



**Clean Air**  
Greater  
Manchester

# Preparing for cleaner air in Greater Manchester

20 January 2022



## Cleaning up our air

Greater Manchester (GM) has illegal levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) air pollution on local roads across all ten local authority areas. This affects everyone's health, particularly the most vulnerable people in our society: deprived communities, children, elderly people and those with chronic conditions like stroke, heart disease, lung cancer and asthma. Poor air quality also contributes towards around 1,200 deaths in GM every year.

The GM Clean Air Plan is designed to tackle stringent long term annual standards which are a greater risk to public health (whereas the Daily Air Quality Index reports against less stringent short-term standards therefore, 'low' air pollution is often reported).

The ten GM local authorities remain under a legal government direction to introduce a category C Clean Air Zone to achieve compliance with legal limits for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) as soon as possible and by 2024 at the latest. Some vehicles, mainly commercial, that do not meet emission standards will pay a daily charge to travel into and around the Zone. **Private cars, motorbikes and mopeds are not included.** The Clean Air Zone is designed to improve air quality by encouraging upgrades to cleaner vehicles. It is not the same as a Congestion Charge Zone, where all or most vehicles are charged to drive.

The Zone is currently being introduced in two phases:

- **Phase 1 (30 May 2022):** non-compliant HGVs, coaches (can apply for a temporary exemption to 1 June 2023) and buses (including registered within GM or outside) and taxi and private hire vehicles not licensed in GM.
- **Phase 2 (1 June 2023):** non-compliant vans, minibuses (including registered within GM and outside) and GM licensed taxi and private hire vehicles. GM coach operators and people with a compliant vehicle on order will be able to apply for an exemption to June 2023.

The Government's Clean Air Zone Framework sets out the principles for the operation of Clean Air Zones in England. GM local authorities continue to ask the government to direct National Highways to tackle nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) exceedances on the Strategic Road Network in the same way GM local authorities are having to take action on the local road network.

## Emerging evidence and impact on the GM Clean Air Plan

In developing the GM Clean Air Plan, the ten GM authorities recognised from the outset that the introduction of a Clean Air Zone would be a major challenge for many individuals and businesses and must be accompanied by a fair package of financial support. The current plan includes £120m of government funding to support eligible GM businesses, organisations and people move to cleaner, compliant vehicles (through upgrades or retrofit) that meet emissions standards. A requested £10m Hardship Fund was not granted, however GM has subsequently secured government's agreement to an assessment mechanism to allow Clean Air Funds to be adapted as required based on evidence.

Since the GM Clean Air Plan was consulted upon in late 2020 and agreed in July 2021 (subject to ongoing review with government), emerging evidence from businesses, trade and a commissioned report has highlighted significant challenges related to supply chain issues and price inflation. Based on this evidence, there is a fundamental concern that these global and national factors may impact on the ability of businesses and individuals to upgrade their vehicles – and whether the current financial support package agreed with government is sufficient. This could impact GM's ability to meet air quality targets and protect people's health.

## Request to pause Phase 2 Clean Air Funds

Following a recommendation from GM Leaders, the GM Air Quality Administration Committee has agreed to seek permission from the Secretary of State – as required by the legal direction – **to pause the opening of phase two Clean Air Funds**. These funds were due to open at the end of January 2022 for eligible vans, coaches, GM licensed taxis and private hire vehicles. GM Leaders have written to government to ask for an urgent joint policy review of the supply chain issues, to understand what this could mean for the GM Clean Air Plan. This would seek to ensure that the funding and policy arrangements can be reviewed quickly to better reflect the additional costs and vehicle availability problems that businesses are facing, having heard the concerns of local businesses and traders impacted by the Clean Air Zone.

The Committee also confirmed that **preparations to launch the first phase of the Clean Air Zone from 30 May 2022 will continue**. The Greater Manchester Financial Support Scheme is currently open for applications from eligible bus and HGV owners, with further funding for the next tranche of businesses to help upgrade non-complaint HGVs, to be opened as soon as possible.

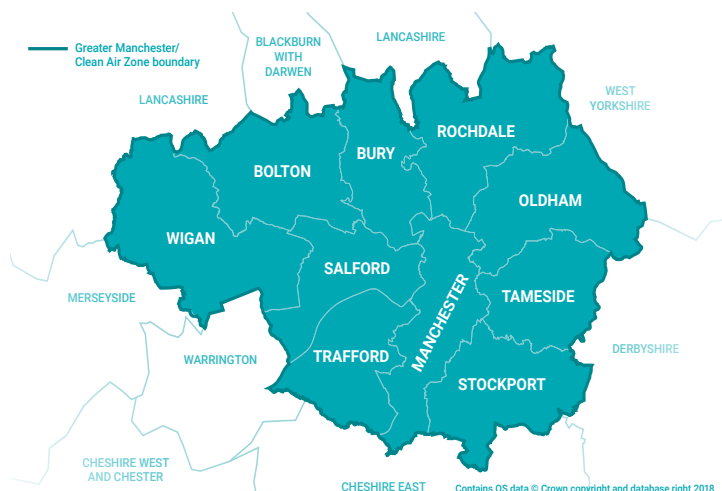
The Committee also requested that those vehicles owners who had already placed orders pending funding opening at the end of January should be able to contact Clean Air GM for advice to ensure they are not detrimentally impacted by the decision to pause the opening of the funds, and that awards can be made where appropriate.

In addressing some of the supply chain issues also impacting HGVs, a temporary exemption is in place for vehicle owners who can demonstrate they've placed an order for a compliant upgraded vehicle but are waiting on its delivery.

Under current plans, funding roll-out is initially targeted to support micro-businesses, self-employed people, sole traders and the voluntary sector. Financial support is available as a lump sum grant, contribution towards retrofit and vehicle financing, or a combination of the two. In order to receive a grant and/or finance options to upgrade non-compliant vehicles, businesses, people and organisations will have to meet eligibility criteria. People can check their eligibility using the online checker at [cleanairgm.com/prepare](https://cleanairgm.com/prepare).

## Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone

With so many stretches of road in Greater Manchester identified as in breach of legal air pollution limits, all ten GM local authorities have worked together to develop a joint Clean Air Plan (CAP) for GM. Following the government's framework and guidance a Greater Manchester-wide category C Clean Air Zone was proposed, designed to bring nitrogen dioxide levels in Greater Manchester within legal limits as soon as possible and by 2024 at the latest, and government subsequently instructed Greater Manchester to introduce it. The Greater Manchester local authorities recognised that a patchwork of local Clean Air Zones across all ten boroughs would be confusing for vehicle owners and unworkable and could result in the air pollution problem being shifted from one area to the next.



## Where will revenues go?


The GM Clean Air Zone is not designed to make a profit. In a successful scheme, revenues will decline over time as the fleet becomes increasingly compliant. However, any net proceeds would be applied to further deliver the Local Transport Plans of the 10 GM local authorities and GM is seeking to use any proceeds to help more people to upgrade to compliant vehicles, as soon as possible.




















## How will the Zone operate?

The Zone will be clearly signed and will operate 24 hours a day, all year round. Daily charges will apply for each day an affected non-compliant vehicle which doesn't meet emission standards is used within the Zone. One charge would be imposed per vehicle, per 'charging day' (midnight to midnight), however much a vehicle drives within the Zone in that 24-hour period. Vehicles that are parked up and not traveling in the zone in a 'charging day' will not be charged.

Non-compliant vehicles travelling in the zone where the daily charge has not been paid within 7 days of the journey date, will be notified of a £120 penalty charge in addition to the daily charge by a Penalty Charge Notice.

## Clean Air Zone daily charges and funding support

 For a joint policy review with Government to identify how a revised policy can be agreed to deal with the supply issues and local businesses' ability to comply with the GM Clean Air Plan

Vehicle type	Daily Charge	When charged from	Replacement Funding	Retrofit Funding
 Bus	£60	30 May 2022	£16k	£16k
 HGV	£60	30 May 2022	Up to £12k	£16k
 Coach	£60	1 June 2023	£32k 	£16k 
 Van	£10	1 June 2023	Up to £4.5k 	£5k 
 Minibus	£10	1 June 2023	£5k 	£5k 
 Non-GM Hackney Cab	£7.50	30 May 2022	Not applicable	Not applicable
 Non-GM PHV	£7.50	30 May 2022	Not applicable	Not applicable
 GM Hackney Cab	£7.50	1 June 2023	Up to £10k 	£5k 
 GM PHV	£7.50	1 June 2023	Up to £6k 	£5k 

## Applications for exemptions and discounts

Some non-compliant vehicles will be exempt from the daily charge.

**Applications for exemptions and discounts will launch on 31st January 2022.** An online checker, which tells people if their vehicle would be liable for a Clean Air Zone charge and whether they would qualify for an exemption, discount, and/or funding support, is available at [cleanairgm.com/prepare](https://cleanairgm.com/prepare).

The government's Clean Air Zone Framework sets permanent exemptions for historic vehicles, military vehicles, disabled passenger vehicles, and specialist emergency service vehicles. There will also be some local temporary and permanent exemptions and discounts for the GM Clean Air Zone. Some will be automatically applied, while others will require an application from the vehicle owner, including those waiting supply of a compliant vehicle. Those with private HGVs, including some horsebox and motorcaravan owners, will also be able to apply for a discount from the end of January 2022. A full list is available at [cleanairgm.com/discounts-and-exemptions](https://cleanairgm.com/discounts-and-exemptions).



### Find out more and get in touch

For up-to-date information on air quality and the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan, visit [cleanairgm.com](https://cleanairgm.com).

If you have any enquiries about Greater Manchester's Clean Air Zone, please contact [info@cleanairgm.com](mailto:info@cleanairgm.com) or call **0161 244 1333**

To sign up for updates, including further details on financial support, visit [cleanairgm.com/#newsletter](https://cleanairgm.com/#newsletter)

For media enquiries, call **0161 244 1055** or email [mediarelations@tfgm.com](mailto:mediarelations@tfgm.com).

Support for businesses with non-compliant vehicles registered outside of GM, including options for offsetting Clean Air Zone charges, is being provided through the Growth Company via a dedicated team of advisors: [www.cleanairbusinesssupport.co.uk](https://www.cleanairbusinesssupport.co.uk)