

To: Scrutiny Committee
Date: 14 January 2020
Report of: Tim Sadler, Transition Director
Title of Report: Planning for the 2020 Zero Emissions Zone

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	The scrutiny committee asked for a report to consider what work is underway in conjunction with the County Council to prepare for the introduction of the 2020 Zero Emission Zone in the City Centre.
Key decision:	No
Executive Board Member:	Councillor Tom Hayes, Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford
Corporate Priority:	Clean Green Oxford
Policy Framework:	Corporate Plan
Recommendation: That the Scrutiny Committee resolves to:	
1. Note and comment on the report	

Appendices	
Appendix 1	ZEZ proposals Jan 2020

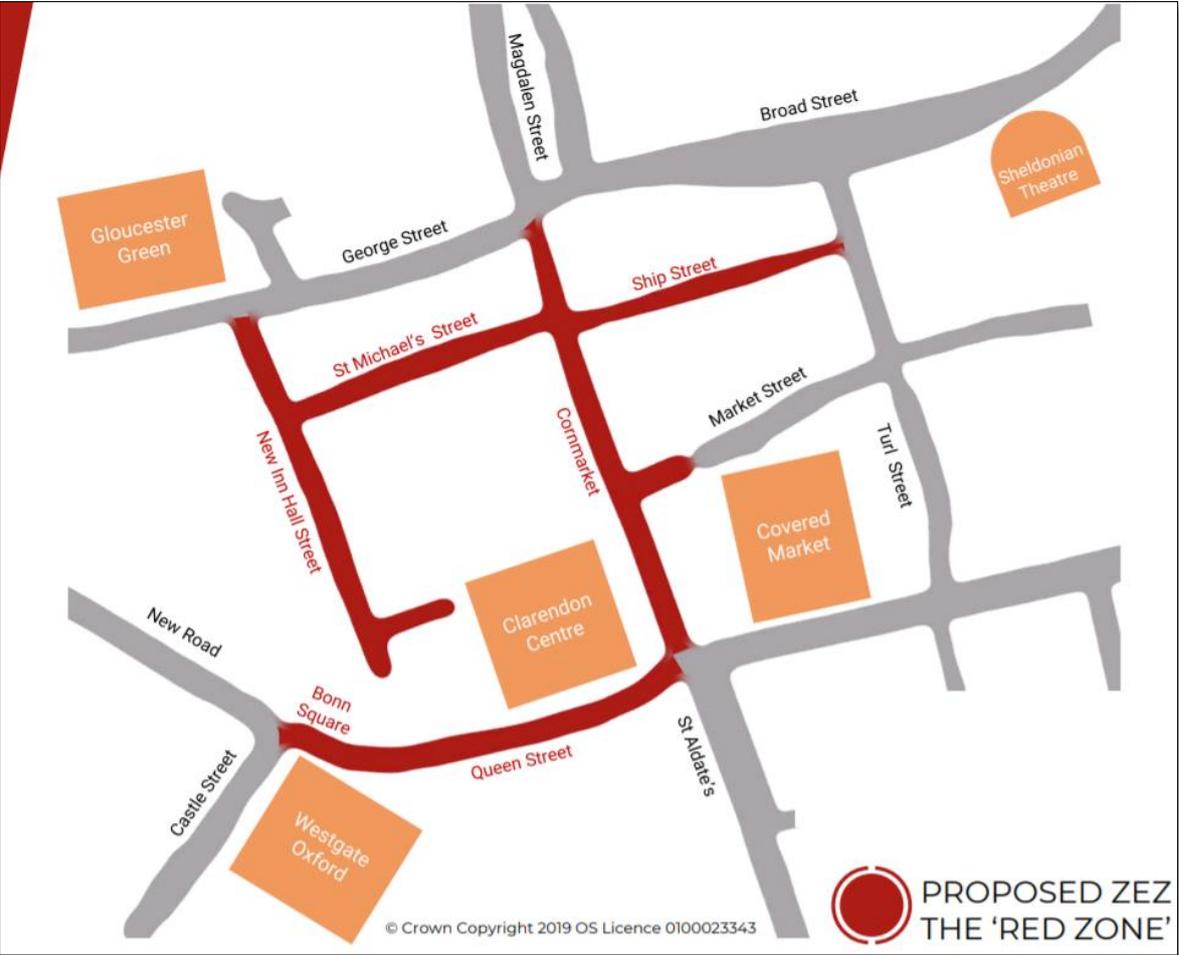
Introduction and background

1. In January 2019, Oxford City Council unanimously declared a climate emergency in Oxford recognising the need to urgently reduce emissions. In Oxford 50tonnes of CO₂ is emitted by road traffic every morning rush hour. In addition to CO₂ emissions from transport, it also contributes to air pollution. Transport is by far the most significant source of emissions of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) in Oxford, accounting for 75% of emissions. Action is required because there is no 'safe' level of air pollution. A 2016 report from the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health found that outside air pollution cuts short 40,000 lives a year in the UK.

- 2. Oxfordshire County Councils Local Transport Plan 4 published in 2015 set out proposals to introduce a Zero Emission Zone (ZEV) in Oxford starting in 2020 to significantly reduce emissions from the transport sector. Since then proposals have been developed, in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council, for a ZEV in Oxford, to be rolled out in phases over 15 years, starting in 2020. The overall aim of this 'journey to zero' is to largely eliminate transport 'tailpipe' emissions in Oxford city centre by 2035.
- 3. The Oxford ZEV is a programme consisting of different elements, each addressing emissions from different transport sectors. This mix of elements reflects the powers available to the local authorities to control transport emissions, and the need to tailor those controls to maximise pollution reduction whilst ensuring the cost and practical implications of compliance are not unreasonable.

Latest ZEV proposals

- 4. On 7 January Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council published updated proposals for the Zero Emission Zone in Oxford city centre due to start in December 2020.
- 5. The proposed ZEV is shown on the map below. The area is referred to as the "Red Zone".



6. Under the proposals zero emission vehicles would be able to drive in the zone free of charge. Other vehicles would have to pay £10 per day (rising to £20 per day from December 2024) to drive in the zone between 7am and 7pm. Discounts and exemptions are proposed for some road users, including residents and blue badge holders.
7. Oxfordshire County Council as the Local Transport Authority will be responsible for the implementation of the zone, including applying for and administering the charging order.
8. The Red Zone charging scheme will work in a similar way to the London congestion charge and ultra-low emission zone. Signs will be installed around the perimeter of the zone and on the routes into the city to notify drivers of the ZEZ. Anyone driving or parking in the zone during the charging hours would need to pay the required charge or register for a discount. The zone will be enforced by the use of ANPR cameras.
9. Income raised by the scheme must, by law, be used to improve local transport. The councils propose to use any income to support businesses and residents in the Red Zone in making the transition to zero emission transport.
10. The Councils have already approved emission standards for buses and hackney carriages. A new Euro 6 Low Emission Zone for buses will come into force in December 2020, requiring buses to be a minimum of Euro 6. All Oxford-licensed Hackney Carriages (black cabs) are required to be zero emission by 2025, with emissions standards phased in between 2020 and 2025.
11. The ZEZ will lead to cleaner air, quieter streets and contribute to action on climate change. Further details of the proposals are available here:
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/zeroemissionzone

Supporting projects and programmes

12. The City Council runs a number of programmes and projects which are aimed at supporting residents and business in preparing for the introduction of the Zone. Below an overview of these projects.
13. Resident support:
 - a. Go Ultra Low Oxford; programme to install about 100 electric vehicle charging stations in Oxford's residential streets to help people go electric. This is aimed at assisting people without off street parking in moving to electric vehicles by providing them access to charging points.
 - b. Electric car clubs being introduced across the city to allow people to rent an electric car on a short term basis, allowing access to electric vehicles without purchasing one.
 - c. Electric vehicle (EV) test drive events where residents can come along and learn more about electric vehicles, charging and financing as well as test drive an EV.
 - d. Energy Superhub Oxford will enable the establishment of an electric vehicle 'superhub' – which aims to be the first charging hub in Oxford with rapid electric vehicle charging. The superhub will see the installation of more than 20 ultra-rapid electric vehicle chargers for public and business use.

14. Business support:
- a. We have secured funding from DEFRA's Air Quality Fund to specifically work with business to assist them in preparing for the zone. The support will include assessment of how different business sectors can migrate to zero emission modes of travel and goods distribution as well as dedicated communications and engagement.
 - b. We have run a number of EV Business Breakfasts on topics ranging from vehicles to charging, specifically aimed at local businesses. The next EV Business Breakfast takes place at the beginning of February and covers financing.
 - c. Secured funding from DEFRA's Air Quality Fund for the purchase of electric delivery vehicles and installation of charging points to help Covered Market businesses prepare for the introduction of the zone.
15. Bus operator support:
- a. Working with bus operators to retrofit 5 buses to fully electric and 115 to euro VI standard, with expected NO₂ savings of 5.5 tonnes/year and a total of 27.6 tonnes over the lifetime of the project with £2.3million worth of funding secured from the Clean Bus Technology fund (CBTF).
 - b. As part of the Energy Superhub Oxford project we are working with operators to investigate the opportunities for fleet migration to electric including understanding of infrastructure and bus requirements.
16. Taxi support:
- a. Installed the first rapid electric taxi charging points in Oxford at Manzil Way Gardens in East Oxford. The installation of the chargers is part of plans to install up to 19 electric vehicle points for taxis in order to support the trade in phasing out polluting vehicles and replace their vehicles with Ultra Low Emission taxis.
 - b. We are working with Hackney drivers to offer duty cycle assessment which compares their costs of running diesel vehicles with the potential cost of electric hackneys and provides drives with personalised reports.
 - c. Running a 'Try Before You Buy' programme for Hackney drivers which allows them to test drive electric hackney carriages for up to 4 weeks to familiarise themselves with the vehicles, their capabilities and running cost.

Next Steps

17. Proposals for the Red Zone were published on the 7th January and the public has until the 31st January to provide feedback on the proposals. Formal consultation on the charging scheme is planned for March 2020. The Red Zone charging scheme is expected to come into force on the 1st December 2020.
18. The euro 6 bus low emission zone comes into effect on the 1st December 2020 and the licensing requirements for hackney carriages already apply.

Report author	Mai Jarvis
Job title	Environmental Quality Team Manager
Service area or department	Environmental Sustainability
Telephone	01865 252403
e-mail	mjarvis@oxford.gov.uk

Background Papers: None

This page is intentionally left blank