



Department
for Transport

Andy Burnham
Mayor of Greater Manchester



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Eamonn O'Brien
Leader of Bury Council and Portfolio lead for Clean Air

31 January 2025

Dear Andy and Eamonn,

GREATER MANCHESTER CLEAN AIR PLAN

Thank you for your letter of 11 October 2024 submitting your revised Clean Air Plan for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂). It was very good to meet you on 22 January to discuss your proposals. We are writing to confirm what we have agreed.

Reducing levels of NO₂ to below legal limits will bring health benefits for the people of Greater Manchester, and it is important we do so as quickly as possible. We are grateful for the work undertaken by Greater Manchester Authorities, and your team at TfGM, on your plan to deliver compliance with legal limits for NO₂ in the shortest possible time.

We have considered the Appraisal Report and the associated evidence provided. We are pleased to confirm that we are content to approve the 'investment led non-charging plan' proposed, and to provide up to £86m to support the following elements of your proposal. We consider these are needed to achieve compliance in the shortest possible time, which your evidence predicts to be 2026:

- Bus investment for 77 Euro VI buses, 40 zero emission buses and associated charging infrastructure (£51.1m);
- Local traffic management measures in central Manchester (£5m);
- Support to move the hackney carriage fleet to cleaner vehicles (£8m); and

- Administration, delivery, monitoring and other associated costs (up to £21.9m).

We do not consider the evidence supports a need for the full £30.5m funding proposed for a Clean Taxi Fund. Compliance is still predicted in 2026 without this measure. However, on the basis that aspects of this measure will further provide assurance to meet compliance, £8m is being provided to support moving Greater Manchester's hackney carriage fleet to cleaner vehicles. The outstanding £22.5m of the funding proposed is to be returned. Our officials will work with yours to confirm return arrangements.

In line with the approval, up to £86m of the unspent funds presently remaining with Greater Manchester authorities from the previous CAZ may be reallocated to support the agreed proposals. We expect the investment led plan to be deliverable within this funding and that overall final costs should potentially be lower. We will require return of any future underspend. Final costs should be confirmed to JAQU officials as contractual and other elements of the approved plan are finalised for delivery. JAQU officials will confirm detailed grant funding arrangements.

It is important that delivery of your plan starts as soon as possible to deliver benefits for the people of Greater Manchester. JAQU officials have already explored with your team your approach to delivery and will write separately to set out the supporting documentation required to confirm final arrangements are developed. This will include the need to provide a delivery plan setting out further the detailed implementation timeline together with financial management, risk and mitigation plans, governance, and related arrangements.

Finally, we are conscious that CAZ infrastructure remains in place. Following approval of your non-charging plan we ask that you now move ahead to remove this infrastructure where it is no longer necessary. We are supportive of your plan to explore with Greater Manchester Police whether they may wish to take responsibility for the ANPR network for law enforcement purposes.

Attached to this letter is a Ministerial Direction requiring Greater Manchester authorities to implement the approved measures. This letter has been copied to the leaders of the ten Greater Manchester Authorities.

Thank you once again for the constructive discussion. We look forward to the implementation of your plan and the benefits it will bring to the people of Greater Manchester.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Steve Reed". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Steve" and the last name "Reed" clearly legible. A short horizontal line is drawn underneath the signature.

THE RT HON STEVE REED OBE MP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Heidi Alexander". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Heidi" and the last name "Alexander" clearly legible.

THE RT HON HEIDI ALEXANDER MP