

Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan Overview – May 2019

The air quality problem

Pollution from road traffic is linked to a wide range of serious illnesses and conditions. It contributes to the equivalent of 1,200 deaths a year in Greater Manchester.

A key element of the air pollution issue is nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), which is at levels above legal limits at numerous sites in Greater Manchester. The main source of NO₂ is road vehicles, in particular older, diesel vehicles.

Government has instructed many local authorities across the UK to take quick action to reduce harmful NO₂ levels. In Greater Manchester, the 10 local authorities, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) are working together to develop a Clean Air Plan to tackle air pollution on local roads.

The Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan proposals

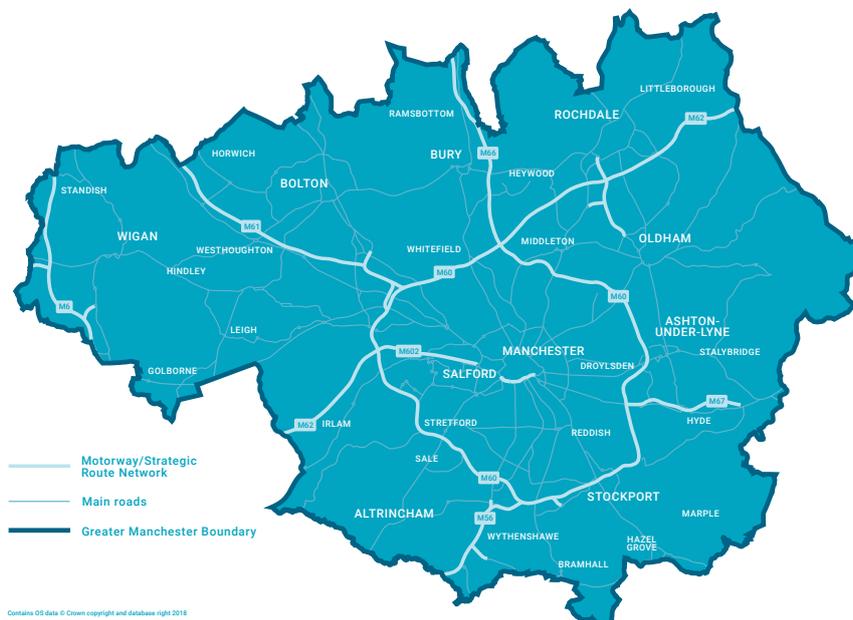
In developing the proposals, 96 potential measures were identified. These were then refined down to a shortlist of 17 measures, from which a number of options were developed.

After applying Government criteria to the different options – which included consideration of the wider impacts of the proposals and the cost to implement them – the proposal including a Greater Manchester-wide Clean Air Zone and wide-ranging support measures was identified as the best way forwards for tackling Greater Manchester's NO₂ issue and achieving compliance in the shortest possible time (by 2024).

Under this proposal, the key measures are:

To introduce a Clean Air Zone across the whole of Greater Manchester in two phases from 2021 and 2023

A Clean Air Zone is a designated area within which certain higher-pollution vehicles would pay a charge (a daily penalty) to drive. The aim is to improve air quality by encouraging drivers to upgrade to a cleaner vehicle and reduce the number of the most polluting vehicles travelling in the designated area. This is not the same as a Congestion Charging Zone, which aims to reduce congestion levels in a designated area, and charges all vehicles for entering the zone.



The boundary for the Clean Air Zone covers all roads in Greater Manchester, except for motorways and some major trunk roads (known as the Strategic Road Network). These are being dealt with separately by Highways England.

Under current proposals, owners of the most polluting vehicles would pay a daily penalty to drive into, out of, within or through the Clean Air Zone. This would include some buses, coaches, lorries, vans, taxis, private hire vehicles, minibuses, motorhomes and motorised horseboxes. It would not include cars (other than private hire vehicles), motorbikes or mopeds.

The proposed daily penalties and penalty charge notice (PCN) charge are as follows:

Vehicle type	Proposed daily penalty for non-compliant vehicles driving into, out of, within or through Greater Manchester	Proposed PCN charge (additional to the daily penalty)
 Taxis/private hire vehicles	£7.50 from 2021.	£120
 HGVs	£100 from 2021.	£120
 Buses/coaches	£100 from 2021.	£120
 Vans, minibuses, motorhomes and motorised horseboxes	£7.50 from 2023.	£120
 Cars, motorbikes and mopeds	N/A	N/A

A vehicle checker has been developed to show which vehicles would be likely to pay a daily penalty to enter or travel within the Clean Air Zone - cleanairm.com/vehicle-checker.

A multi-million pound funding package to support local businesses, including sole traders, to upgrade to cleaner vehicles

Alongside the Clean Air Zone, a number of Government-funded schemes are proposed for people and businesses in Greater Manchester who own vehicles that would be subject to the Clean Air Zone daily penalty. This financial support would help them to upgrade to a cleaner vehicle which would not be subject to the daily penalty.

At this stage how much funding would be available for each vehicle is not known.

Clean Freight Fund

£59 million funding ask from Government to support the upgrade of HGVs, coaches, vans and minibuses (which aren't used as a private hire vehicle) which are registered in Greater Manchester.

Clean Bus Fund

£29 million to support those operating registered bus services in Greater Manchester to upgrade their fleets.

Clean Taxi Fund

£28 million to support the upgrade of taxis and private hire vehicles which are licensed in Greater Manchester. Vehicles licensed outside of Greater Manchester would not be eligible for this support under the current proposals.

Greater Manchester Clean Air Loan Scheme

As well as the funds to clean up non-compliant vehicles, the proposals include a scheme which could provide loans at preferential rates for those who are taking advantage of the clean vehicle funds. The details of the loan scheme have not been developed.

To treble the number of electric vehicle public charging points

The proposals also include a £25 million funding ask to install another 600 rapid charging points (300 double-headed chargers) across the 10 council areas of Greater Manchester. Some of these charging points are planned for use by electric taxis and private hire vehicles only.

Helping Greater Manchester switch to greener transport

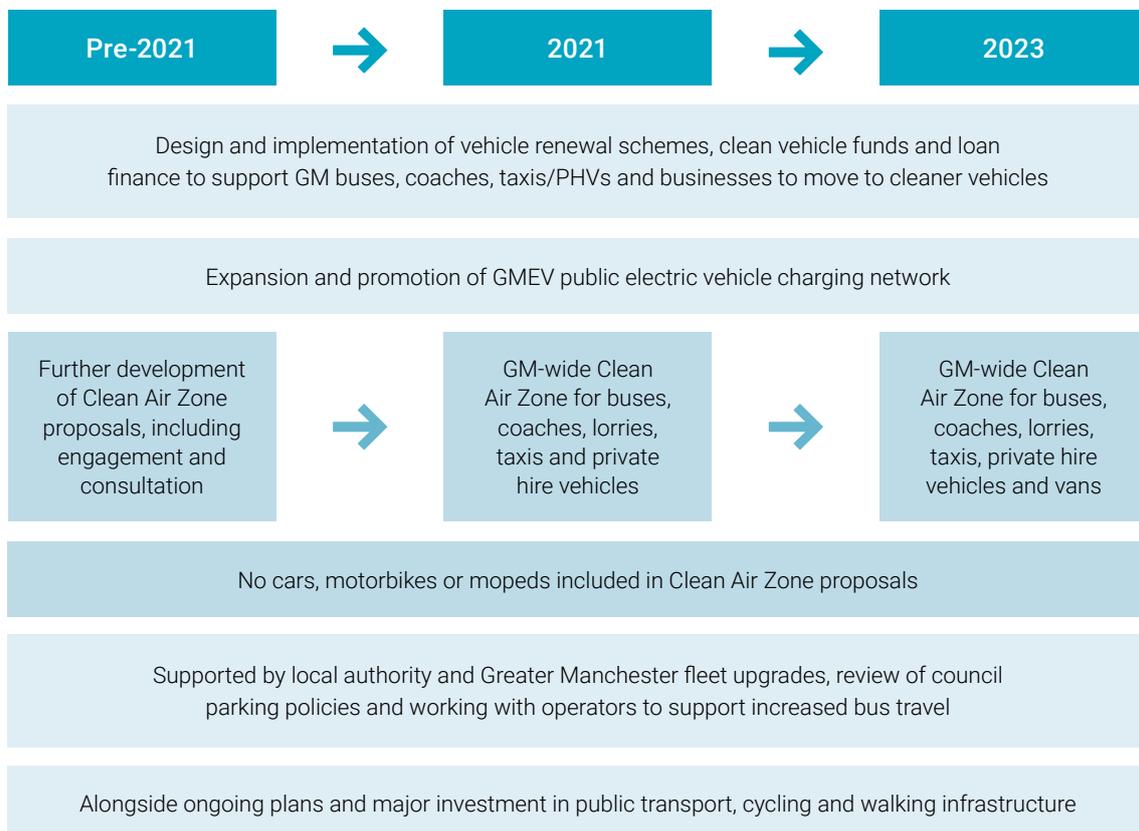
The proposals aim to help people, businesses, and organisations including schools across Greater Manchester play their part to reduce air pollution. This could include helping people to use their car less, especially for shorter journeys, helping businesses to change their fleet so it is cleaner, or to change company cars to electric.

Other measures being considered

As well as the proposals already mentioned, as part of the wider measures the following are also being considered:

- Local authority and Greater Manchester fleet upgrades (e.g. gritters, park maintenance vehicles).
- A review of council parking policies.
- Working with operators to support increased bus travel.

Timetable for implementation of proposed measures



Asks of government

Sitting alongside this package of measures are further actions needed from government:

- Work with vehicle manufacturers to produce clean, compliant electric and low-emission vehicles in the volumes needed for Greater Manchester and other areas.
- A clear instruction to Highways England with regard to air pollution from the motorway network in Greater Manchester, for which it has responsibility.

Join the conversation

Anyone who is interested in the proposals – or could be affected by them – is being encouraged to respond to a survey to help shape the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan. The survey runs from 13 May to 30 June 2019.

Views are being sought on:

1. How the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan proposals have been developed.
2. The Clean Air Zone proposals, including:
 - The proposed boundary.
 - The proposed daily penalties and penalty charge notice (PCN) charge.
 - The proposed timescales for introducing the Clean Air Zone.
 - The vehicles that should be exempt from paying the daily penalty.
 - Any other feedback on the proposals.
3. How the funding to clean up Greater Manchester's non-compliant vehicles should work and whether other financial support should be available to help people and businesses move to cleaner vehicles.
4. The proposals to treble the number of electric vehicle charging points in Greater Manchester and where the points should be located.
5. How best to help people, businesses and organisations play their part to reduce air pollution.

What happens next?

All feedback received from the survey will be read and collated. It will help to shape the detailed Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan proposals. Once this is done, a statutory public consultation will be held, which will provide an opportunity for people to have a say on the detailed proposals.

Following further consideration and approval by the 10 Greater Manchester local authorities, a Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan Full Business Case will be developed and submitted to Government. Subject to Government approval and funding, measures would be introduced from 2020, with the Clean Air Zone being introduced in two phases from 2021 and 2023.

For further information on the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan, visit cleanairgm.com or email info@cleanairgm.com.

For media enquiries, call 0161 244 1055 or email mediarelations@tfgm.com.

