

Report to: West Yorkshire Transport Committee

Date: 9 November 2018

Subject: **Air Quality Update**

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Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1. To provide the Transport Committee with an update on air quality issues and related activities taking place across the region.

2. Information

DEFRA direction for improvement in Bradford Nitrogen Dioxide levels

- 2.1. On 5 October 2018 the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) wrote to City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council requiring detail and evidence on how Nitrogen Dioxide emissions will be reduced to within legal limits in the shortest timeframe possible in locations of exceedance. A full action plan and business case must be submitted to DEFRA by 31 October 2019 detailing the activities proposed and their impact. The outcome is the result of recent air quality evidence submitted to DEFRA by the Council which identified that the Shipley corridor and sections of the city's inner and outer ring road are likely to still be in breach of maximum annual Nitrogen Dioxide emission levels by 1 January 2020.
- 2.2. The Combined Authority's adopted West Yorkshire Transport Strategy and the West Yorkshire Low Emission Strategy prioritises working with all partner councils to reduce emissions from the transport sector. Projects being

delivered by the Combined Authority such as the Clean Bus Technology Fund and Ultra Low Emission Taxi Scheme support a reduction in Nitrogen Dioxide emissions from the transport sector.

- 2.3. DEFRA is expected to publish an Environment Bill in the autumn 2018 which will set out new primary national and local legislation to improve emissions from a range of sectors and sources including transport.

Clean Bus Technology Fund Delivery

- 2.4. The Department for Transport's Clean Bus Technology Fund is a £4.2 million grant scheme being delivered by the Combined Authority in partnership with Leeds City Council. The scheme will see the retrofit of 300 mid-life buses across West Yorkshire – approximately 30% of the West Yorkshire bus fleet to the latest Euro VI emission standard. The scheme is anticipated to remove over 52 tonnes of Nitrogen Dioxide from the existing West Yorkshire bus fleet.
- 2.5. Operators are starting to deliver their retrofit programmes, with the lower emission buses expected to be in operation before the end of 2018. An official project launch with the Chair of the Transport Committee is planned for November 2018. There will also be vinyl graphics fitted onto retrofit buses to raise awareness of the project and its impact.

WYLES Delivery Resourcing

- 2.6. Kirklees Council was awarded £106,000 in 2018 through the DEFRA annual Air Quality Grant scheme for resourcing to deliver the recommendations of the West Yorkshire Low Emission Strategy (WYLES). The WYLES sets out a series of actions for the Combined Authority and its five partner councils to influence and deliver improvements in transport's contribution to poor air quality. To date there has been limited resourcing to deliver collaborative work on the recommendations and this grant now provides the dedicated resourcing required.
- 2.7. Proposals for the WYLES role include that the post holder is based part-time within the Combined Authority to ensure collaboration with emerging Leeds City Region Energy Strategy and actions for transport. It is also proposed that the officer reports directly to Cllr Kim Groves, Chair of the Transport Committee on a quarterly basis, identifying progress and escalating challenges and barriers to delivering the WYLES recommendations. The role will commence from January 2019.
- 2.8. There is clear interface between the WYLES recommendations and those of the draft Leeds City Region Energy Strategy which seeks to adopt a science based target to significantly reduce carbon emissions. The Energy Strategy Delivery Plan highlights the critical role transport plays in reducing the region's carbon output and how carbon improvement can also support improved air quality and increase inward investment in clean energy. The Energy Strategy Delivery Plan actions that align with WYLES recommendations are;

- Supporting the rollout of alternative fuel vehicles including hydrogen and electric.
- Hyperhubs – large scale alternative fuel refuelling hubs focussed on the business, freight and logistics sectors.
- Electric Vehicle Charging infrastructure – this aligns with the WYLES recommendation to develop a regional Electric Vehicle Chargepoint Strategy to support rollout and electric vehicle adoption.
- Smart Park and Ride Sites – development of charging infrastructure and solar energy generation at new park and ride sites.
- Behaviour change schemes – activities to promote cycling and walking.

2.9. The WYLES officer will liaise with and support delivery of the Energy Strategy recommendations to support a clean growth economy with significantly improved air quality.

ULEV Taxi Scheme

2.10. The £1.98 million Ultra-Low Emission Taxi Scheme is being delivered by the Combined Authority in partnership with the West Yorkshire five partner councils. The funding will support delivery of up to 88 dedicated taxi charge points across the region. Following procurement led by the Combined Authority in summer 2018, ENGIE Power Limited has been awarded the framework contract to deliver charging infrastructure across the region including use of the Taxi Scheme grant. Subject to contract signature, ENGIE Power Limited has proposed a number of fiscal and marketing measures as part of its tender to reduce the cost of electric vehicle ownership and to incentivise the replacement of diesel taxis with electric zero-emission equivalents.

2.11. Partner councils have nominated multiple publically owned car park sites for installation of taxi charge points. It is also expected ENGIE Power Limited will work with private sector partners to install charge points in appropriate locations.

2.12. Chargepoint installation is expected to commence early 2019 and will result in a significant increase in the quantity of public and dedicated taxi charge points across the region.

Transport Research Innovation Fund – Cycling Emission Exposure Project

2.13. The Transport Research and Innovation Programme is a co-funded research programme between the University of Leeds and the Combined Authority to tackle key transport issues in delivering the West Yorkshire Transport Strategy and wider transport/economic knowledge gaps. A number of projects have been funded to build evidence to help the Combined Authority deliver the inclusive growth agenda and the priorities of the West Yorkshire Transport Strategy.

- 2.14. Professors James Tate and Eva Heinen have proposed to undertake research to look at emission exposure and health impacts for cyclists along different segregated sections of the CityConnect cycle superhighway route between Leeds and Bradford compared with on-road cycle lanes and emission exposure for drivers on the same corridor. The research will seek to improve health and economic benefits of cycling to help strengthen the business case for investment in cycling.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1. No financial implications have been identified.

4. Legal implications

- 4.1. No legal and compliance implications have been identified.

5. Staffing implications

- 5.1. No staffing implications have been identified

6. External consultees

- 6.1. No external consultees are required for this update report.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1. That the contents of the report be noted.

8. Background documents

- 8.1. None.

9. Appendices

None.