

SCRUTINY REPORT



MEETING: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 20 July 2021

SUBJECT: Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan

REPORT FROM: Councillor Alan Quinn – Cabinet Member Environment, Climate Change and Operations

CONTACT OFFICER: Laura Swann – Assistant Director Operations (Strategy)

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Poor air quality is one the largest environmental risk to the public's health. Taking action to improve air quality is crucial to improve population health.
- 1.2 Whilst air quality has been generally improving over time, particular pollutants remain a serious concern in many urban areas and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is one such pollutant.
- 1.3 In Greater Manchester, road transport is responsible for approximately 80% of NO₂ concentrations at the roadside, of which diesel vehicles are the largest source.
- 1.4 Greater Manchester is under a Ministerial direction, along with many local authorities across the UK, to take quick action to reduce harmful Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) levels, issuing a direction under the Environment Act 1995 to undertake feasibility studies to identify measures for reducing NO₂ concentrations to within legal limit values in the "shortest possible time", and in the case of Greater Manchester, by 2024 at the latest.
- 1.5 In Greater Manchester (GM) authorities have worked together to develop a Clean Air Plan to tackle NO₂ Exceedances at the Roadside, referred to as GM CAP.
- 1.6 A report on the introduction of the GM CAP was endorsed by the GMCA on 25 June (Appendix 1). The report detailed all the background work that has taken place and outlined the final plan for approval. Full details around how the scheme will work, the associated implementation, charges and funding are contained within the report.
- 1.7 In total, Greater Manchester has secured over £120m in government funding to help Greater Manchester's people, businesses and organisations prepare:
 - £87.9m Clean Commercial Vehicle Fund: LGV (£70m), HGV (£7.6m), coach (£4.4m), minibus (£2m).

- £21.4m Clean Taxi Fund: private hire vehicles (£10.2m), hackney carriages (£9.5m).
- £14.7m Bus Retrofit Fund: to retrofit non-compliant buses running services in GM.
- £3.2m Bus Replacement Fund: to support replacement of non-compliant buses that can't be retrofitted.
- Additional funding has also been secured for over 30 taxi-only electric vehicle charging points at strategic sites across the city-region.

1.8 A briefing note was produced to summarise the key details around the plan (Appendix 2).

1.9 The formal adoption of the plan now needs to go through the Council's approval process. This involves the report going to Cabinet and Full Council in July (Appendix 3).

2.0 ISSUES

2.1 Throughout the development of the plan GM has considered a range of options to deliver compliance, overseen by the GM Steering Group, to understand the type and scale of intervention needed to reduce NO₂ to within legal Limit Values in the "shortest possible time" across Greater Manchester.

2.2 A review of all the information gathered through the eight-week long public consultation in 2020, and wider data, evidence and modelling work, including the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic on GM businesses has been undertaken.

2.3 The final plan takes this into account and changes have been made to the package of support measure available to GM businesses, who need support to upgrade their vehicles.

3.0 CONCLUSION

3.1 We are under a ministerial direction to introduce a Clean Air Plan and to reduce NO₂ concentrations to within legal limit values in the "shortest possible time".

3.2 Poor air quality is one of the largest environmental risk to the public's health. Taking action to improve air quality is crucial to improve population health.

3.3 Introducing the Clean Air Plan contributes to the Let's do it Strategy commitments, to Improve quality of life and to be carbon neutral as a borough by 2038.

4.0 APPENDICES

4.1 Appendix 1 – [Clean Air Plan Update to 25 June 2021 GMCA Meeting](#)

4.2 Appendix 2 – Clean Air Plan Briefing Note

4.3 Appendix 3 - GM Clean Air Final Plan Cabinet Report 21 July 2021

List of Background Papers:-

- 23 Feb 2021 Cabinet Report - GM Clean Air Plan: Consultation
- 2 September 2020 Cabinet Report – Clean Air Plan Consultation
- 29 July 2020 Cabinet Report – Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan – Tackling Nitrogen Dioxide Exceedances at the Roadside – Update

Contact Details:-

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