

Comments and/or recommendation from the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Risk Management

Legal Considerations – see paragraphs 2.1-2.11

Financial Consequences

Financial Consequences

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

26 October 2018, report to GMCA: GM Clean Air Plan Update on Local Air Quality Monitoring

16 August 2018 report to HPEOS Committee: GM Clean Air Plan Update

‘UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations’, Defra and DfT, 2017

TRACKING/PROCESS		
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution		
EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN		
Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the AGMA Scrutiny Pool on the grounds of urgency?		No
TfGMC	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
	16 August 2018, HPEOS 15 November 2018, HPEOS	

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 As has been previously reported to GMCA, the 'UK Plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations' (DEFRA, July 2017) identified seven Greater Manchester (GM) authorities with areas likely to exceed the statutory nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) annual mean EU Limit Value of 40 µg/m³ (the EU Limit Value) beyond 2020, and who were subsequently directed to develop plans to deliver compliance with the EU Limit Value in the 'shortest possible time'. In March 2018, 33 more local authorities, including Oldham, were defined as having "shorter-term NO₂ problems", and required to assess options for bringing compliance forward. Furthermore, the local air quality monitoring completed as part of 'Initial Evidence' and 'Target Determination' has now identified exceedances in all ten GM local authorities.
- 1.2 Local authorities with NO₂ exceedances are compelled to follow a specific process to develop their Clean Air Plan. TfGM has been coordinating the preparation of a GM feasibility study into the options available to address the exceedances, directed by a Steering Group that includes representatives from the GMCA and the ten GM local authorities, who remain legally responsible for compliance.

2. GOVERNANCE UPDATE AND OPTIONS FOR OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

- 2.1 On 15 November 2018, a further update was provided to the GMCA Housing, Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the outcomes of 'Target Determination', which will advise on the content of the GMCA report on this topic that was discussed at the 26 October 2018 meeting.
- 2.2 The next step is to submit an Outline Business Case (OBC) to Government, which assesses the options for achieving compliance in GM and identifies a 'preferred option'. The OBC will be assessed by Government and accepted or rejected.
- 2.3 The Greater Manchester (GM) Mayor has agreed with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs that GM will submit its OBC at the end of January 2019. This approach was reconfirmed at the 26th October meeting of the GMCA. The final draft of the OBC will be brought to GMCA on 11 January 2019 prior to consideration by each GM Local Authority.

3. PUBLIC CONVERSATION

- 3.1 A non-statutory public conversation will follow the completion of the OBC to seek wide-ranging feedback on the options for achieving compliance in GM and the identified 'preferred option' whilst at a formative stage. The outputs from this initial engagement activity will be used to inform the ongoing detailed design of any scheme, and build understanding around the potential impacts of the 'preferred option' from a public and stakeholder perspective.

- 3.2 Launching the conversation as soon as possible following Local Authority governance helps to maintain momentum, and provides the opportunity for open dialogue as part of setting the direction of travel for the GM Clean Air Plan.
- 3.3 It is currently proposed that a set of core materials will be developed, supported by a central online survey housed on the CleanAirGM.com website. An independent agency may be appointed to help collate responses and analyse and report on the results of the public conversation. This will add technical expertise to the analysis, as well providing independent, external credibility. Given the complexity of the subject, deliberative research could also be commissioned to explore the options with focus groups.
- 3.4 A GM-wide campaign will help to ensure visibility and awareness of the conversation activity. This central approach will be supported by local engagement plans to ensure all key stakeholders are aware of the opportunity to share their views and understand what the options might mean for them.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 The production of the OBC is underway and a further update will be provided at the GMCA meeting on the 14 December 2018.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Recommendations are set out at the front of this report.

Councillor Alex Ganotis

Greater Manchester Green City Region