

3) Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone

A motion had been received and set out in the Summons in the names of:

Bernstein, Brown, Caserta, Cropper, Dean, Gartside, Harris, Lancaster, Hurst, Hussain, N Jones, Lewis, McBriar, Rydeheard, Vernon.

~~REMOVE [The Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone was first proposed by the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, in 2019.~~

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~~Since that date, this Council voted in favour of the Mayor's scheme, as a result, we have seen huge public criticism of the plans.~~

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~~The Greater Manchester Clean Air Final Plan report, presented to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), on 25th June 2021 by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) was misleading.]~~

ADD – Between 2015 and 2018 the Government lost 3 high court cases brought by Client Earth. In each case the judge found the Government to be in breach of its own air quality standards.

Following that the 10 local authorities in Greater Manchester, as well as dozens of other local authorities in England were placed under a Ministerial Direction as part of the UK Plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations under 1995 Environment Act (GM Direction).

This required local authorities to undertake work to identify the preferred option to reduce NO2 levels to within legal limits in the shortest possible time and compliant by 2024 at the latest, including the development of a charging Clean Air Zone.

Labour Leaders and the Greater Manchester Mayor have argued that the 2024 deadline was no longer achievable without causing significant harm to jobs and businesses in Greater Manchester. As a result, Greater Manchester Councils took the decision to go back to the Government and request that the Ministerial Direction be lifted.

The Government argued for a one-year delay to the scheme. But the Labour Leaders and Mayor held out for a two-year delay. This was eventually agreed by the Government and is reflected in the new Ministerial Direction setting a deadline of 2026 for compliance.

This now allows for a very different scheme to be put in place and a new scheme has to be agreed by the Government by July.

The Council notes:

- Air pollution is linked to a wide range of serious illnesses and conditions. It contributes to approximately 1,200 deaths a year in Greater Manchester
- The Government has previously rejected Greater Manchester's call for an additional hardship fund

- The position of the 9 Labour Leaders and Greater Manchester Mayor, which support a non-charging zone
- The Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone (CAZ) is 493sqm which includes every district in GM
- TfGM in July 2021 stated a database sourced from The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) estimated that approximately at present 90% of non-compliant LGV's in GM, are not retrofittable
- TfGM estimates that in 2023 there will be 75,000 non-compliant LGV's based in GM out of a total fleet of 136k LGV's
- The Greater Manchester Clean Air Final Plan report was approved by all GM Districts and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority **REMOVE** – ~~[to support the Mayor of Greater Manchester's plan for Clean Air during July 2021]~~
- The 8 Greater Manchester Conservative MPs and 1 Labour MP wrote to the Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Affairs urging a delay to the rollout of the CAZ for further consultation

The Council resolves to:

~~REMOVE – [Call on the Chief Executive to write to the Mayor of Greater Manchester to state the Clean Air Zone is not fit for purpose and ask for the scheme to be abandoned and for a new plan to be drafted to deal with air pollution~~

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~~Ask the Secretary of State to abandon the current scheme which was approved by Greater Manchester authorities because The Greater Manchester Clean Air Final Plan impacts tens of thousands of small businesses and charities within Greater Manchester region in addition to thousands who are based outside of the GM region but operate within the GM region contributing to the £62 billion economy~~

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~~Ask the Mayor of Greater Manchester in conjunction with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to draw up a new plan which does not charge but focuses solely on cleaning up the air where there are breaches.]~~

ADD – Call on the Government to cooperate with the current review of future arrangements in Greater Manchester and seek to agree a fairer approach to cleaning up our air.

Lobby the Government to ensure it provides full financial support to enable individuals and businesses to upgrade their vehicles, especially in light of the current supply-chain issues.

To also call upon the Government to fully fund the Bus Service Improvement Plan and City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement to help us improve walking, cycling and clean public transport.