COUNCIL MEETING

23 January 2020

AIR QUALITY PROPOSALS: THE CLEAN AIR PLAN FOR NEWCASTLE, GATESHEAD AND NORTH TYNESIDE

Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of the report is to update on the public consultation into air quality proposals and sets out the proposed measures.

2. Based on the consultation response the proposed package is a Clean Air Zone Class C with traffic management changes to reduce capacity on the Tyne Bridge, its approaches and the CME. It also includes a wide range of mitigation and support measures including grants for affected businesses/individuals, public transport priority measures, and the development of a School Streets initiative to improve air quality near schools.

3. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

4. It is recommended that Council approve the Business Case in advance of formal submission to the Joint Air Quality Unit as the proposed option for delivering compliance with legal limits for nitrogen dioxide in the shortest possible time, in adherence to the Council's obligations under the Environment Act 1995 (Feasibility Study for Nitrogen Dioxide Compliance) Air Quality Direction 2017 and the Environment Act 1995 (Gateshead Council, Newcastle City Council and North Tyneside Council) Air Quality Direction 2019.