation of clean air zones in England.

However, it is acknowledged that the CAZ could potentially affect some of the people with protected characteristics. With this in mind, the council will be undertaking detailed Impact Assessments, looking at the economic, environmental and equalities impacts, as part of the wider feasibility study of the CAZ; the outcome of which will be used to inform the final delivery of the scheme.

Internal Consultation has been undertaken with all City Council Members, with an email sent on November 4th 2016, supplying details of the consultation. The consultation was also discussed at the Air Quality Quartet meeting on November 15th 2016. The Cabinet Members for Transport and Roads and for Health have also been briefed on the response.

Officers from Growth and Transportation, Environmental Health, Public Health, City Finance, and Legal and Democratic Services have been involved in the preparation of the response.

Externally, emails were sent to a number of key stakeholders; including bus/coach operators, freight organisations, Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle operators, Business Improvement Districts, emergency services and motorcycle groups. The responses received have been considered in the development of the Council's response.

The response has also been discussed with officers at Transport for West Midlands to ensure consistency with the response from the West Midlands Combined Authority.

The council's response is framed in the context of the council's own transport strategy, Birmingham Connected, which was the subject of public consultation on a Green Paper during 2013.

The City Council are being asked to respond to a consultation on proposals being developed by an external organisation; the Government's Departments; Defra and DfT.

It is the Government departments' responsibility to consider equalities issues on their proposals, and they have issued a supporting Impact Assessment in support of this consultation document.



### **3 Full Assessment**

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

### **3 Concluding Statement on Full Assessment**

An initial Equalities Analysis has been carried out, and it has been considered that none of the protected characteristics are affected by the city council's response to the Government's consultation on the implementation of clean air zones in England.

However, it is acknowledged that the CAZ could potentially affect some of the people with protected characteristics. With this in mind, the council will be undertaking detailed Impact Assessments, looking at the economic, environmental and equalities impacts, as part of the wider feasibility study of the CAZ; the outcome of which will be used to inform the final delivery of the scheme.

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### **4 Review Date**

04/12/17

### **5 Action Plan**

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