

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the GM Air Quality Administration
Committee, held on 31 July 2025 at GMCA Offices, Tootal Buildings, Oxford
Street, Manchester, M1 6EU**

Present:

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien	Chair, GM Lead Member for Clean Air
Councillor Richard Silvester	Bolton Council
Councillor Alan Quinn	Bury Council
Councillor Tracey Rawlins	Manchester City Council
Councillor Elaine Taylor	Oldham Council
Councillor Tricia Ayrton	Rochdale Council
Councillor Mike McCusker	Salford City Council
Councillor Jake Austin	Stockport Council
Councillor Andrew McClaren	Tameside Council
Councillor Stephen Adshead	Trafford Council

In attendance:

Councillor Jane Hamilton	Salford City Council
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Officers in Attendance:

Megan Black	Head of Logistics & Environment, TfGM
Gillian Duckworth	GMCA Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
Nigel Bellamy	Air Quality Consultant, TfGM
Martin Lax	Transport Strategy Director, TfGM
Paul Harris	Governance & Scrutiny Officer, GMCA

AQAC2526-01. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillors Laura Boyle (Tameside) and Aidan Williams (Trafford). Councillor Paul Prescott Councillor Abdul Jabbar

AQAC2526-02. Appointment of Chair of the Committee for the 2025/2026

Nominations were sought for the appointment of Chair of the Committee for the 2025/2026 municipal year.

A nomination of Councillor Eamonn O'Brien was moved and seconded.

There were no other nominations made.

Resolved/-

That Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, GM Lead Member for Clean Air, be appointed as Chair of the committee for 2025/26.

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien in the Chair

AQAC2526-03. Chair's Announcements and Urgent Business

There were no announcements or items of urgent business raised.

AQAC2526-04. Membership of the Committee 2025-2026

Resolved/-

That the membership of the committee for 2025/2026 be noted as follows:-

District	Member	Substitute
GMCA	Eamonn O'Brien (Lab)	
Bolton	Richard Silvester (Labour Co-operative)	Hamid Khurram (Lab)
Bury	Alan Quinn (Lab)	Gareth Staple-Jones (Lab)
Manchester	Tracey Rawlins (Lab)	Anthony McCaul (Lab)
Oldham	Abdul Jabbar (Lab)	Elaine Taylor (Lab)
Rochdale	Tricia Ayrton (Lab)	Vacancy
Salford	Mike McCusker (Lab)	Jane Hamilton (Lab)
Stockport	Jake Austin (Lib Dem)	Grace Bayham (Lib Dem)
Tameside	Laura Boyle (Lab)	Jacqueline Owen (Lab)
Trafford	Aidan Williams (Lab)	Steve Adshead (Lab)
Wigan	Paul Prescott (Lab)	Samantha Brown (Lab)

AQAC2526-05. Terms of Reference

Resolved/-

That the Terms of Reference of the GM Air Quality Administration Committee be noted.

Ordinary Meeting Business

AQAC2526-06. Declarations of Interest

There were no declamations made by any member of the committee in respect of any interests regarding any item on the agenda.

AQAC2526-07. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th February 2025, were submitted.

Resolved/-

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee, held 5th February 2025, be approved as a correct record.

AQAC2526-08. Update on Air Quality Alongside the Strategic Road Network in Greater Manchester

Resolved/-

It was noted that representatives from National Highways were not able to attend and for this reason, this item was deferred to a separate online briefing session for committee members.

AQAC2526-09. GM Clean Air Plan - July 2025 Update

Members considered a report which provided an update on the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan, now that the government has accepted the assessment that an investment-led, non-charging Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan will achieve

compliance with nitrogen dioxide levels on the local road network in the shortest possible time.

The Clean Air Plan update also provided information relating to the support to the GM Taxi Trade, Signage, and proposals for the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras.

Members noted that in respect of signage options for repurposing signs had been explored however the removal of the signs was identified as the best option.

The proposal to repurpose the ANPR cameras for use by GMP was highlighted. A public consultation on the proposed change of use was noted.

The Chair highlighted that there was an additional recommendation seeking members to consider a delegation to the Group Chief Executive GMCA, GMFRS and TfGM in consultation with the GM Clean Air Lead, to enter into an agreement with the Growth Company for the distribution of Taxi Funding.

In welcoming the report a Member highlighted the length of time it had taken to agree to the removal of signage. In response, it was noted that there had been an attempt to look at alternative usage of the signs and that there was associated consultation with relevant authorities in respect of this approach, which took time.

A Member highlighted the challenges to the hackney taxi fleet in Oldham and sought clarification if retrospective funding can be provided to taxi drivers that had updated their vehicles to be compliant. In response it was noted that meetings had taken place with the Taxi trade. The report highlighted possible opportunities for retrospective funding. Officers explained the process for access and monitoring this funding and a separate briefing on this matter would be provided for Members.

Members were in support of the approach for repurposing ANPR cameras, including public consultation. A suggestion was made to explore if the cameras were in the locations with traffic hot spots. It was noted that a data sharing agreement is proposed as part of the consultation to look at traffic data. In addition, the benefits of repurposing the cameras to address criminality and support community safety were highlighted.

A suggestion made for GM to have London-style enforcement powers to manage traffic flow.

Members reiterated that GM was mandated to implement Clean Air Plan as a Government directive not GM Mayor. The costs of removing the signs have been recognised.

A Member suggested that there is a need for co-ordinated comms strategy to explain that the Clean Air Plan is a long-term commitment to have the cleanest possible air and air quality in GM. In addition, the message to media outlining reasons and benefits of a non-charging, investment led approach in GM were noted.

The need for a constructive conversation with National Highways was highlighted in respect of the impact of motorway traffic emissions.

A Member highlighted electric vehicle charging infrastructure challenges, particularly in respect of residential issues including terraced homes and access to chargers when on street parking. A Member also highlighted cost of EV charging as prohibitive. In response, it was noted that an update on electric mobility will be provided to the upcoming Bee Network meeting in September. It will be a logistical challenge for some neighbourhoods in GM and an innovative approach to EV infrastructure and cheap charging infrastructure is being explored.

A Member suggested that an update on EV infrastructure procurement be shared with members.

A Member highlighted innovative approaches in other countries which involve inductive charging and how EV battery can provide support to their respective electricity supply.

Resolved:-

1. That it be noted that The Environment Act 1995 (Greater Manchester) Air Quality Direction 2022 has been revoked and replaced with a new direction on 4th February 2025 The Environment Act 1995 (Greater Manchester) Air Quality Direction 2025.

2. That the update on progress in delivering the GM Clean Air Plan; and the need to adjust some elements of the Bus and Local Measures delivery plans, based on a change in local circumstances, be noted.
3. That approval be granted for a delegation is made to the Group Chief Executive, GMCA, GMFRS and TfGM, in consultation with the GM Clean Air Lead to approve the final submission of the need to adjust some elements of the Bus and Local Measures delivery to the Government's Joint Air Quality Unit and deal with any supplementary requests from the Joint Air Quality Unit in respect of the change request.
4. That the Taxi Review Update, as set out in the report, be noted.
5. That the proposal to establish and distribute the £8 million Hackney Support Funding on a 'first come first served' basis, with a funding round initially targeting single vehicle owners, as set out in paragraphs 7.11 and 7.13 to the report, be agreed and in light of this, delegated authority be granted to the Group Chief Executive GMCA, GMFRS and TfGM, in consultation with the GM Clean Air Lead, to enter into an agreement with the Growth Company for the distribution of Taxi Funding.
6. That the update on Clean Air Zone signage, as set out in the report, be noted.
7. That it be noted that TfGM will work with National Highways to reuse one site on the strategic road network on the M62 utilising two existing posts (no sign face), to signpost to Ladywell Metrolink.
8. That the update on Greater Manchester Police (GMP) taking on the ownership of the Clean Air Funded ANPR cameras; and the proposal to integrate them into their existing ANPR network, thereby changing their primary use to crime detection, be noted.
9. That the proposal to commence a 6-week public consultation on the ANPR Camera Change of Use, from 15th September 2025, be noted.
10. That delegated authority be granted to the Group Chief Executive, GMCA, GMFRS and TfGM, in consultation with the GM Mayor and GM Clean Air Lead, to approve the ANPR Camera Change of Use consultation materials.
11. That the 2024 GM Clean Air Plan monitoring data indicates that nitrogen dioxide air pollution has seen an overall reduction in nitrogen dioxide exceedances compared to 2023, and a significant improvement to 2019 levels, be noted.
12. That an update on EV infrastructure procurement be shared with members.

13. That separate briefing on the process for access and monitoring taxi funding will be provided for Members.