

24 April 2017

Dear Greater Manchester mayoral candidates

Air pollution is affecting the health of people right here in Greater Manchester, from the womb to old age. It also affects the youngest, the oldest and the poorest most. It is linked to premature births and stunted lung growth in children and is a real risk for those with a heart or lung condition, increasing the chance of being hospitalised or dying from an attack. In Greater Manchester alone, it is estimated that 299,700 people have cardiovascular disease and 187,800 people have asthma.

From Wigan to Stockport, legal limits of air pollution are broken in every single local authority in Greater Manchester. But, it doesn't have to be like this. We have the technology and the tools to clean our air. Now we need our leaders to act.

We ask you, as our potential future mayor, to put the health of our communities first. Please use all your new powers and influence to ensure Greater Manchester meets legal limits for air pollution as soon as possible and no later than 2020. Clean Air Zones can take the dirtiest vehicles out of the most polluted places and should be supported by action and investment to help more of us use public transport, walk and cycle. This will make our road transport network cleaner, safer and more efficient.

Dealing with this public health problem is also an opportunity to create jobs and update our economy by developing clean technology and industry. Will you join other leaders throughout the country in calling on the Government to introduce a new Clean Air Act for the 21st Century, enshrining the right to breathe clean air into UK law and ensuring the UK becomes a world leader in clean technology solutions?

Our region needs a strong leader with a strong vision. You can create a vision for a healthier, sustainable and prosperous Greater Manchester and, if you do, we will be here to help you achieve it.

Yours sincerely

Katie Merrick

Service Development Manager, North West, British Lung Foundation

Sue Wright

Chair, Breathe Easy Support Group Bury

Andrew Clark

Lecturer in Environmental Assessment & Management, University of Salford

Jo Taylor

Headteacher, Victoria Park Primary School, Stretford

Patrick McDowell

Headteacher, Davyhulme Primary

Dr Georges Ng Man Kwong

Consultant Chest Physician at Pennine Acute NHS Hospitals Trust, Clinical Lead Pennine Lung Service at Oldham

Pete Stringer

Technical & GI Planning Manager, City of Trees, Greater Manchester

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Hannah Durrington

Senior Clinical Lecturer in Respiratory Medicine, University of Manchester

Dr Binita Kane

Consultant Respiratory Physician, University Hospital of South Manchester

Dr Ann-Louise Caress

Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work, The University of Manchester and University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust

Dr Murugesan Raja, GP

Clinical Lead for Respiratory Medicine, Manchester

Fin Mc Caul

Long-Term Conditions Lead for NHS Bury CCG, Pharmacist

Dr Nazia Chaudhuri

Consultant Respiratory Physician and Honorary Senior Lecturer, University Hospital of South Manchester

Sue Mason

Lead Nurse, Acute Respiratory Assessment Service, The Pennine Acute Hospital Trust

Jørgen Vestbo

Professor of Respiratory Medicine, Specialty Lead for Respiratory Medicine, Greater Manchester NIHR CRN, University of Manchester

Rebecca Towns

The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

Anna Webster

Respiratory Nurse Specialist - COPD, The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

Liz Woof

Occupational Therapist, The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

Denise Halliwell

Research Administrator, Cardiovascular Trials Unit, University Hospital of South Manchester
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Dr Kathy England

University of Manchester Bicycle Users Group

Nick Thompson

Chair, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Lancashire Branch

Steve Connor

Chief Executive, Creative Concern

Dave Coleman

Managing Director, Cooler Projects CIC

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Diocese of Manchester Environmental Officer

Jonathan Fingland

Chair, Greater Manchester Cycling Campaign

Jonathan Atkinson

Project Manager, Carbon Co-Op

Supported by:

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CEO, ClientEarth

Paul Tuohy

CEO, Cycling UK

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Joe Irvin

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