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Cllr George Duggins
Leader of Coventry City Council
Earl Street
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13th

February 2020

Dear Cllr Duggins,

Thank you for Martin Yardley's letter dated 27 September 2019 providing an update on Coventry City Council's air quality plan.

As you are aware, your local authority was directed in March 2019 to implement a Class D charging Clean Air Zone (CAZ) and additional measures to deliver nitrogen dioxide compliance in the shortest possible time and by 2023 at the latest and to submit a Full Business Case by 27 September 2019. You were directed to provide updated modelling by 14 June to confirm the class of CAZ and what, if any, additional measures are required. In addition, my predecessor Minister Coffey, requested that you provide an updated Clean Air Fund bid proposal targeted at those affected and that you prepare to implement your scheme.

I am pleased that you have submitted updated modelling in order to meet your direction and that the Council has subsequently worked closely with my officials to refine your options and provide further information and supporting evidence. On the basis of the evidence provided, I am content that you should proceed with implementing your preferred alternative option to a charging CAZ to deliver compliance in the shortest possible time, and by 2021 at the latest, namely the following measures:

- Capacity improvements on the B4106 through Spon End;
- Capacity improvements at Junction 7 on the Ring Road (A4053/B4106)
- Opening of Upper Hill Street onto the A4053 Ring Road, giving left in/left out access to the Ring Road via the anti-clockwise on-slip road at Junction 8;
- Closure of Barras Lane between the A4114 Holyhead Road and Coundon Road/Upper Hill Street;
- Peak time traffic restrictions and interpeak time traffic restrictions on the eastern section of A4114 Holyhead Road on the approach to Junction 8;
- Construction of a segregated cycle route linking Coundon with the city centre along Coundon Road and Upper Hill Street;
- Engagement initiative (travel planning) for schools, businesses and communities along the Holyhead Road corridor;

- Banning the right turn from Cash's Lane onto Foleshill Road;
- HGV ban on part of Foleshill Road;
- Assigning electric buses (funded separately) to Foleshill Road.

I am pleased to confirm funding of £20m from the Implementation Fund, in addition to the £4.5m you have already received, to implement the measures. My officials will shortly be issuing a grant letter for the Implementation Fund. We will also provide guidance on the associated reporting, monitoring and ways of working going forward.

While I recognise that the General Election may have led to postponement of some activities, I am disappointed to hear that Coventry's Full Business Case has been delayed. Your updated plan indicates that you will implement your preferred option in time to deliver compliance by 2021 therefore I am directing your local authority on the basis of this timeline. I do so with the assurance that the delay to the Full Business Case will not impact on delivery of the preferred option or on the date of compliance and with the expectation that any required public consultation will commence before the end of March. I attach to this letter a Ministerial Direction requiring Coventry City Council to implement the measures set out above and provide to Government a Full Business Case by 19 June 2020 at the latest. We have provided sufficient funding not to hamper progress in delivering your plan. On receipt of your Full Business Case we can assess if any small additional funding is required following an appropriate procurement process.

We have also assessed your Clean Air Fund bid. The rationale for your proposed Clean Air Fund mitigation measures does not meet the criteria. There is insufficient evidence in your bid to show that the proposed mitigation measures would address the minor disbenefits that have been identified in your distributional analysis. We will therefore not be funding these proposals. The Clean Air Fund is competitive and I know that this will be disappointing news but would encourage you to continue to consider other funding opportunities. My officials will be able to provide advice on what funding is available.

I have requested to be kept closely informed of your progress over the coming months.

Yours sincerely,



REBECCA POW MP