

The Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

(via email)

25 November 2022

Dear Secretary of State,

Following a meeting of the Greater Manchester Air Quality Administration Committee on 17 August 2022, Greater Manchester submitted the 'Case for a new Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan' (GM CAP), as an approved document.

In that Case, we set out following submission of the document, Greater Manchester will undertake a Participatory Policy Development process. This will involve exploration of three aspects of policy:

- Developing Greater Manchester's electric bus proposition, including identifying bus routes and services to be upgraded, assessing the impact on NO₂ concentrations and proposing a delivery plan;
- Developing a Fund proposition and any other measures to encourage upgrade to cleaner vehicles considering questions such as what funding offer would be effective, who should be in scope for funding, and whether funds should be targeted at the last points of exceedance; and
- Carrying out local area studies of the last points of exceedance to assess what measures are required to achieve compliance at each site.

The final output of the Participatory Policy Development process will be a package of measures forming a proposed New GM CAP, suitable for public consultation and it was anticipated that local authorities would be in a position to proceed with public consultation in early 2023.

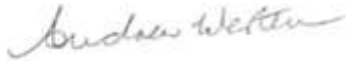
Following a review of the responses to the consultation and subject to making any adaptations to the proposals as necessary, it was anticipated that local authorities could be in a position to make a decision to proceed with the New GM CAP in July 2023.

The Greater Manchester Air Quality Administration Committee meeting on 26 October was disappointed to hear that there has been no response from government on the case for a new investment-led non-charging clean air plan.

The Mayor of Greater Manchester has previously written to request a meeting to discuss the Case for a new Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan and we would like to reiterate the central importance of this to enable progress of this important public health policy. We are of the view that in order to secure the right outcomes for Greater Manchester, it is essential that the production of a new clean air plan is undertaken jointly between government and Greater Manchester.

We share a commitment to tackle the significant public health issue of NO2 exceedances and associated poor air quality. We aim to deliver this in a way that minimises any financial hardship on the livelihood of businesses and residents in Greater Manchester, considering the cost-of-living crisis. That is why we have submitted a case for a non-charging investment led plan for our city-region.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR ANDREW WESTERN
Chair, Greater Manchester Air Quality
Administration Committee



COUNCILLOR TRACEY RAWLINS
Vice Chair, Greater Manchester Air Quality
Administration Committee

Copied to: Rebecca Pow MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs;
The Rt Hon Jesse Norman MP, Minister of State, Department for Transport