

Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Commission

18:00 Wednesday 26th July 2018



Report of: Zoe Wilcox, Director of Planning

Title: Clean Air Plan - Engagement Programme and Funding Bid

Ward: City Wide

Officers Presenting Report: Alex Minshull / Adam Crowther / Jodi Savickas / Kathy Derrick
/ Mark Leach / Jacob Pryor

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Recommendation

That the Scrutiny commission note the planned activity to develop the Clean Air Plan and to advise on the engagement activities and clean air fund bid.

The significant issues in the report are:

In November 2016, Full Council unanimously supported a motion for the Council to develop a Clean Air Action Plan and to implement a Clean Air Zone. Bristol City Council is developing a Clean Air Plan for the City to meet legal standards for Nitrogen Dioxide in the shortest possible time to improve the health of residents and visitors to Bristol

Public concern about air pollution in the city is high (72%). A significant amount of public engagement and consultation is planned and members are asked to advise officers on these plans to help ensure the most effective public input to the Clean Air Plan.

Bristol City Council is planning to bid to the Government's Clean Air Fund for measures to mitigate the impacts of Clean Air Plan, in particular on low income households and small and medium sized businesses, and members are asked to advise on the proposals.

1. Summary

Bristol City Council is developing a Clean Air Plan to improve public health. This is in line with the Full Council Motion of November 2016 and Statutory Direction from Government, and it forms part of the Council's business plan.

In March 2018 Cabinet considered the results of the initial studies and has approved the next stage of the project. This will assess 5 options in more detail and select a Preferred Option which will be submitted to Government as our Clean Air Plan. Four of these five options include proposals for charging certain classes of vehicles to enter a defined area of the city. For further details please see the Cabinet Report at:

<https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/documents/s19804/Clean%20Air%20Plan%20-%20Cabinet%20Report%20and%20Appendices%20-%20Final%20with%20Early%20Measures%20Fund%20included%20-with%20legal.pdf>

We consider that a significant of public engagement and consultation is important to ensure that we develop the best possible Clean Air Plan. The Scrutiny Commission's views are sought on range and scope of the engagement work.

Bristol City Council has the opportunity to bid for funding from the government's Clean Air Fund which totals £220m nationally.

The main purpose of this fund is to mitigate the impact of the Clean Air Plan on residents, with a particular focus on low-income groups and Small and Medium size Enterprises (SMEs).

It is not clear from conversations with the Joint Air Quality Unit what share of funding Bristol could expect from the total funding available but an initial range of between £4 and £15m is anticipated.

Bristol City Council will be in competition with other local authorities for a share of this funding and the proposal will form part of the business case for the broader Clean Air Plan. The timescales for the fund are challenging with schemes required to be delivered in advance of the Clean Air Plan.

Infrastructure schemes and 'soft measures' have been longlisted for inclusion in Bristol's bid to the Clean Air Fund and their suitability for funding will require ongoing liaison with the Joint Air Quality Unit and formal approval through Bristol's Cabinet process.

Strategically it would be prudent for the council to keep as many options on the table as possible while further work is undertaken to establish the cost, effectiveness and deliverability of the schemes over the next 4 weeks. A comprehensive package of measures for the Clean Air Fund will need to be finalised by mid-August to allow for the necessary modelling work to take place.

2. The engagement programme

The majority of Bristol's residents are concerned about air quality and traffic pollution in their neighbourhood. In the 2017 Quality of Life Survey some 72% said it was a problem or a serious problem.

The Clean Air Plan will include policies and projects to reduce pollution which will require change in peoples' and businesses' travel choices. We need to ensure that, prior to formal consultation on specific proposals, there is good understanding of the air quality problem in Bristol and potential solutions. We also aim to ensure that residents and businesses can engage with the process of identifying policies to support the key interventions and mitigate some of the adverse effects.

2.1 Timescales

Public engagement has already commenced and will continue until November to contribute to the Cabinet's selection of its preferred option and to inform the preparation of parallel bid to the Government's Clean Air Fund.

Formal consultation will also be undertaken

2.2 Financial

The Clean Air Plan engagement programme is wholly funded by Government. Currently they have approved funding of £125k for engagement work and £75k for formal consultation. A further funding proposal is being made to government and we shall consider whether additional resources are needed.

2.3 Audience and stakeholder analysis

Almost everyone in the city is either affected air pollution or by the Clean Air Plan proposals and therefore the programme is both wide ranging and targeted to engage key audiences based on severity of the impact and the choices available to them. Key audiences identified include:

- Professional drivers – taxis, HGVs, LGVs, deliveries, carers and emergency services
- The business community
- Seldom heard communities and groups
- Communities living within the Medium Zone and those living in outlying parts of the city
- Commuters from outside Bristol
- Young people, schools
- Allies and partners who want to communicate the issues and the options

2.4 Summary of engagement activities:

2.4.1 Activity to date:

Drop-In Events and public stalls in a number of locations around the city including Cabot Circus, Gloucester Road, Bedminster, College Green (National Clean Air Day) and Bristol Harbourside Festival.

2.4.2 Workshops and Briefings:

- Taxi Forum, Emergency Services, Congestion Task Group, Employers Groups
- Training for allied organisations to communicate on air pollution and Clean Air Plan and [toolkit](#)
- Bristol Green Capital Partnership Clean Air Gathering (70-80 organisations represented)
- Informal conversations with Motorcycle organisations and specialist tow truck companies

2.4.3 Digital and online:

An on-line campaign is being undertaken with twitter and [website](#) presence. This includes an FAQ and will develop as the engagement work progresses.

2.4.4 Planned engagement activity:

- Ujima Radio takeover 30th August
- Up Our Street – September 11th or 25th
- West of England Bus Operator Association
- 5 x focus neighbourhoods (peripheral, deprived, most adversely impacted, events “owned” locally)
- Workshops: City Centre Business Improvement District (BID) 27th July
- Invitations to the following to attend our Surgeries RAC and AA, Bristol Waste, Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), Freight Consolidation Centre, Haulage and Freight Associations (x3), National Federation of Builders, parcel delivery companies, St Philips Fruit and Veg market.
- Information packs at all libraries for people who do not have digital access or prefer to access information hard copy.

2.4.5 Other activity:

- Councillor Briefings
- Mailing to c. 130,000 residential addresses and potentially 13,400 commercial addresses.
- Schools programme
- Travel West/Living Streets activity within businesses
- Business West and The Initiative business engagement
- Activity to target Tradespeople (Builders, Plumbers, Electricians, Plasterers and Carpenters etc)
- Online and digital (Citizen Space)
- Comms channels such as bus stop advertising, commercial radio drive time ads etc.
- Equalities work
- Woodburning stoves and open fires leaflet, web page etc

2.5 Process for feeding engagement outputs into technical work

At each event the BCC officers and Jacobs Consultants compile a list of the comments and feedback they have recorded as well as improvements for future events. This is then fed into the ongoing, work on the options.

3.0 Key issues are that are coming out of the consultation, so far,:

- So far the Majority of people are supportive and many people who drive vehicles which may be subject to a charge are supportive as they recognise the importance of improving public health.
- A significant number of people want the city council to go further, with more pedestrianisation, more car-free areas, more cycling infrastructure.

- Radically better public and rapid transport was frequently mentioned, and to a lesser extent the subsidising of electric vehicles
- There is a widely held view that the Clean Air Plan is too narrow, because it only focuses on NOx and only on achieving legal limits
- Concern from residents who live in areas just outside the zone, that air quality will be worse because of the zone outside the zone. Some want the boundaries changed to include other neighbourhoods, including St George, partly due to major roads within the AQMA that have schools close to them. We anticipate that any charging zone will improve air quality outside the zone as well as inside it but this will be tested in the next phase of the study.
- Concern about people parking in residential areas just outside the zone where there are no RPZ, in particular the Bishopston area.
- People concerned about knock on effect of traffic from the small zone, with vehicles diverting around it onto other, and in particular residential roads.
- People mostly concerned for others, e.g. carers, tradesmen, people with large families and young children, people with special needs should be exempt.

3. Policy

Bristol City Council is under a Statutory Direction from Government to develop a Clean Air Plan to achieve compliance with the Nitrogen Dioxide Limit Values in the shortest possible time.

4. Consultation

a) Internal

The engagement programme and proposals for the Clean Air Fund bid are being considered by the Mayoral Air Pollution working Group, chaired by Cllrs Dudd and Threlfall which includes colleagues from Public Health and Transport who are able to input the experience of previous initiatives.

We have also taken into account the contributions made by Scrutiny including the Air Quality Task and Finish Group.

b) External

For the engagement programme we reviewed national best practice and academic work especially by the two Bristol universities, e.g. The Centre for the Study of Behaviour Change and Influence (CSBCI) at UWE

The engagement work is informing the Clean Air Fund Bid.

5. Public Sector Equality Duties

The equalities team were consulted early on in the creation of the CAP engagement programme. The engagement work will seek to understand the impacts of the proposals on a range of people in the community including those from equalities groups and will inform subsequent decision making.

In developing the Clean Air Fund bid we shall have regard to the potential impacts on equalities groups and be informed by the engagement work.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Engagement Programme Materials (Banners, Leaflet, Newsletters, SOC summary)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

