

**MINUTES OF THE GM CLEAN AIR QUALITY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2021 AT FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE**

PRESENT:

Tameside	Allison Gwynne (Chair)
Bolton	Nadim Muslim
Bury	Alan Quinn
Manchester	Tracey Rawlins
Oldham	Abdul Jabbar
Salford	Mike McCusker
Stockport	Tom Mcgee
Trafford	Stephen Adshead
Wigan	Joanne Marshall

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

GMCA	Kerry Bond
GMCA	Ninoshka Martins
TfGM	Kate Mooney
TfGM	Frank Tudor
TfGM	Megan Black
TfGM	Simon Warburton
Wigan	Rachel Palmer

AQC 21/25 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED /-

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andrew Western (Trafford) and Paul Prescott (Wigan).

AQC 21/26 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

RESOLVED/-

The Committee was requested to note the following membership updates:

1. That Councillor Adele Warren had been replaced by Councillor Nadim Muslim as representative from Bolton Council.
2. That Councillor Shah Wazir had been appointed as the substitute member for Rochdale Council.

BOLTON
BURY

MANCHESTER
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE
SALFORD

STOCKPORT
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD
WIGAN

AQC 21/27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED /-

There were no declarations of interest reported by any Member in respect of any item on the agenda.

AQC 21/28 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2021

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 October 2021 be approved as a correct record.

**AQC 21/29 GM CLEAN AIR PLAN – GM CLEAN AIR FUNDS
ASSESSMENT MECHANISM**

Consideration was given to a report that set out the assessment methodology to allow for Clean Air Funds to be adapted, if necessary, should the impacts of the Clean Air Zone (CAZ) would prove to be more severe than forecasted. The report also outlined the proposed principles for requesting additional Clean Air Funding grants and the evidence requirement to inform future decisions.

Members were advised that as set out in the GMCA report of 25 June 2021, the final GM Clean Air Plan did not include a Hardship Fund. However, Government had confirmed that they would like to ensure that Clean Air Funds can be adapted if necessary; and, that they would continue to work with GM to understand the funding position. It was reported that the deadline for triggering a review would be 3 months after GM's year one exemptions had expired following the initial CAZ launch i.e., 1 September 2023.

The committee was requested to note the correction to section 3, paragraph 3.2 of the report that reads, "*Firstly, Members will note that GM must trigger a review before 1st September 2023; this is 3 months after GM's temporary exemptions expire following the CAZ launch on 22 May 2022. GM officers consider that this timeframe will allow for a reasonable assessment of future need as evidence from the impact of the temporary exemption expiration can be taken into account*" be amended to read "*Firstly, Members will note that GM must trigger a review before 1st September 2023; this is 3 months after GM's temporary exemptions expire following the CAZ launch on 30 May 2022. GM officers consider that this timeframe will allow for a reasonable assessment of future need as evidence from the impact of the temporary exemption expiration can be taken into account.*"

The following comments were made:

The report was welcomed, and members noted the need to support individuals and organisations who would need to upgrade their vehicle to comply with the GM Clean Air policy. It was reported that the scheme was set to open for applications at the end of November and that regular updates on the take up of the scheme would be brought to the future meeting of committee.

It was acknowledged that it was crucial that the nominated GMCA Clean Air Portfolio Lead should write to the newly appointed Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU) Ministers to re-emphasise GM's commitment to deliver the targets as set out in Clean Air Plan and the intention to closely monitor the distribution of funding through the monitoring and evaluation plan.

Members further sought to understand Government's position on awarding additional funding should the scheme be depleted earlier than projected and if there was any provision in place for owners who would purchase a non-eligible vehicle in the future. It was reported that there was no guaranteed future funding commitment from Government once the allotted fund had been depleted. However, by means of the assessment mechanism GM would seek to evidence the requirement for additional funding.

It was suggested that TfGM should establish a process to approve the request for additional funding in the absence of a meeting of the committee. The suggestion was welcomed, and members were advised that further details would be shared at the next meeting.

Concerns were raised around the lack of clarity around the type of vehicles that would need to comply with the Clean Air Zone requirements. It was therefore noted that it was crucial to develop a publicity campaign that would seek to provide clarity on the categories of vehicles that would be required to make a payment to enter the Clean Air Zone and to inform GM residents of the financial support schemes. Members were informed of the planned communications activity and advised that TfGM had been closely working with DVLA to issue notifications to the registered keeper of non-eligible vehicles.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the assessment mechanism to allow for Clean Air Funds to be adapted, if necessary, if the impacts of the Clean Air Zone prove to be more severe than forecast be approved.
2. That the Clean Air Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Plan be brought to the next meeting of the committee.
3. That the GMCA Clean Air lead would write to Joint Air Quality Unit Ministers outlining the importance of this work and the intention to closely monitor the distribution of funding through the monitoring and evaluation plan. Setting out that Greater Manchester will report back regularly on progress and issues, identifying where Implementation Funds are needed to secure success of the GM Clean Air Plan.
4. That further updates on the up take of the scheme be provided at the next meeting of the committee.
5. That TfGM establish a process to approve the request for additional funding in the absence of a meeting of the committee.

6. To note the correction to the CAZ launch date from 22 May 2022 to 30 May 2022.

AQC 21/30 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED/-

That the future meeting dates be noted:

- 16 December 2021
- 26 January 2022