

Executive Scrutiny Board	
Recommendations from the meeting held on 22 October 2018	
Council Cabinet Agenda – 24 October 2018	
Item 6	Air Quality: Reducing Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide
<p>The Board received a report of the Strategic Director for Communities and Place with regards to air quality and reducing roadside nitrogen dioxide levels.</p> <p>It was noted that in 2015 Derby had been identified by DEFRA as one of five cities requiring early action to decrease levels of nitrogen dioxide. In December 2017, a ministerial directive was received requiring a business case to be submitted to the Secretary of State by 15 September 2018; this deadline has been extended to 30 November 2018.</p> <p>The process of developing local measures to tackle air quality had resulted in a public consultation exercise, which concluded on 24 September 2018. The report included the consultation outcome and recommended traffic management measures focused on Stafford Street as the preferred option, prior to the submission of a full business case.</p> <p>The Board questioned officers on the proposed extent of the scheme. It was reported that the proposals included altering traffic flows on routes adjacent to Stafford Street; managing displacement flows and traffic light sequencing; as well as alterations to nearby junctions.</p> <p>Members queried whether a previously proposed scrappage scheme remained part of the proposals; it was confirmed that a scrappage scheme would be incorporated as part of a bid to the Clean Air Fund (CAF). It was further noted that issues highlighted as part of the consultation would also be included in the CAF bid.</p> <p>The Board noted that when Derby was identified as requiring urgent measures to tackle air quality, there were six areas of nitrogen dioxide exceedance highlighted in the city. Moreover, members questioned the implications of failing to meet the deadline imposed by the Government and asked whether discussions with DEFRA had taken place as to if the plans would be accepted.</p> <p>It was reported that the collection of more refined local data had led to the number of areas of exceedance being reduced, with initial modelling based on national averages. It was stated that the timeframe for the submission of the full Business Case was dependent on consultation, further modelling and agreement by the Government. The legal implications of missing the deadline were unknown at the current time. It was confirmed that a traffic management option was not considered viable prior to the reduction in the number of areas of exceedance in June 2018.</p> <p>The Board noted ongoing work with bus companies and taxi operators, including a £2 million bid to the Clean Bus Technology Fund and investment in a city centre rapid charging hub for electric vehicles. Proposals to encourage cycling and reduce idling were</p>	

also discussed, with members noting evidence in the consultation suggesting women were significantly less likely to take up cycling.

Four recommendations were put to the vote and carried.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved:

- **To recommend to Council Cabinet that measures to encourage women to cycle safely were included as part of the bid to the Clean Air Fund.**
- **To recommend to Council Cabinet that local councillors are consulted on both citywide and ward based measures to improve air quality, as part of wider public consultation prior to submission of the Clean Air Fund bid.**
- **To recommend to Council Cabinet that a sub-group of the Green Forum was formed to consider air quality, to include cross-party and officer representation.**
- **To recommend to Council Cabinet that the number, scale and scope of air quality management areas is expanded as part of the bid to the Clean Air Fund.**

Item 7	Medium Term Financial Plan 2019/20 – 2022/23 - Update
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The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources providing an update on the 2019/20 to 2022/23 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). The report anticipated a further report to Council Cabinet in December 2018, prior to the planned start of the budget consultation process on 13 December.

It was noted that a report considered by Council Cabinet in July 2018 forecast a £22.8 million budget gap for 2019/20 to 2022/23. In the intervening period, the gap had been reduced to £9.6 million, with £5.5 million of savings still to be identified for 2019/20.

The report outlined significant budget pressures in People Services and sought approval to begin consultation on a range of savings proposals. It was noted that the planned savings included the loss of 128 full-time equivalent posts; it was emphasised that compulsory redundancies would be kept to a minimum.

Relevant officers responded to questions on a wide range of budget proposals. The Board expressed concern that some measures may not result in value for money and could incur greater costs in the long-term, particularly with regards to the remodelling of the universal offer to carers and the Connexions service.

The Board noted proposals to remodel fostering and residential provision for children in care. It was reported that this would predominantly focus on outsourcing the recruitment and assessment of foster carers, following a recent soft-market testing exercise.

Members questioned how the administration was lobbying the Government for more sustainable resources. It was reported that letters to the Home Office, Secretary of State for Adult Social Care and a cross-party letter from the Health and Wellbeing Board had been sent in recent weeks, as well as extending an invitation to the Children's Minister to visit Derby.

Other questions included what would happen to buildings earmarked for closure; what

the statutory minimum offer was for the school improvement service and the likely impact of reductions in the public health grant and funding for the Troubled Families Programme. The removal of free parking for employees and councillors was considered; it was also confirmed that savings identified against the library service had already been included in the MFTP as part of the on-going review.

The Board queried why an additional report was necessary outside of the standard budget process and sought clarification on previously reported in-year overspends in People Services. It was stated that the report would allow consultation to begin on a number of proposals which, if approved, could be implemented from early in the 2019/20 financial year to avoid further pressures; it was stated that a further report would be provided to Council Cabinet on the quarter two outturn position. Additional forecasted pressures in the Communities and Place and Corporate Resources Directorates were also queried; it was suggested that this information would be collated and detailed to the Board in due course.

The Executive Scrutiny Board resolved:

- **To note the report.**
- **To recommend that Council Cabinet explore the viability of employing foster carers as in-house staff.**