

**ANDY BURNHAM**

**MAYOR OF  
GREATER  
MANCHESTER**

Ms Sue Huyton  
[Sue.Huyton@blf.org.uk](mailto:Sue.Huyton@blf.org.uk)

Ref: EM2124/KB

28 April 2019

Dear Sue,

Thank you for contacting me regarding Greater Manchester's Clean Air Plan.

There is growing evidence that poor quality air affects the health and well-being of the people of Greater Manchester, and I recognise the need for urgent action to address air pollution. The Clean Air Plan has been developed collectively by all Greater Manchester local authorities and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), and is being co-ordinated by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM).

I appreciate the points you have raised and I would like to assure you that I'm working closely with TfGM and Greater Manchester schools, with the aim of increasing active and sustainable travel to school – We recently launched the School Travel Choices project with a particular focus on active transport methods such as walking, cycling and scooting.

Initiatives such as this will enable us to tackle congestion, poor air quality and anti-social parking around the school gates and on the school run.

In addition, recent marketing campaigns led by TfGM highlight the effects of poor air quality on children, and provide advice around how to avoid the worst affected areas of air pollution – including advice for expectant mothers and parents of school age children.

The long term health consequences of exposure to air pollution are appalling. Which is why I am proud that together, the Greater Manchester councils have adopted a joined-up approach to deal with a shared problem across all of our city region.

The draft proposals (Outline Business Case) have now been submitted to government following endorsement by the GMCA and local authorities. Everyone in Greater Manchester – residents, businesses, organisations, interest groups and politicians will have the chance to have their say and help shape how we tackle air pollution. This forms a key part of the overall feasibility study that covers our population of 2.8 million people across geography of some 200 square miles.

GMCA, Churchgate House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU

<u>BOLTON</u>	<u>MANCHESTER</u>	<u>ROCHDALE</u>	<u>STOCKPORT</u>	<u>TRAFFORD</u>
<u>BURY</u>	<u>OLDHAM</u>	<u>SALFORD</u>	<u>TAMESIDE</u>	<u>WIGAN</u>

Given that air pollution does not respect boundaries, this coordinated approach is the most effective way to deal with a problem that affects all parts of Greater Manchester and cannot be remedied on a site by site or district by district basis.

The best performing option identified in the Outline Business Case proposes a category C charging Clean Air Zone that will target the most polluting commercial vehicles from 2021, and adds older polluting Light Goods Vehicles from 2023 across the whole of Greater Manchester. And crucially it is complemented by a package of measures to support local businesses to upgrade and clean their fleets as quickly as possible. Modelling indicates that together, these measures will bring about significant reductions in NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations quickly, delivering real health benefits and compliance three years earlier than the 'do minimum' option.

Several Clean Air Zone options were analysed, some of which included cars. However, our modelling shows that including the most-polluting cars would not have delivered compliance with nitrogen dioxide limits any quicker than the proposed Clean Air Zone. Furthermore, we also had to consider the impact that including cars would have on the most deprived communities.

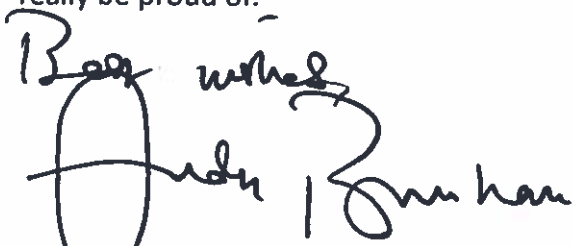
We have already commenced putting measures in place to drive improvements to encourage use of public transport; including buying more trams, investing in our cycling network, working with businesses to encourage sustainable travel, expanding our electric vehicle charging point network and investing in bus priority, cycling and walking schemes.

In addition, the 2016 Greater Manchester Low Emission Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan concentrate on ways tackle road transport emissions and also reduce carbon dioxide emissions. These complement the Greater Manchester Climate Change and Low Emissions Implementation Plan, which focuses on making the most of the region's energy and resources through reducing its carbon footprint.

We will be launching a public conversation in mid-May, running for six weeks, for people to give feedback and help shape the detailed design.

I would encourage you to take part in the conversation so that your views can be considered. You can sign up for news and updates on the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan at: <https://www.cleanairgm.com/share-your-views>. If you register we will inform you of the start of the conversation that will evaluate public opinion on what's proposed.

Please be assured that I will continue to work closely with TfGM and the ten districts to reduce the amount of harmful pollutants in the air we breathe so that our city becomes one that we can really be proud of.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Burnham', written over a large, stylized, circular scribble.

Andy Burnham  
Mayor of Greater Manchester