



Clean Air
Greater
Manchester



Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan proposals

What it means for buses and coaches

Greater Manchester (GM) needs to take action to improve air quality, now and for future generations. Air pollution is linked to a range of very serious health conditions. It contributes to the equivalent of around 1,200 early deaths in GM every year, harming our health.

Government has directed GM to introduce a Category C Clean Air Zone across the region, to bring nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) levels on local roads within legal limits in “the shortest possible time” and by 2024 at the latest.

As air pollution does not respect geographic boundaries, all 10 local authority areas have worked together to develop a joint Clean Air Plan to improve air quality

You can now have your say on the key elements of the proposals, including the proposed Clean Air Zone daily charges, discounts and exemptions, and the proposed multi-million pound funding package to help impacted groups prepare.

A Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone

Government has directed GM to introduce a Clean Air Zone covering all 10 local authorities: Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan. This would operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The purpose of a Clean Air Zone is to improve air quality by encouraging drivers to upgrade to a cleaner vehicle.

The impacts of COVID-19

The Government has asked GM to continue to progress the Clean Air Plan, and to continue with the consultation, based on proposals developed before the COVID-19 pandemic that showed compliance would be achieved by 2024.

GM is going to assess the possible impacts of COVID-19 on the Clean Air Plan and the consultation is asking questions about the impact of COVID-19.

This information will inform future decisions on each aspect of the final plan.

What is a 'category C' charging Clean Air Zone and is my vehicle affected?

Categories: Government has specified four categories of Clean Air Zones where drivers of non-compliant vehicles would pay a charge to travel within a designated area.

CLASS A 

CLASS B 

CLASS C 

CLASS D 

Age of compliant vehicles:

Car/Taxi

Diesel Euro VI (2015)
Petrol Euro IV (2005)

Van

Euro VI (2016)

Bus/Coach/HGV

Euro VI (2013)

Motorcycle/Moped

Euro III (2007)

Ultra-low emission vehicles with a significant zero-emission range are exempt.

A category C Clean Air Zone means that non-compliant buses, coaches, hackney carriages, private hire vehicles, heavy goods vehicles and vans (including minibuses) would all have to pay a daily charge to travel into and within the Clean Air Zone.

You can check whether your vehicle is compliant, or would be liable to pay the daily charge, by using the vehicle checker on cleanairgm.com/vehicle-checker

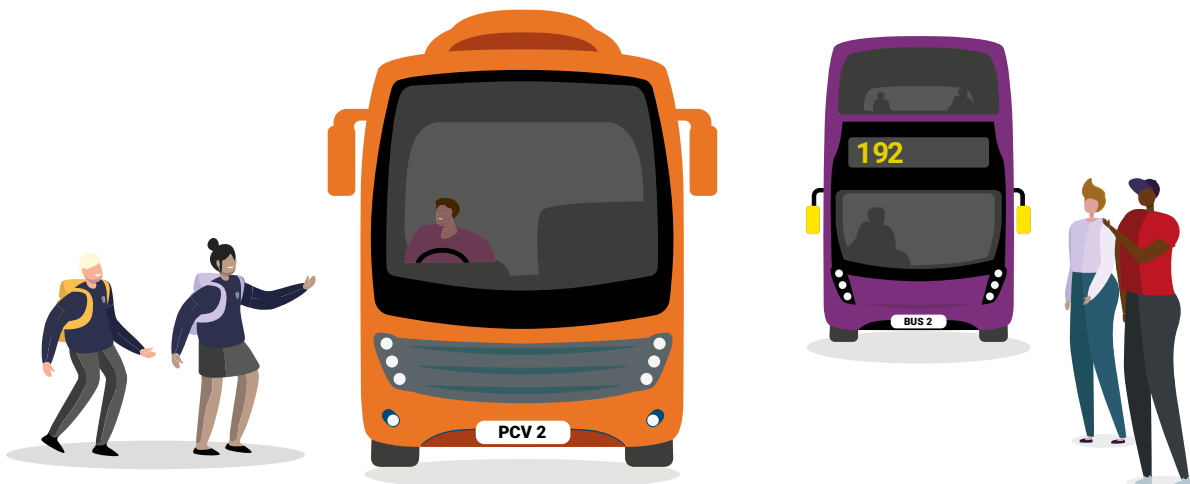
What does it mean if I have a non-compliant bus or coach?

Proposed daily charge

If your bus or coach is non-compliant Euro V or earlier engine (typically registered before 2013), you will be required to pay a **daily charge of £60** to drive within the Clean Air Zone.

Proposed discounts and exemptions

If you own a bus or a coach registered to a business address within Greater Manchester that is not used on a registered bus service, **you will be eligible to apply for a temporary local exemption until 31 December 2022.**



Proposed financial support for buses

The Clean Bus Fund has a total funding ask of Government of £25m, which would retrofit or contribute towards the replacement of all GM's non-compliant buses.

In March 2020, Government awarded £14.7m as an initial tranche of funding to retrofit buses running services in GM. A grant of £16,000 towards retrofit to a compliant standard will be available and administered through an extension of the existing system in place under the Clean Bus Technology Fund (CBTF). Applications will be open in the coming months and information will be available on cleanairgm.com

An additional £9m has been requested from Government to support the replacement of non-compliant vehicles which have no retrofit solution available, through a grant of £16,000 per vehicle.



A grant of up to £16,000 per vehicle towards retrofit to a compliant standard through a Clean Vehicle Retrofit Accreditation Scheme (CVRAS) certified system

or

A grant of up to £16,000 towards replacement with a compliant bus.

No access to vehicle finance scheme.

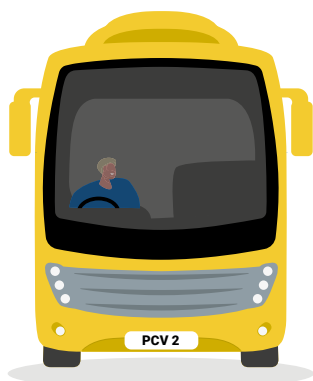
No proposed cap on the number of vehicles per applicant.

Proposed financial support for coaches

In March 2020, Government awarded £4.4m as an initial tranche of funding towards the replacement or retrofit of non-compliant coaches.

Subject to state aid restrictions and meeting eligibility criteria, under the proposals owners or registered keepers will be able to apply for a grant of up to £16,000. This funding will be targeted at vehicles registered in GM, small and micro businesses, sole traders, charities, social enterprises and private owners with the oldest vehicles.

Coach owners will also be eligible to access the proposed vehicle finance scheme and hardship fund.



A grant of up to £16,000 per vehicle towards retrofit to a compliant standard through a Clean Vehicle Retrofit Accreditation Scheme (CVRAS) certified system

or

A grant of up to £16,000 towards replacement with a compliant coach.

Access to vehicle finance, offering an average subsidy of £16,000, with the subsidy per vehicle capped at £23,000.

Cap of 10 vehicles per applicant.

What is the vehicle finance scheme?

GM is proposing a scheme to help eligible owners of a non-compliant vehicle access to vehicle finance. It has been designed to facilitate gain access to vehicle finance to a wider range of applicants than would ordinarily be the case, and, where access to credit isn't normally an issue, the cost of the monthly finance will be more affordable.

It will use the Clean Air Funds to offer eligible owners the option to seek funding as either a lump sum grant or as a contribution towards vehicle financing, from a GM-appointed panel of finance providers to help them upgrade to a compliant vehicle.



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Hardship Fund

GM is proposing a Hardship Fund of at least £10m to support individuals, companies and organisations who are assessed to be most economically vulnerable to the Clean Air Zone charge.

GM is currently considering the scope and scale of support required. The consultation asks questions about the impact of COVID-19 to inform the amount of hardship funding that needs to be made available.



Next steps

The consultation on the GM Clean Air Plan proposals run from **8 October to 3 December 2020**. You can have your say on the proposals by responding to the questionnaire available at **cleanairgm.com**

The findings from the consultation will be used to inform the final plan.

For updates and to be notified about the final plan and when you can apply for funding, sign up to the Clean Air GM newsletter here: **cleanairgm.com**

More detailed information about the proposals for the Clean Air Zone and the financial support available can be found at **cleanairgm.com/clean-air-zone**

For support to respond to this consultation or to request copies of the consultation document and questionnaire please contact **info@cleanairgm.com** or **0161 244 1100**. Support for non-English speakers is available on **0161 244 1100**.