

APPENDIX 1

UPDATE ON ASSESSING IMPACTS OF EXTENDING GREATER MANCHESTER'S CLEAN AIR ZONE (CAZ) CHARGES TO THE SECTIONS OF THE A628/A57

- 1.1 As set out at 5.4 in the main body of the report, Government ministers have agreed to consider extending Greater Manchester's Clean Air Zone (CAZ) charges to the sections of the A628/A57 which form part of the Strategic Road Network, within the proposed CAZ boundary. The extension of any charges to the A628/A57 will be subject to a full assessment of the potential impacts, to be led by Highways England. This will cover air quality impacts on other roads, safety impacts, carbon impacts, as well as wider issues for Highways England, such as operational and network issues. Following the assessment ministers will take the final decision on whether or not charging should be implemented on the A628/A57. Tameside officers are involved in the work to ensure that it comes to a collective conclusion about the outcomes of the assessment, which is expected to be completed by early 2021
- 1.2 The assessment of the potential impacts work has commenced. The scope of work produced by Highways England, Tameside and TfGM addresses air quality, carbon, safety and consideration of wider network operations. The scope of work will be submitted to DfT for approval. The scope is clear it will consider the extents of any charging on the SRN (A57 / A628), will be limited to within Tameside administrative boundary in line with the proposed boundary of the GM Clean Air Zone (CAZ).
- 1.3 The scope outlines the assessment will follow a staged approach, increasing the level of detail and information required as necessary.

Stage 1

- a high-level assessment, to determine the number of non-compliant HGVs, buses, taxis and vans that are predicted to use the A57 / A628 as a strategic through route staying on the SRN transiting the region and not entering Greater Manchester (GM) Clean Air Zone (CAZ);
 - an estimation of the likely air quality benefits on the A57 / A628 from including this section of road within the charging CAZ; and
 - JAQU have confirmed that the location of predicted exceedances in 2023 provided by TfGM to date are qualifying features for the reporting requirements for Limit Values.
- 1.4 If the high-level assessment completed at Stage 1 indicates that it is possible for charging on the A57/A628 to deliver material improvements to predicted exceedances or achieve limit value compliance a year earlier on the A57/A628 than without charging, then the assessment work would move to Stage 2.

Stage 2

- A more detailed investigation of traffic movements along the A57 / A628 and movements in and out of proposed GM charging CAZ;
- Detailed air quality modelling of the impacts and effect of charging on the SRN. It is anticipated that Highways England would work in partnership with TfGM to complete this work as they have the models, including driver behaviour responses already developed.
- Depending on the anticipated behavioural response to charging:
 - Identification of likely alternative routes HGVs and vans would take to move between their origin and destinations;
 - Calculation of changes in carbon dioxide emissions for HGVs and vans associated with these new routes;
 - A review of the safety implications for additional HGVs and van movements on alternative routes;

- Commentary of the impacts for operating and maintaining the network associated with changes in traffic movements along the A57 / A628 corridor and the use of alternative routes.

1.5 The assessment to date highlights GM's material point that Government's requirements of Highways England in respect of NO₂ are not the same as the approach they have taken in respect of the GM authorities who have been directed to take action on the local road network. The appraisal approaches required by Government are not consistent in their interpretation of Highways England and local authority roads, which reflects the typically differing nature of public access immediately adjacent to local roads and motorways. However, the A57/A628 section of the SRN is atypical in that it more closely resembles a 'local road' environment with public residences at the kerbside. It has therefore been determined in the scope of works to apply the approach used by the GM Authorities in modelling the GM CAP.

Initial Outputs

- 1.6 Highways England, Tameside and Transport for Greater Manchester noted that work to date as part of the GM CAP shows that the introduction of a GM Clean Air Zone leads to a 3 to 4µg/m³ reduction in annual mean NO₂ concentrations for properties adjacent to the A57 and A628 when first opened. On expiry of the temporary exemption for LGVs and minibuses, NO₂ concentrations reduce by a similar amount again, providing a total improvement of 6 to 8µg/m³.
- 1.7 Further analysis and air quality modelling as part of this study indicates that there are expected to be NO₂ exceedances in 2023 with the GM CAZ operational, and also there are expected to be additional NO₂ reductions from charging on this section of the SRN. Therefore, as the early indication is that it is possible for charging to deliver material improvements to predicted exceedances on the A57/A628 than without charging, work will progress to Stage 2.
- 1.8 As part of stage 2 the study will continue to refine the traffic data and associated air quality modelling, reviewing the results to understand what they mean for this study.