



**CLEAN AIR  
GREATER  
MANCHESTER**  
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

# Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan

## What this means for hackney carriages and private hires



Visit [cleanairgm.com/taxi-and-private-hire](https://cleanairgm.com/taxi-and-private-hire) to find out more

### Cleaning up our air

Air pollution is linked to a range of very serious health conditions and contributes to early deaths. Greater Manchester (GM) is taking action to improve air quality on local roads – now and for future generations. All ten GM local authorities have worked together to develop a joint Clean Air Plan. This includes:

- A government-mandated category C charging GM-wide Clean Air Zone, to secure compliance with nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) legal limits on local roads in the shortest possible time, and by 2024 at the latest.
- Multi-million pound funding support for GM businesses and organisations to upgrade eligible non-compliant vehicles.

Following a review of all the information gathered through the eight-week long public consultation in 2020 – and wider data, evidence and modelling work – the final Clean Air Plan has now been published. The plan will be considered by the ten GM local authorities by the end of July 2021.

### Changes to the GM Clean Air Plan

Analysis of Greater Manchester's air quality has shown that short term improvements in air quality during the pandemic will not be enough to meet legal limits for harmful nitrogen dioxide emissions in the longer term without a Clean Air Zone.

The final plan takes into account the impact of the pandemic on GM businesses who need support to upgrade their vehicles, while making sure that the city-region improves its air quality in the shortest possible time. That means GM-licensed taxi and private hire owners will be given more time, money and options to upgrade.

You can find the detailed changes by visiting [cleanairgm.com/clean-air-plans](https://cleanairgm.com/clean-air-plans)

### Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone

Greater Manchester has been directed by government to introduce a 'Category C' Clean Air Zone on local roads to reduce harmful nitrogen dioxide air pollution. This means that some commercial and passenger vehicles would need to pay a daily charge to drive in the Greater Manchester-wide Zone, which is expected to be introduced on 30 May 2022. That includes vans, buses, coaches, non-GM licensed taxis (hackney carriages), non-GM licensed private hire vehicles (PHV), minibuses and heavy goods vehicles that do not meet emission standards. A temporary exemption is proposed for Greater Manchester-licensed taxis and PHVs until 31 May 2023.



## Will my hackney carriage or private hire vehicle be charged?

**Hackney carriages and PHVs which are licensed with a Greater Manchester local authority will receive a temporary exemption to 31 May 2023.**

The following vehicles would pay a proposed daily charge of £7.50 to travel in the Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone from 30 May 2022:

- Hackney carriages and PHVs which **are not licensed with a GM local authority** with a Euro 5 or earlier diesel engine (typically registered before 2016).
- All hackney carriages and PHVs which **are not licensed with a GM local authority** with a Euro 3 or earlier petrol engine (typically registered before 2005).

The following vehicles would pay a proposed daily charge of £7.50 to travel in the Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone from 1 June 2023:

- All hackney carriages and PHVs **which are licensed with a GM local authority** with a Euro 5 or earlier diesel engine (typically registered before 2016)
- All hackney carriages and PHVs **which are licensed with a GM local authority** with a Euro 3 or earlier petrol engine (typically registered before 2005)

Unpaid charges would result in liability to pay a Penalty Charge Notice of £120 in addition to the unpaid daily charge (reduced to £60 if paid within 14 days).

Use the vehicle checker on [cleanairgm.com/clean-air-plans](https://cleanairgm.com/clean-air-plans) to see if a vehicle is likely to be charged.

## Clean Taxi Fund

Greater Manchester has a vision for a fully integrated, sustainable and green transport network. We want to make sure taxis and private hire vehicles (PHV) play their part in reducing harmful air pollution and carbon emissions.

We have secured around £21.4m funding from government for a Clean Taxi Fund to support hackney carriages and PHVs (licensed with the ten Greater Manchester local authorities) to be upgraded to meet Clean Air Zone emissions standards.

This would provide funding towards the retrofit or replacement of non-compliant vehicles. Or towards running costs when the compliant vehicle acquired with Clean Air Plan funds has also been eligible for a government plug-in grant.

It is expected that, from November 2021, local businesses and organisations with non-compliant vehicles will be able to apply and receive funding to support them to upgrade or retrofit their vehicles. Sign up to the newsletter on [cleanairgm.com/#newsletter](https://cleanairgm.com/#newsletter) to find out when the applications are open.

## Proposed financial support for GM-licensed hackney carriages and private hire vehicles

Subject to meeting eligibility criteria, under the proposals those who own a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle licensed by a Greater Manchester local authority would be able to apply for one of a number of grants.

The options available for non-compliant vehicle owners have increased and in some cases the amounts have increased. This is in light of the feedback from the consultation and consideration of the COVID-19 impacts analysis.



### GM-licensed hackney carriages

#### Replacement grants

Up to £10,000 towards replacement with a zero-emission-capable (ZEC) wheelchair-accessible vehicle

or

Up to £5,000 towards replacement with a compliant wheelchair-accessible vehicle

or

Up to £6,000 towards replacement with a ZEC non-wheelchair-accessible vehicle

or

Up to £3,000 towards replacement with a compliant non-wheelchair-accessible vehicle

#### Retrofit grant

Up to £5,000 to retrofit an existing vehicle so it is compliant

Alternatively, eligible owners could instead have access to vehicle finance, offering a 0% or low-cost loan up to £10,000.

It is proposed that there is a limit of five vehicles per applicant for grant funding and finance, with funding and finance initially open to single owner/drivers only.



### GM-licensed private hire vehicles

#### Replacement grants

Up to £10,000 towards replacement with a zero-emission-capable (ZEC) wheelchair-accessible vehicle

or

Up to £5,000 towards replacement with a compliant wheelchair-accessible vehicle

or

Up to £6,000 towards replacement with a ZEC non-wheelchair-accessible vehicle

or

Up to £3,000 towards replacement with a compliant non-wheelchair-accessible vehicle

or

Up to £5,000 towards replacement with a compliant minibus

#### Retrofit grant

Up to £5,000 to retrofit their existing vehicle so it is compliant

Alternatively, eligible owners could instead have access to vehicle finance, offering a 0% or low-cost loan up to £6,000.

It is proposed that there is a limit of five vehicles per applicant for grant funding and finance, with funding and finance initially open to single owner/drivers only.

## Electric vehicle charging infrastructure

Greater Manchester is also introducing electric charging points on the Be.EV public charging network for use only by hackney carriage and private hire drivers. We've secured £2.4m from the government's Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) and other sources to install 30 of these rapid chargers across Greater Manchester. These charging points are the start of our investment in EV in Greater Manchester to support the taxi and private hire trade – we've also secured £3m in for funding for up to 30 further dedicated hackney carriage and private hire chargers.

To encourage GM-licensed hackney carriage drivers to make the move to electric vehicles, we submitted a 'Try Before You Buy' scheme to government for Clean Air Plan funding. Greater Manchester asked for £1.69m in funding so that each local authority in Greater Manchester would have one or more ZEC hackney carriages available for drivers licensed with that authority to borrow for a few weeks, to allow them to see whether a ZEC cab could work for them. Government has offered only £0.5m, which isn't sufficient for the scheme, and so it is proposed that the funding is reallocated to instead install up to eight additional electric vehicle charging points dedicated for hackney carriage and PHV drivers.

We are working with OZEV to secure funding to install around 300 more public charging points across Greater Manchester. Some of these would also be for electric hackney and private hire vehicles only.



## GM taxi standards

A progress report on the Minimum Licensing Standards and outputs of the consultation was considered by leaders at the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) meeting on 25 June 2021. Leaders endorsed a two-stage approach to implementation of the standards.

The first stage includes driver, operator and local authority standards, with a final recommendation report due in July. The second stage, which includes recommendations on vehicle standards that align with the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan, is planned to be finalised by September. These reports will then be considered by the GMCA and ten local authorities. Latest updates will be available at [gmtaxistandards.com](https://gmtaxistandards.com)

## Next steps

1. Final Clean Air Plan considered by ten Greater Manchester local authorities **(by end July 2021)**.
2. Subject to local authority approval, a consultation will be held on the proposed inclusion of M1SP class motorhomes within the scope of Clean Air Zone charges **(September/October 2021)**.
3. Subject to local authority approval, a consultation will be held on a modification to the Clean Air Zone boundary to include the A575 and A580 at Worsley **(September/October 2021)**.
4. Clean Vehicle Funds open for applications from GM businesses **(November 2021)**.
5. Clean Air Zone is anticipated to launch on 30 May 2022, subject to joint agreement with government on scheme readiness, including the Central Charging Portal and national vehicle checker.

## Find out more

To find out more about the proposals and to sign up for updates, visit [cleanairgm.com](https://cleanairgm.com).

If you have an enquiry please email [info@cleanairgm.com](mailto:info@cleanairgm.com).