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**Report to:** Green Economy Panel

**Date:** 24 July 2018

**Subject:** **DEFRA Clean Air Strategy Consultation**

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## **Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To provide an introduction to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' Clean Air Strategy Consultation document published on 22 May 2018.
- 1.2 Officers to present an overview of the strategy and seek comments to incorporate into a Combined Authority response.
- 1.3 Recommend that endorsement of the final Combined Authority consultation is delegated to the Chair of the Green Economy Panel.

## **2 Information**

- 2.1 The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) published its draft Clean Air Strategy consultation document on 22 May 2018. The document has a wide remit to reduce harmful pollutants and emission from multiple sectors including transport, industry and energy. Deadline for consultation response is 14 August 2018.
- 2.2 The strategy sets out the Government's priorities for reducing public exposure to, and environmental damage caused by a range of pollutants including particulate matter, ammonia, nitrogen oxides and sulphur dioxide.
- 2.3 The document follows publication of the 'UK Plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations' in July 2018 for tackling transport related nitrogen dioxide emissions, and the UK Clean Growth Strategy published in October 2018 that outlined proposals for delivering low carbon, energy efficient growth in support of the 'Industrial Strategy' white paper.
- 2.4 The online consultation comprises of 32 questions which seek comment on proposed actions and option to detail additional measures.

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-quality/clean-air-strategy-consultation/>

2.5 The Strategy includes key actions for improving air quality from a range of sectors including the following;

- **Environmental Protection / Legislation;-**
  - Proposal to monitor impacts of air pollution on natural habitats to build stronger evidence case
  - New independent body to hold government to account after EU exit
  - Bringing forward clean air legislation
  
- **Energy / Industry;-**
  - Consultation on the exclusion of biomass plants from the 'Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme' if installed in urban areas already on gas grid
  - Making coal to biomass conversions ineligible for future allocation rounds of the 'contracts for difference' scheme
  - Legislation to ensure only the cleanest stoves are available from 2022
  - Consideration of tighter emission standards for 500kW – 1MW medium size combustion plants
  - Proposal to cut non-road mobile machinery emissions and give local authorities powers to control their use where air quality issues exist
  - Supporting UK industries to be leaders in clean technology
  
- **Transport;-**
  - Research to address non-exhaust based particulate emissions from tyre and break wear with the automotive industry
  - Set out plans for reducing emissions from shipping and aviation in forthcoming strategies. Ports to produce air quality strategies.
  - Rail – increased research and investment in alternative fuel technology, signposting measures to decarbonisation the network including a plan to remove diesel only trains by 2040, and identification of significant air quality concerns at rail stations
  
- **Farming;-**
  - National code of agricultural practise to control ammonia emissions
  - Support for farmers to reduce emissions of ammonia

2.6 As background information, the Combined Authority provided an update on local air quality issues and regional activities to the West Yorkshire Transport Committee meeting of 25 May 2018. The paper can be accessed here; <https://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s7240/Item%209%20-%20Air%20Quality%20Update.pdf>. This paper set out various examples of how partners are taking positive action to improve air quality. Part of the response is a Clean Air Zone (CAZ) in Leeds. Leeds City Council are currently consulting on the CAZ proposals which will be presented to the government later this year. The public consultation will run from 28 June to 12 August 2018. Part of the challenge from businesses is the level of consistency between schemes across the country as cities are coming forward with

different proposals. Cities do share their plans but different solutions are being proposed for different places. For example, Birmingham are currently consulting on a Clean Air Zone where charges would apply to most vehicles whose engine does not meet specific pollution standards: including buses and coaches, lorries, vans, cars and taxis and specialist vehicles like bin lorries.

- 2.7 At the Panel meeting a Combined Authority officer will outline the Government's Clean Air Strategy Consultation and will seek input to a Combined Authority consultation response.
- 2.8 A formal draft will be shared with members ahead of the deadline. It is proposed that endorsement of a final consultation response is delegated to the Chair of the Panel.

### **3 Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no implications associated with this paper.

### **4 Legal Implications**

- 4.1 There are no implications associated with this paper.

### **5 Staffing Implications**

- 5.1 There are no implications associated with this paper.

### **6 External Consultees**

- 6.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

### **7 Recommendations**

- 7.1 To note the consultation and to provide comment at Panel to help shape the formal Combined Authority response.
- 7.2 To approve delegated endorsement of a Combined Authority response to the Chair of the Panel.

### **8 Background Documents**

- 8.1 None.

### **9 Appendices**

- 9.1 None.