

Report to OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

GM Clean Air Plan: Consultation

Portfolio Holder: Cllr B Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Culture

Officer Contact: Deputy Chief Executive

Report Author: Carol Brown, Director of Environmental Management and Neil Crabtree, Head of Public Protection
Ext. 4424

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Purpose of the Report

This report is to provide an update on the progress made to ensure compliance with the Governments Direction on Air Quality and Minimum Licensing Standards.

Update

1.1 In Greater Manchester, the 10 local authorities, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), collectively referred to as “Greater Manchester” or “GM”, have worked together to develop a Clean Air Plan to tackle NO₂ Exceedances at the Roadside, referred to as GM CAP. This report sets the progress of the GM CAP and the next steps for the development of the Clean Air Plan and the closely linked Minimum Licensing Standards (MLS) for taxi and private hire services. Key developments include:

- There has been no confirmation or offer of government funding for LGVs or hackneys, or the taxi and private hire electric vehicle charge points.
- GM was awarded £14.7m of funding for the retrofitting of buses, and this work commenced in December 2020. GM’s bus retrofit fund offers operators of locally registered bus services up to £16k of funding per vehicle towards the retrofit of non-compliant buses. The funding is available for vehicles, including minibuses and coaches, operating on a registered bus service within Greater Manchester. This includes cross-boundary services operating within the GM CAZ boundary.

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- 2.1 Air quality is legally monitored, and the Government has directed GM (and other areas) under UK law to address exceedance of the Annual Average standard for NO₂ which is set at 40 ug/m³. As GM Clean Air Plan is required to take action to tackle nitrogen dioxide exceedances until compliance with legal limits has been demonstrated (over a number of years), the nearer term influence of COVID-19 on air quality is not expected to lead to sufficiently long term reductions in pollution such that the modelled exceedances of the legal NO₂ limits will be met without implementing a Clean Air Zone.
 - 2.2 GM Clean Air Plan (CAP) and Minimum Licensing Standards (MLS) consultation responses are currently being analysed and reported on by an independent research agency. GM authorities will fully consider all of the information and evidence gathered during the consultation, so that they can understand the consequences COVID-19 has had on vehicle owners and trades which will be directly affected by the GM CAP and MLS.
 - 2.3 TfGM is undertaking on behalf of the ten Greater Manchester Authorities preparatory implementation work and contract arrangements required to deliver the CAZ and other GM CAP measures. Preparatory work is required in order to maintain delivery momentum in line with the funding arrangements agreed with JAQU, for example in relation to automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras, back office systems and service providers.
 - 2.4 The governance approach to both GM CAP and MLS, with the GM CAP final plan is to be brought forward for decision makers as soon as is reasonably practicable and no later than summer 2021, and the outputs of the MLS to be reported alongside the GM CAP at the same time.
 - 2.5 Full Cabinet report for reference and attached as an appendix.



GM Clean Air Plan
Consultation - Cabin

Recommendations

1. Members are requested to note the update on the work which continues to secure compliance with the current Government Direction on Air Quality as soon as reasonably practicable and no later than summer 2021.

3 Key Issues for Overview and Scrutiny to Discuss

- 3.1 The challenges around the need to meet the requirements of the Government Direction together with neighbouring GM authorities within the tight timescale and any concerns Members have around the process would be useful to discuss.

4 Key Questions for Overview and Scrutiny to Consider

- 4.1 The timescale for a further briefing – It is suggested that June/July would allow for the work outlined in this report leading to a Clean Air Zone implementation programme would be appropriate.

5. Links to Corporate Outcomes

- 5.1 Clean Air has a direct link to the Councils priorities related to both the Green and Healthy agenda's.

6 Consultation

- 6.1 Full consultation has been undertaken on the Cabinet update report from the 22 February 2021.