

Clean Air Zone

Local Stakeholder Comments on National Consultation - Summary

National Express West Midlands

- This consultation does not take sufficient account of modal shift as the best way of improving air quality.
- Birmingham should adopt a Class D Clean Air Zone.
- This consultation contains flawed assumptions and misunderstandings about how the bus industry works.

West Midlands Fire Service

- WMFS has a policy and plan for replacement of all vehicles and is actively seeking to procure vehicles that meet the environmental needs and requirements of the West Midlands area.
- It will take a number of years to have replaced older vehicles that do not meet the latest European Standards.
- Without the necessary exemptions for fire vehicles it will be impractical and costly for fire appliance to operate within the proposed city limit for the clean air regulations.

West Midlands Police

- Support pollution reduction measures, but emergency service vehicles should have free access.
- To charge the emergency services takes money out of one public service to give to another, adding a cost for the bureaucracy.
- There is public expectation, and a preventative effect, to the Police providing a visible patrol and presence. Non uniform/un-liveried police vehicles will travel into/through the city centre and should not be penalised for this.
- If those of a criminal mind knew that Police vehicles would avoid the city centre for financial reasons, are you not publicly advertising a policy that may reduce the fear of apprehension?
- It would not be practicable to have no go zones for emergency vehicles in the city centre. The time taken for officers to park further away and walk would be expensive and could delay attendance at emergencies.
- Emergency vehicles should be wholly exempt from any traffic restrictions.
- The only way to reduce air pollution is to severely limit the amount of traffic into and out of the city. This is difficult as people and businesses are being enticed to enter the city in great numbers.
- The pollution is also greater due to the increased amount of road and building works in the city. Lane restrictions also cause more pollution due to traffic congestion.

PHV Operator

- Government previously recommended diesel vehicles.
- Diesel PHVs which pass the emissions test should enter the city centre without charge.
- Most drivers have diesel vehicles and some drivers will want more time to change their vehicle (2020 is too soon).
- Why are private cars excluded from charging but public transport included? Private cars are worse than PT.