

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GM AIR QUALITY ADMINISTRATION
COMMITTEE HELD ON 28 FEBRUARY 2022 AT THE LANCASHIRE CRICKET CLUB**

PRESENT:

GMCA	Councillor Andrew Western (Chair)
Bolton	Councillor Nadim Muslim
Bury	Councillor Alan Quinn
Manchester	Councillor Tracey Rawlins
Oldham	Councillor George Hulme
Rochdale	Councillor Sarah Rowbotham
Salford	Councillor Mike McCusker
Stockport	Councillor Jude Wells
Trafford	Councillor Stephen Adshead

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

GMCA	Kerry Bond
GMCA	Liz Treacy
GMCA	Ninoshka Martins
TfGM	Kate Mooney
TfGM	Frank Tudor
TfGM	Megan Black
TfGM	Simon Warburton

AQC 21/39 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from councillors Tom McGee (Stockport), Abdul Jabbar (Oldham), Allison Gwynne (Tameside) and Paul Prescott (Wigan).

AQC 21/40 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

There were no Chairs announcements or items of urgent business.

AQC 21/41 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED /-

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

AQC 21/42 THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2022

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2022 be approved.

AQC 21/43 GM CLEAN AIR PLAN – FEBRUARY 2022 UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report that set out that government had confirmed that the current direction to implement a category C charging Clean Air Zone had been revoked and that government and the Greater Manchester authorities had agreed that a new plan was required to be submitted to the Secretary of State of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, by 1st July 2022. Also included in the report were a set of recommendations about interim arrangements for changes to delivery arrangements for the Clean Air Zone.

The following comments were made:

Members were requested to note that the wording to cover the opening date of 30th May 2022 Clean Air Zone signs was under review and it was intended for the wording to be aligned with that of Highways England.

Concerning the data gathered by ANPR camera, it was emphasised that private data would be held securely and through appropriate arrangement would be accessed only if needed by the police.

It was clarified that the ANPR cameras that had been installed would be utilised to capture data which would allow GM authorities to better understand the vehicle fleet currently in operation, and their associated emissions. This data would also allow GM to understand how vehicle fleets have naturally renewed over the course of time, and whether the impacts of Covid-19 has altered typical cycles and more importantly to understand the impact on air quality through vehicles entering GM. Where ANPR cameras are located adjacent to air quality monitoring systems, additional analysis would be undertaken to understand how specific vehicle types might be contributing to overall emissions and would inform the refinement of a new plan.

With the plan currently under review, a member sought to understand the impact on individuals who were eligible for funding. Members were assured that individuals who were previously eligible for funding would be able to continue with the purchase of their vehicle.

Members were advised that a renewed model of engagement with business was currently under review with government. Once agreed with government, it would be brought to a future meeting of the committee.

It was highlighted that the shortages in second-hand van market had been significantly exacerbated by the pandemic and therefore members noted the need to move forward in developing a revised scheme that would seek protect residents and businesses whilst achieving clean air targets by 2026, as directed by government.

The detrimental effects of poor air quality were emphasised; therefore, members noted the need to comply with their legal duties and to work with government to secure clean air across GM.

In conclusion, the Chair requested that members approve the recommendations as set out in the report. 10 members were in favour, and 1 member expressed his dissent against the 9 recommendations made to the committee.

RESOLVED /-

1. That it be noted that the Environment Act 1995 (Greater Manchester) Air Quality Direction 2020 had been revoked and replaced with a new direction on 8th February 2022 The Environment Act 1995 (Greater Manchester) Air Quality Direction 2022, as attached at Appendix 5.
2. That the submission of the report “Issues Leading to Delayed Compliance Based on the Approved GM CAP Assumptions”, as attached at Appendix 2, be noted.
3. That the approach for the GM Clean Air Plan policy redesign and review be noted.
4. That it be noted that HGV/bus funds remain open, and HGV funds had opened to small business.
5. That the process in place to make funding awards for vehicle owners with orders prior to funds being paused at the end of January, be noted.
6. That it be noted that the applications for funding, discounts or exemptions under the current policy would be paused.
7. That it be noted that the Clean Air Zone infrastructure installation had been paused.
8. That it be noted that the opening date of 30th May 2022 Clean Air Zone signs to be covered with a sticker (words to be confirmed).

9. That the use ANPR cameras that had been installed to gather “real time” data to inform the refinement of a new plan, and to monitor vehicle fleet renewal trends and specific traffic mix at key points of exceedance be approved.

AQC 21/44 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED /-

23 March 2022; 2:00 PM