

# TRAFFORD COUNCIL

## DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION REPORT

Report to: Corporate Director, Place  
Date: 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020  
Report for: Decision  
Report of: Head of Regulatory Services

### Report Title

**Greater Manchester's Clean Air Plan – Tackling Nitrogen Dioxide Exceedances at the Roadside – Signs required for a Clean Air Zone**

### Summary

The purpose of this report is to agree that Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), on behalf of Trafford Council and the other 9 Greater Manchester authorities, seeks authorisation from the Secretary of State to use traffic signs, not detailed in the Traffic Signs Manual, that are required to be placed on the highway network to support the implementation of the GM Clean Air Zone (CAZ).

### Recommendation(s)

The Corporate Director, Place is recommended to approve TfGM to seek authorisation from the Secretary of State to use traffic signs not detailed in the Traffic Signs Manual, that are required to be placed on the highway network to support the implementation of the GM CAZ.

### Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Nigel Smith  
Extension: 4530

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 In July 2017 the Secretary of State issued a Direction under the Environment Act 1995 requiring seven Greater Manchester local authorities, including Trafford Council, to produce a feasibility study to identify the option which will deliver compliance with the requirement to meet legal limits for nitrogen dioxide *in the shortest possible time*.

- 1.2 In accordance with this Direction, Trafford has been developing the study collectively with the other 9 Greater Manchester local authorities and the GMCA, coordinated by TfGM in line with Government direction and guidance and an Outline Business Case (OBC) was duly submitted in March 2019.
- 1.3 Ministerial feedback was received in July 2019 along with a further direction under the Environment Act 1995 which requires all ten of the Greater Manchester local authorities to take steps to implement a plan to deliver compliance with the requirement to meet legal limits for nitrogen dioxide in the shortest possible time.
- 1.4 The ministerial letter that accompanied the July 2019 direction requested from GM further options appraisal information (including transport and air quality modelling as well as due regard to economic, financial and deliverability considerations) to be submitted prior to statutory consultation.
- 1.5 Trafford Council, along with the other 9 Greater Manchester local authorities, is now subject to a Ministerial direction dated 16 March 2020 requiring the submission of an Interim Full Business Case (FBC) (along with confirmation that all public consultation activity has been completed) as soon as possible and by no later than 30 October 2020. Under this direction Trafford, along with the other 9 Greater Manchester local authorities, is under a legal duty to ensure that the GM CAP (Charging Clean Air Zone Class C with additional measures) is implemented so that NO<sub>2</sub> compliance is achieved in the shortest possible time and by 2024 at the latest and that human exposure is reduced as quickly as possible.
- 1.6 A report that set out the progress that has been made following the Government's response to Greater Manchester's Outline Business Case to tackle Nitrogen Dioxide Exceedances at the Roadside (OBC), and the implications for the 10 Greater Manchester (GM) local authorities in relation to the schedule of work and statutory consultation on the Clean Air Plan was considered on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at the Council's Executive meeting.
- 1.7 The report set out that, given the scale and challenging timeline to deliver a charging Clean Air Zone (GM CAZ) as required by the Ministerial Direction, there is preparatory work that needs to be undertaken, ahead of the report that will determine progressing the statutory consultation. This is in order to maintain delivery momentum in line with the funding arrangements agreed with JAQU, for example in relation to automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras, back office systems and service providers.
- 1.8 At this time a delegation was given to Corporate Director, Place to determine the preparatory implementation and contract arrangements that need to be undertaken utilising the initial tranche of £36m of funding from Government to deliver the CAZ and other GM CAP measures.

- 1.9 GM has been directed by Government to introduce a category C Clean Air Zone across the region, therefore the key elements of the Clean Air Zone including the intended boundary and times of operation, proposed discounts/exemptions, vehicles affected and daily charges, require a statutory consultation. The supporting measures, the detail of proposals of the funds and vehicle finance will also set out to enable consultees to respond fully to the GM CAP proposals. Given that the 10 Local Authorities are subject to the direction to implement the CAZ, the preparatory implementation arrangements can commence without a risk of the consultation outcome being pre-judged.

## **2 Introduction**

- 2.1 The Traffic Signs Manual offers advice to traffic authorities and their contractors, designers and managing agents in the United Kingdom, on the use of traffic signs and road markings on the highway network. Mandatory requirements are set out in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 (as amended) (TSRGD). The signs required for a Clean Air Zone are not prescribed i.e. not detailed in the Traffic Signs Manual and so their use requires the Authorisation of the Secretary of State.
- 2.2 TfGM is able to make a single application to DfT on behalf of all GM highway authorities related to gain Secretary of State authorisation to use the traffic signs required for the GM CAZ.

## **3 Purpose of Report**

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to agree that TfGM on behalf of Trafford Council and the other 9 Greater Manchester authorities seeks authorisation from the Secretary of State to use traffic signs, not detailed in the Traffic Signs Manual, that are required to be placed on the highway network to support the implementation of the GM CAZ.
- 3.2 This report is not seeking formal agreement of the precise location of the CAZ signage and ANPR cameras, this can only be decided once the boundary is finalised after the conclusion of the consultation.
- 3.3 Signage examples are shown at Appendix One, noting that the name the 'Name of the Authority' would be given as 'Greater Manchester'.

## **4 Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Corporate Director, Place is recommended to approve TfGM to seek authorisation from the Secretary of State to use traffic signs not detailed in the Traffic Signs Manual, that are required to be placed on the highway network to support the implementation of the GM CAZ.

**Reasons for Recommendation**

The recommendations will help ensure that the authority complies with the Directions served by the Government in 2017, 2019 and 2020, requiring the authority to deliver compliance with legal limits for nitrogen dioxide in the “shortest possible time”.

**Other Options**

Not to agree the proposed arrangements. However this would impact on Trafford’s full compliance with Government Directions and lead to inconsistency with the other GM authorities.

**Finance Officer Clearance** PC  
**Legal Officer Clearance** JLF

**HEAD OF SERVICE SIGNATURE**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Angela L.', written in a cursive style.

5 Appendix 1

