



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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*Dr Ali Abbas*

Thank you for your letter of 17 May about the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan (CAP).

I am aware of the work that Friends of the Earth has done since 1969 and it is encouraging to know that Manchester is involved in this international network. I appreciate your concern for air pollution in the Greater Manchester area. Clean air is one of the most basic requirements and according to Public Health England, poor air quality is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK. We therefore have a clear ambition and policy agenda to improve air quality, and are taking strong national leadership backed up with significant investment.

As transport is one of the most significant drivers of air quality in the UK, the government is providing financial and technical support to local authorities directed to take action in the 2017 NO<sub>2</sub> Plan. This includes making available a £275 million fund to develop and implement local plans in addition to a £220 million Clean Air Fund to help business and individuals affected by plans.

The government has allocated significant investment for Greater Manchester since 2011 to support a range of air quality and transport measures. These include over £660 million from the Local Growth Fund in three rounds of Growth Deals for transport schemes across the region; £312.5 million from the Transforming Cities Fund to support cycling, walking and the Metrolink; together with over £32 million to support Manchester's cross-city bus package; £4.8 million in 2017/18 for retrofitting Manchester's buses with pollution reduction technologies; £15 million for the region from the OLEV Ultra Low Emission Bus Scheme and over £40 million for cycling schemes, including to help deliver six cycleways.

We have been clear that local authorities must achieve compliance in the shortest possible time, and have put legal directions on authorities to develop and deliver local plans. Manchester authorities are working together to develop a CAP for Greater Manchester which was recently submitted in the form of an Outline Business to the government, with a Full Business Case expected by the end of 2019. The CAP is now under review by the government to ensure it delivers in the shortest possible time in line with the ministerial direction and requirements set out in the 2017 NO<sub>2</sub> Plan.

I understand as part of their CAP development, Greater Manchester have launched a seven week clean air conversation running until Sunday 30 June calling on residents and businesses to share views to help shape proposals set out in the CAP. I would encourage you to engage actively in this process and share your views on the plan.

We will continue to work closely with Greater Manchester to ensure they deliver a CAP that meets legal requirements, reduces air pollution and improves the health and wellbeing of their residents.

I would like to thank you again for your letter.

With every good wish,

V  
Louis,

Micha

**Michael Gove**