



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Dr Thérèse Coffey MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
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Cllr Ranjit Banwait
Leader, Derby City Council
The Council House
Corporation Street
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13 March 2018

Dear Cllr Banwait,

Thank you and your colleagues for coming to London on 28 February to discuss progress with your plans to deliver compliance with statutory nitrogen dioxide concentration limits in the shortest possible time. I welcomed the attendance of two local MPs, Margaret Beckett and Chris Williamson.

In December your local authority received a ministerial direction requiring it to provide a Full Business Case for its plans by 15 September 2018 and my officials set out a timetable to support achieving this deadline. I am disappointed that Derby has been consistently late in submitting evidence on this work and we have still not seen any of the detail or modelling outputs for the options you have been developing. You were asked to provide your Outline Business Case, containing an evidenced preferred option, in October last year and again by the end of February this year. This is of serious and increasing concern.

I would expect you to have considered a range of options, then identified a short list of options that can deliver compliance in the shortest possible time. From this short list of options, you are expected to provide evidence on your selection of a preferred option that must demonstrate how your preferred option would achieve compliance in the shortest possible time and how it would be fair, effective and good value.

I note that details of the scrappage scheme proposal presented in the local Derby media varied significantly from that outlined to us. I also note that in our meeting you said you had considered options that included a charging CAZ but your own modelling indicated that these would not meet compliance, leading you to instead identify an option of a targeted scrappage scheme.

I completely understand the concerns expressed about the impact on the economy of Derby of various options to improve air quality. I welcomed the information regarding buses increasingly using the latest technology which will be helped by the recent award of £2.3m from the Clean Bus Technology Fund.

We discussed how you can accelerate work and I welcome your commitment to this. The most immediate next step would be to commence urgent and open discussions with JAQU to examine the evidence behind your proposed targeted scrappage scheme. I should underline that I cannot take a view on your proposal without the information outlined above but I do want to encourage you to be realistic in your assessment of the options.

I have asked my officials to provide me with frequent reports on the work which I hope will demonstrate progress towards a preferred option and high levels of commitment from Derby.

Given public interest in improving air quality, I will be publishing this letter on gov.uk and copying this to the MPs covering the city of Derby, Rt Hon Margaret Beckett, Chris Williamson and Pauline Latham.

Yours sincerely,

DR THERESE COFFEY MP