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**Dr Thérèse Coffey MP**  
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Councillor Dine Romero  
Leader of Bath and North East Somerset Council  
The Guildhall,  
Bath, BA1 5AW

19 July 2019

Dear Cllr Romero,

### **Bath and North East Somerset Local NO<sub>2</sub> Plan Update**

In March 2019, your local authority was directed to implement a class C charging Clean Air Zone (CAZ) and additional measures to deliver nitrogen dioxide compliance in the shortest possible time and by 2021 at the latest. You were directed to provide updated modelling on 14 June to confirm the class of CAZ and if any additional measures are required. In addition, I requested that you provide updated Clean Air Fund (CAF) 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. On the basis of the evidence provided I am content that you should continue to proceed towards developing the implementation and contract arrangements of a class C CAZ and additional junction changes at Queens Square.

I am pleased that you have provided an updated CAF bid which is aimed at supporting those who will be affected by the class C charging Clean Air Zone. We will look to provide a CAF award of between £5 million and £10 million, subject to refinement and consideration of State Aid, in order to fund:

- Retrofitting of Euro 3/4/5 buses;
- Financial support for replacing non-compliant commercial vehicles;
- Travel advisors to facilitate the use of mitigation schemes.

We encourage further development of the bid to provide support and facilities for alternative delivery and servicing options for businesses and will assess this measure at the time of Full Business Case submission. I note your changes to the CAZ boundary and proposal for a HGV turn-back and we will look to provide funding from the Implementation Fund for these measures once costs have been confirmed at Full Business Case stage.

I expect the feedback from JAQU and the independent review panels to be addressed in developing the commercial, financial and management arrangements for the scheme to be outlined in the Full Business Case. I request that you engage with my officials before procuring elements of your charging scheme and share documents relating to procurement and the monitoring and evaluation of your

scheme. This is to ensure the scheme is procured according to value for money and within the parameters of our central system.

I am disappointed that you have publicly announced that there will be a delay in beginning your public consultation without engaging with us about these delays. I have concerns that you did not communicate this delay to us prior to the media release and request that you provide an updated timeline to Full Business Case submission and implementation of the your measures. I should like to make clear that if delay is considered to put at risk the achievement of compliance by the earliest date possible, I will take necessary steps, potentially including legal action, to prevent this.

I have requested to be kept closely informed over your progress over the coming months and look forward to receiving your Full Business Case. In the public interest, this letter will be published on gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

**DR THERESE COFFEY MP**