

# Manchester Evening News

The voice of Greater Manchester

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media

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EDITION

# C-CHARGE: YOU VOTED NO

**G**REATER Manchester has voted resoundingly against a congestion charge.

The scheme, and the billions of pounds of transport investment it would have unlocked, was rejected in a region-wide ballot with a turnout of 53.2 per cent.

The decision sparked joy among 'no' campaigners, who said the peak-hour, weekday-only charge would cost commuters up to £1,200 a year.

Greater Manchester's 10 councils bid for more than £2.75bn from the government's Transport Innovation Fund, including £1.2bn in the form of a loan, paid back over 30 years out of profits.

Seven of the 10 councils had to say 'yes' for the package to go ahead. All said 'no'. The decision will be confirmed at a meeting next week.

The money – which would have paid for massive investment in trams, trains and buses – will now be withdrawn.

The £1.5bn grant will return to government and is likely to be fought over by cash-strapped departments. Permission for the loan will be cancelled.

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**channel m**



|                   | FOR    | AGAINST |           |
|-------------------|--------|---------|-----------|
| <b>Bolton</b>     | 20,529 | 76,910  | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>Bury</b>       | 16,563 | 64,001  | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>Manchester</b> | 43,593 | 113,064 | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>Oldham</b>     | 17,571 | 68,884  | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>Rochdale</b>   | 17,333 | 61,686  | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>Salford</b>    | 14,603 | 79,326  | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>Stockport</b>  | 24,090 | 103,706 | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>Tameside</b>   | 16,323 | 83,105  | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>Trafford</b>   | 20,445 | 83,568  | <b>NO</b> |
| <b>Wigan</b>      | 27,810 | 78,565  | <b>NO</b> |

## ONLINE NOW

**H**UNDREDS of mourners paid their last respects to two young brothers

allegedly stabbed to death by their mother. The boys' father, Marco Sewell, pictured, followed the two tiny white coffins at the service at St John's Church, Cheetham Hill. See page 7 and go online for video report:



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## Business

### Fear as pound's value slumps to record low

The pound fell further in value today – and north west business leaders now fear it will go even lower.

» **Business Pages 27-30**

## CityLife pull-out

**Why Lisa loves playing Mary Poppins**



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