

<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	<b>Communities Transport &amp; Environment PDS</b>	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	<b>13<sup>th</sup> March 2017</b>	
TITLE:	<b>Air Quality Update – Bath Air Quality Action Plan Review and Clean Air Zone</b>	
WARD:	Abbey, Kingsmead, Westmoreland, Newbridge, Twerton, Widcombe, Bathwick, Walcot	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<p><b>List of attachments to this report:</b></p> <p>Appendix A) Air Quality Management Area – Bath</p> <p>Appendix B) Source apportionment (which vehicles contribute what percentage of oxides of nitrogen) and</p> <p>Appendix C) List of selected potential measures for inclusion in the review of the Bath Air Quality Action Plan.</p>		

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 Officers are bringing an update to the Panel on the progress made in the ongoing update and revision of the Bath Air Quality Action Plan and recent developments relating to a Clean Air Zone.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is asked to;

- 2.1 Note the progress which has been made to date on reviewing the Bath Air Quality Action Plan
- 2.2 Note the list of proposed actions identified to date; and
- 2.3 Comment on the need for any further collaboration before the formal consultation documents are drawn up.

## **3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

- 3.1 The Bath Air Quality Action Plan documents will clearly identify whether any funding is available for specific measures through grant awards already won (such as the Go Ultra Low City Scheme fund).
- 3.2 It will be clearly stated that actions with no identified budget will be worked up in the plan in preparation for bid submissions to potential funds including any future DEFRA Air Quality Grant.
- 3.3 The revenue risk relating to any of the actions will be clearly identified along with the liable body / organisation. As such, the action plan will be split into sections according to budget availability and responsible parties.
- 3.4 The Council recently bid to DEFRA for £285,000 to pay for officer resource and consultation fee for feasibility work and implementation of a Bath CAZ and associated 'anti-idling' initiative. This bid was unsuccessful and an alternative source of funding now needs to be identified for this work to progress.

#### **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL**

- 4.1 Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 requires local authorities in the UK to review air quality in their area and designate air quality management areas if improvements are necessary – as is the case with the Bath Air Quality Management Area. Where an air quality management area is designated, local authorities are also required to work towards the Strategy's objectives prescribed in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010. An air quality action plan describing the pollution reduction measures must then be put in place.
- 4.2 A CAZ is one of the options suggested by DEFRA in the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) guidance as a possible measure to be included in an air quality action plan.

#### **5 THE REPORT**

- 5.1 The first phase of the development of the Bath Air Quality Action Plan has taken place in collaboration with a number of stakeholder groups. Appendix A) shows the extent of the area, appendix B) shows the source apportionment (which vehicles contribute what percentage of oxides of nitrogen) and appendix C) provides a list of selected potential measures for inclusion in the action plan which has been generated from this collaboration. The formal consultation for the action plan will commence in May 2017 with completion and approval of the plan scheduled for October 2017.
- 5.2 A bus and taxi focussed CAZ project plan was worked up for the bid submission to DEFRA in November 2016 for Air Quality Grant funding, but it was recently announced that the bid was unsuccessful and an alternative source of funding would be required for this work to progress. The potential CAZ was anticipated to cover a central area of Bath extending from and including the bus station to the north in the vicinity of George Street. The project plan included further feasibility work and, if viable, implementing the CAZ project via extensive consultation with operators and stakeholders. An 'anti-idling' initiative – that seeks to reduce engine idling in stationary traffic across the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) - was also included in the bid that could be introduced using existing legislation for all vehicles across a wider area than the

CAZ. Officers will now review potential alternative funding streams to enable this work to progress.

## 6 RATIONALE

6.1 The previous Bath Air Quality Action Plan was adopted in 2011 and the measures listed are either completed or outdated, so a re-focussing is required through a new plan to take account of the transport related strategic developments as identified in key documents such as the Bath Transport Strategy – Getting Around Bath.

6.2 The CAZ project was developed following a Low Emission Zone (former name for CAZ) feasibility study completed in 2014 and it presents an opportunity to deliver significant improvements in air quality in and around Bath as a key strand of the Getting Around Bath strategy should funding be available.

## 7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None

## 8 CONSULTATION

8.1 The Finance Manager for Place and Strategic Director for Place have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

## 9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

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<b>Background papers</b>	
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	