



Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan: what's happening?

Greater Manchester's Clean Air Plan
Update: July 2022

Clean Air
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Manchester

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Where are we now? We need clean air, but in a better way

- Greater Manchester fed back to government that a charging clean air zone would not work
- Government has now asked GM to address illegal levels of local road air pollution by 2026
- Greater Manchester has suggested a non-charging approach to government and awaits their response
- Greater Manchester will now gather evidence from businesses and other organisations across the city region to show how a non-charging approach would work

Proposing a non-charging approach - detail.

Poor air quality caused by road transport affects everyone's health, particularly the most vulnerable people in society. Greater Manchester (GM) is committed to cleaning up the air residents breathe for everyone's benefit - but in a way that helps people to make the change to cleaner vehicles and does not put jobs, livelihoods and businesses at risk.

In February 2022 government agreed to lift a legal direction requiring GM to deliver a charging Clean Air Zone to make sure our air was within legal air quality limits by 2024 after GM said the original charging plan was unworkable.

GM has since put the case to government for an **Clean Air Plan that does not involve charging** as the best solution to address the roadside nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) problem in GM by 2026. Instead, the new proposed plan would help people to invest in cleaner vehicles to reduce the impact on air quality. £120m in government funding to help people upgrade to greener vehicles will remain in place to support implementation of a new Plan, which will be targeted at those locations suffering the worst air quality. Working in partnership with stakeholders we are working up proposals to deliver the best solutions to target funding as follows:

- Funding to support the upgrade to cleaner vehicles:
 - Continuation of an existing fund to support purchasing of cleaner buses (the Bus Fund)
 - Review of funding offer for commercial vehicles – HGV, coach, Hackney Cab and Private Hire Vehicles
 - Targeted proposals to support upgrade to the cleanest vehicles in key locations, particularly Hackneys
- Investment in electric buses across the network and targeted at the last points of exceedance

Government has not yet responded with their view on GM's case for an investment-led, non-charging Clean Air Plan.

On behalf of the 10 GM Local Authorities, Transport for Greater Manchester is seeking to work in partnership with business representative organisations and their members to continue gathering evidence in support of developing the detailed plan in line with the approach set out above. If you want to get involved, watch out for our call for evidence in the coming weeks.

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