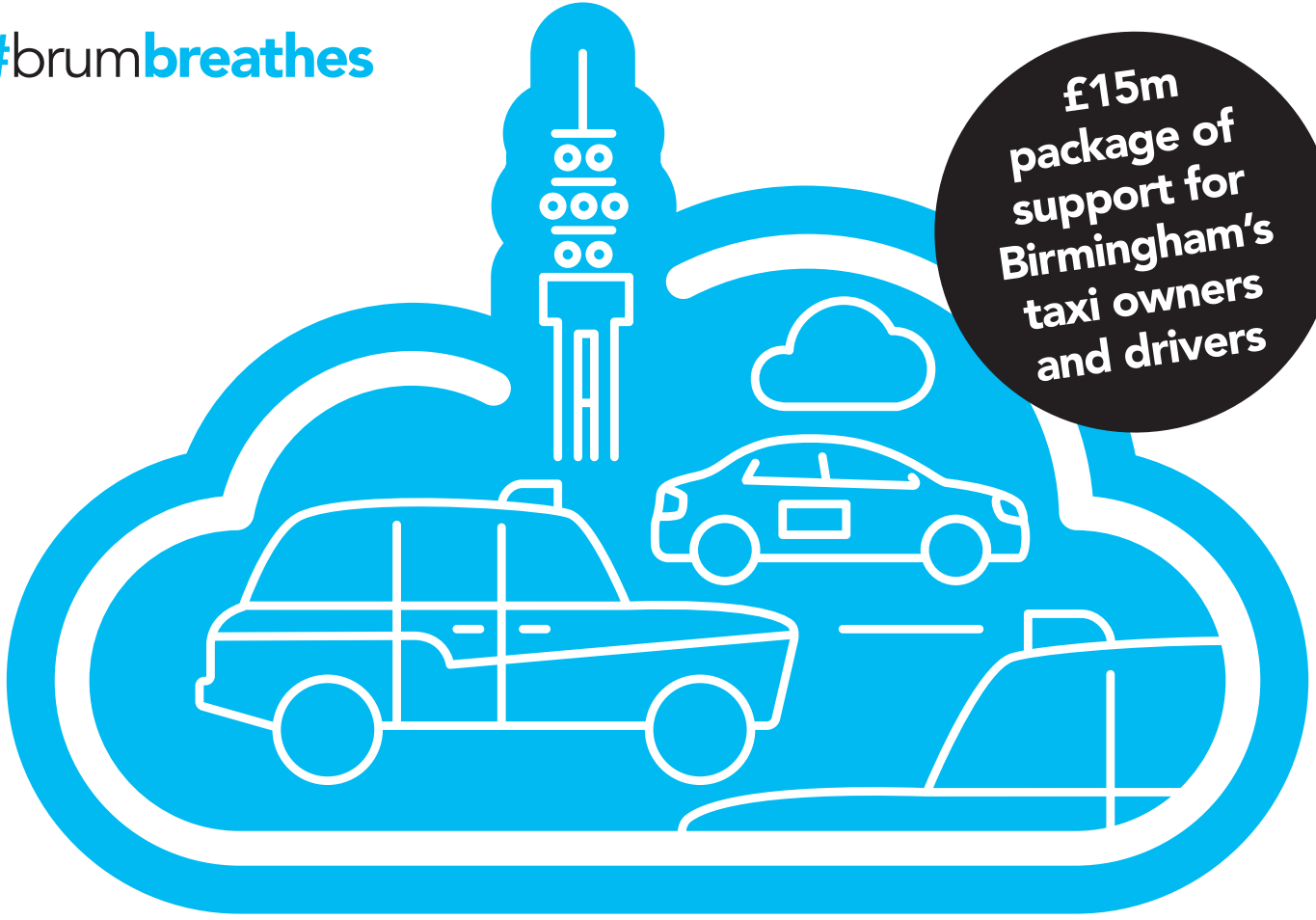
#brumbreathes



£15m package of support for Birmingham's taxi owners and drivers

Birmingham is on a journey to cleaner air

Pollution in the air, mainly caused by vehicles on the roads, is having a harmful effect on the health of people living, working and studying in the city.

We need cleaner air as soon as possible and have already started to make positive changes – including the introduction of a Clean Air Zone in 2020.

A Clean Air Zone (CAZ) is an area where targeted action is taken to improve air quality, in particular by discouraging the most polluting vehicles from entering the zone.

No vehicle is banned, but the most polluting vehicles will have to pay a daily charge to travel in the area.

Sections A and B of this booklet set out the package of support available to hackney carriage and private hire drivers, to help you make the move to clean air vehicles and technology. We have tried to provide as much detail as possible so that you can choose the package that suits your needs. All support packages are only available to drivers and vehicles licensed to Birmingham City Council.

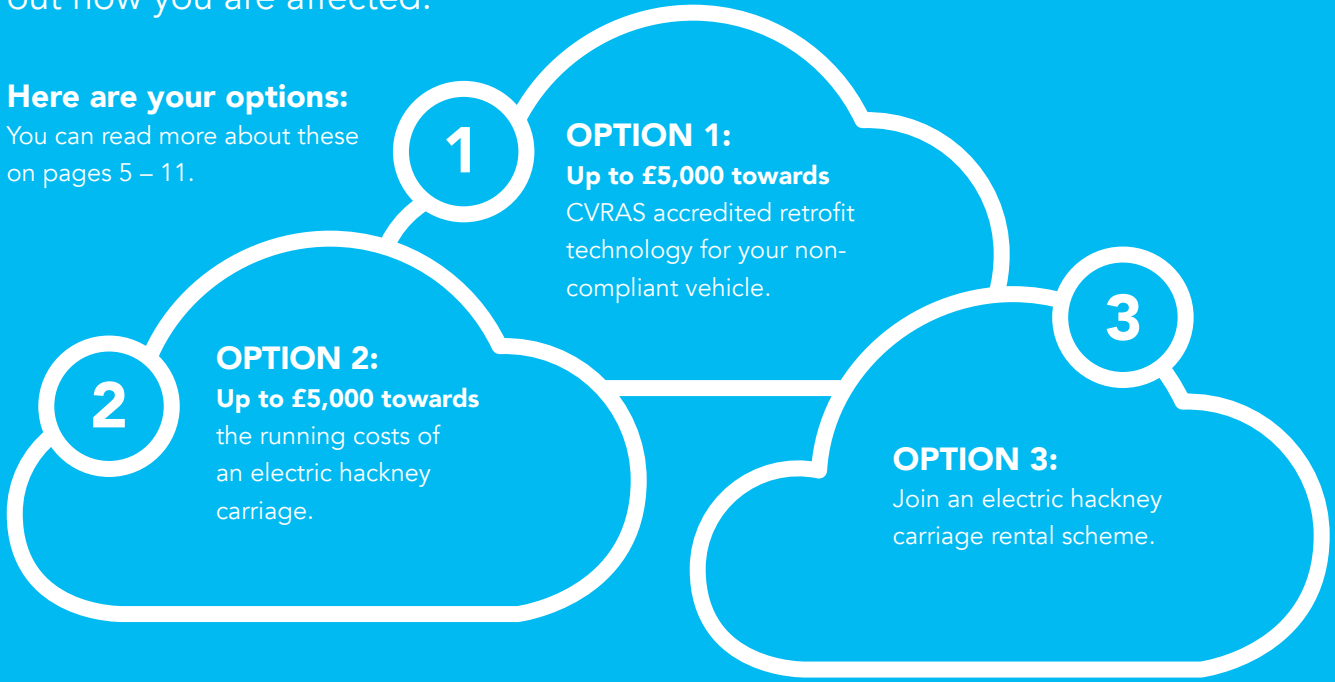
Birmingham plans to introduce a Clean Air Zone (CAZ) covering all roads within the A4540 Middleway Ring Road (but not the Middleway itself)

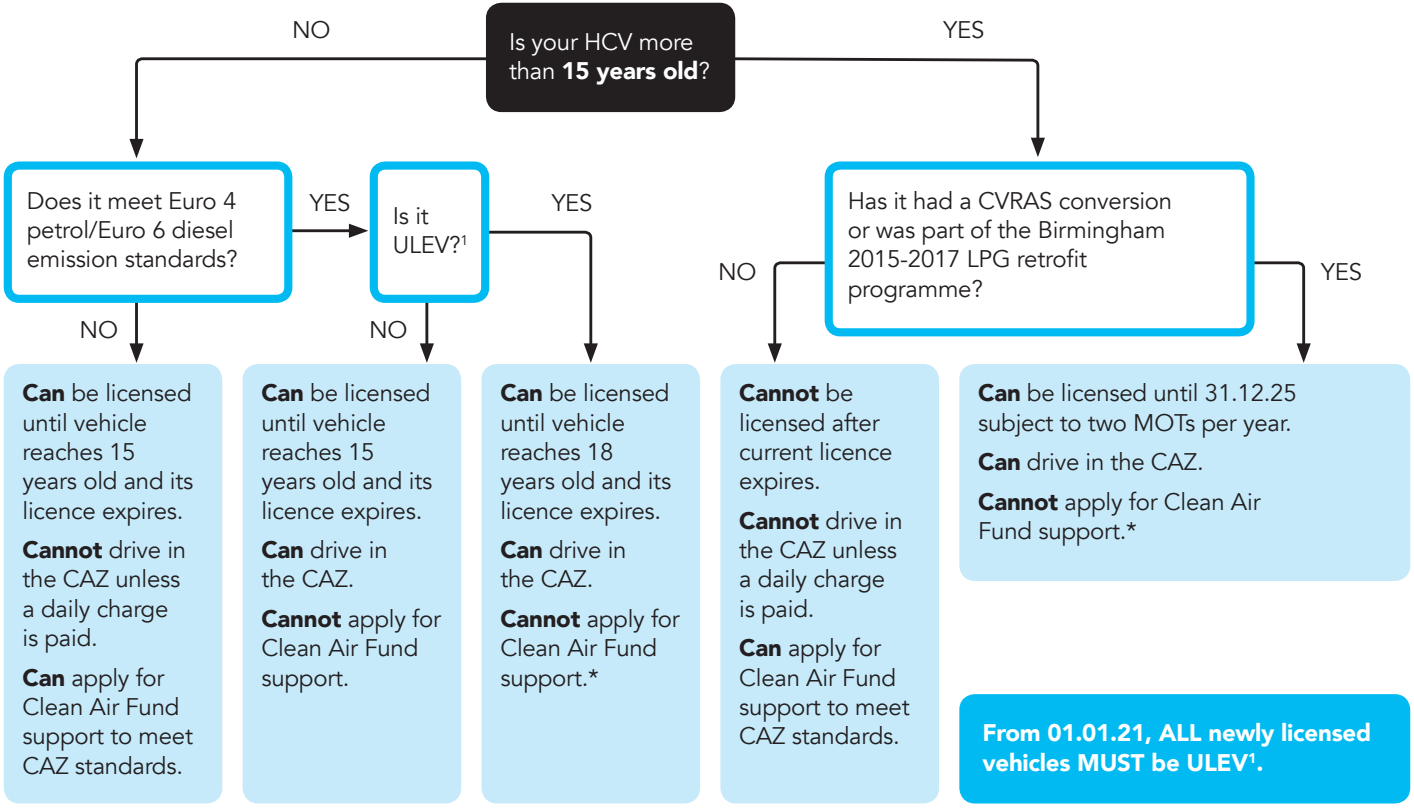
To register your interest in one or more of these options please complete an online expression of interest form at **brumbreathes.co.uk/taxis** by 27 September 2019.

SECTION A Hackney carriage vehicle licensing

Are you a hackney carriage driver or owner? Read this first to find out how you are affected.

Here are your options:
You can read more about these on pages 5 – 11.



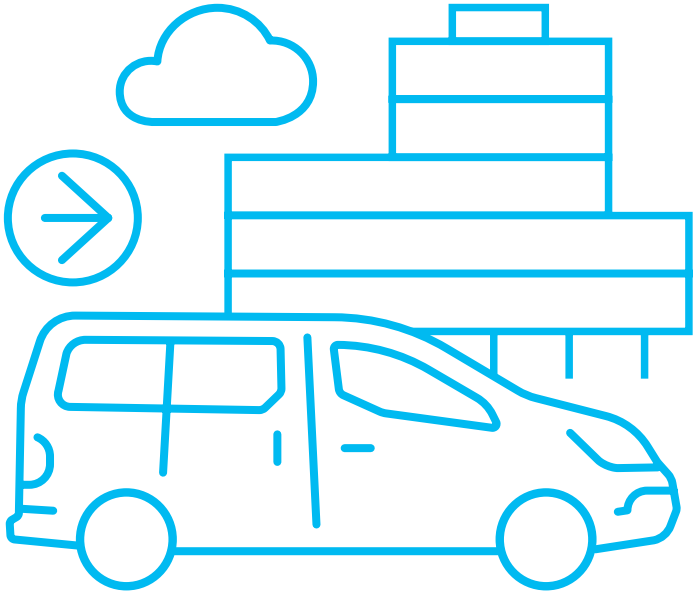


* may be eligible for retrospective Clean Air Fund support if fully electric taxi was purchased or CVRAS retrofit was installed after 10.09.18.

End notes appear on page 20.

OPTION 1 Fitting accredited retrofit technology

This option is available to drivers who own their own hackney carriage and to leasing companies[2] with vehicles licensed by Birmingham City Council.



We will provide grant funding of up to £5,000 towards the installation of CVRAS[3] accredited retrofit technology.

A list of CVRAS accredited solutions can be found at: **businessbreathes.co.uk/retrofit-vehicle-solutions**.

Vehicles retrofitted with technology outside of this scheme will not be eligible for funding. To take advantage of this option you would need to:

1. Confirm that you own a Birmingham City Council licence hackney carriage.
2. Register interest with a retrofit provider (this may include a refundable deposit, depending on the provider). The retrofit provider would then

carry out a check on your vehicle to ensure that it is suitable for the retrofit solution.

3. Sign the grant terms and conditions.
4. Make a reservation with the retrofit provider. The provider may require you to pay a holding deposit.
5. Provide evidence of the retrofit installation to us.

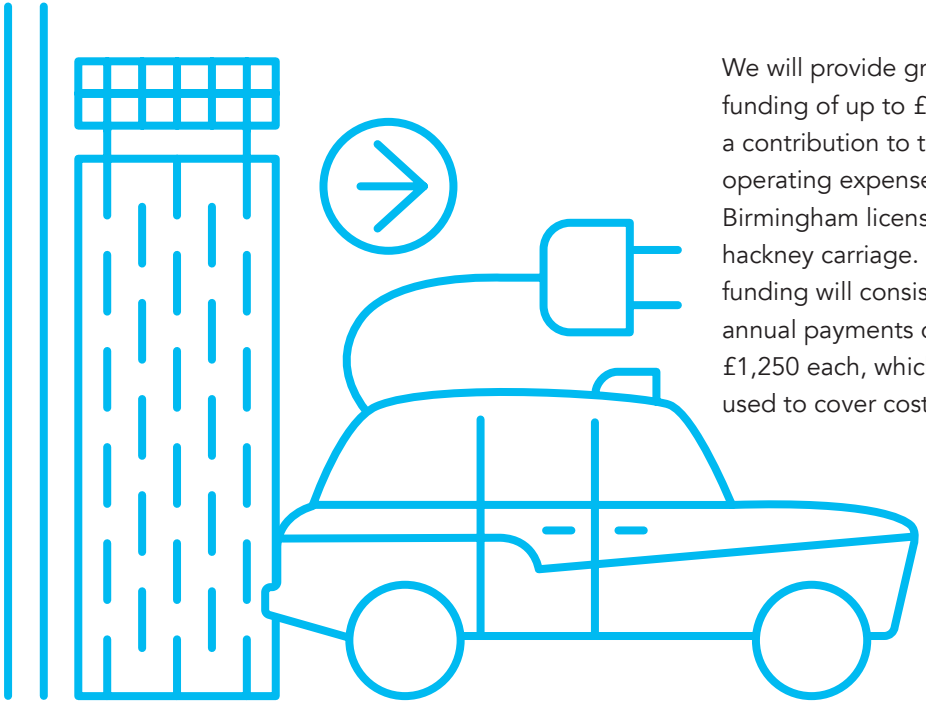
We will make a single payment of the cost of the retrofit installation (up to a maximum value of £5,000 against pre-VAT cost).

Things to consider:

- Not all vehicles will be eligible for retrofit installation. This could be for several reasons:
  - Vehicle is wrong model.
  - Vehicle is too old.
  - Vehicle is deemed by the retrofit provider not to be in a good enough condition to carry out the installation.
- After the technology is installed, you must comply with the operating requirements (e.g. Adblue refill) of the vehicle.
- You will be responsible for VAT payment for the retrofit of your vehicle.
- Spot checks will be carried out. If found to be operating the vehicle in a way that does not comply with the requirements, the Council reserves the right to reclaim the grant.
- If your vehicle is not eligible for retrofit technology, you can still purchase a vehicle that is eligible and carry out the retrofit on this vehicle.
- You also have the option to purchase a vehicle that is already retrofitted, provided it has not already received a grant (from Birmingham City Council or another local government authority). You will need to provide evidence of original cost of the retrofit and that it is CVRAS accredited.
- If you had CVRAS accredited retrofit technology fitted to your vehicle after 10 September 2018 you will still be able to apply for the grant. To qualify for the grant you will need to provide suitable evidence that the retrofit solution is CVRAS accredited.

OPTION 2 Upgrade to an electric vehicle

This option is available to Birmingham drivers who own their hackney carriage or who have a long term vehicle leasing arrangement.



We will provide grant funding of up to £5,000 as a contribution to the operating expenses of a Birmingham licensed electric hackney carriage. This funding will consist of four annual payments of up to £1,250 each, which could be used to cover costs such as electric charging, insurance, servicing, ranking fees etc. To take advantage of this option you would need to:

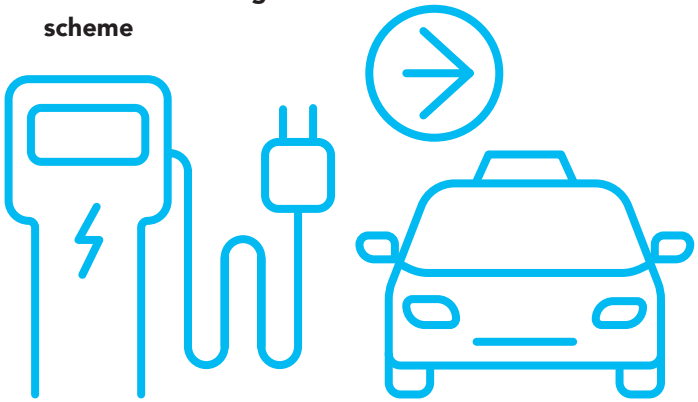
1. Organise the purchase or long term lease of an electric hackney carriage.
2. On delivery of the vehicle provide evidence that you have purchased or leased the electric

taxi in question and sign the grant terms and conditions.

3. Before each annual payment, you must provide evidence that you are still in possession of the vehicle and of running costs incurred.

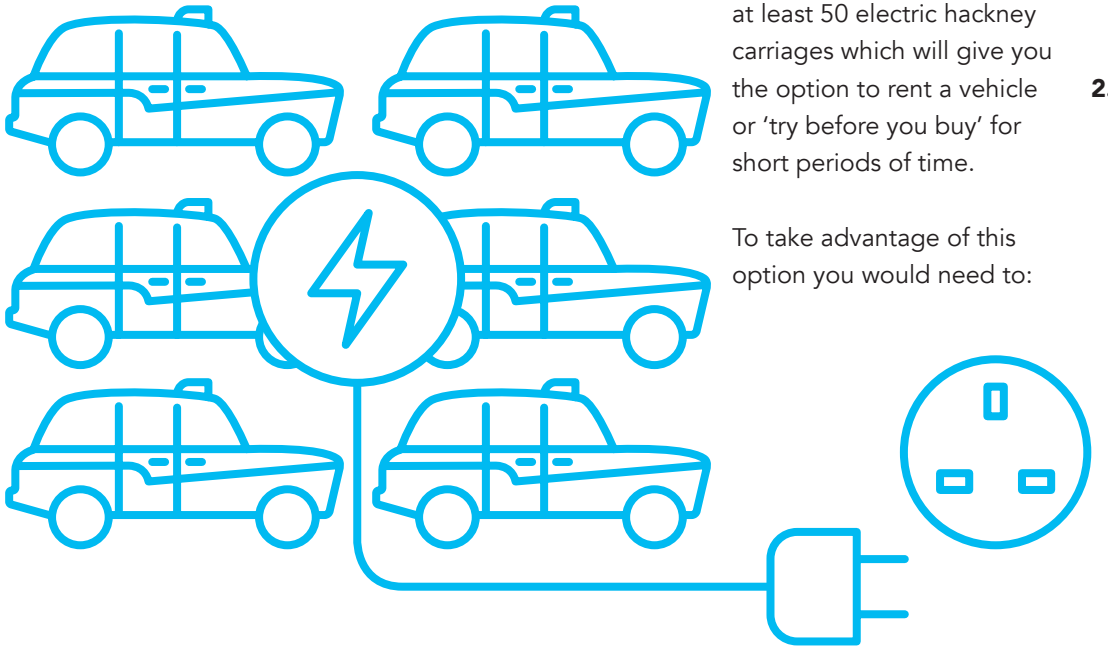
Things to consider:

- The market for electric hackney carriages is currently limited with only one market-ready model available.
- The government's plug-in grant means that the purchase price of the vehicle will already have been discounted by up to £7,500. Find out more at **gov.uk/plug-in-car-van-grants**
- There are currently a relatively small number of public electric charging points available within Birmingham. But we are set to expand this network with at least 197 new charging points (including at least 97 rapid charge points) across the city.
- If you want to install an electric vehicle charge point at your home, the government's Electric Vehicle Homecharge Scheme provides grant funding of up to 75% towards the cost of installing smart charge points at domestic properties across the UK. Find out more at **gov.uk/government/publications/customer-guidance-electric-vehicle-homecharge-scheme**
- If you have already purchased (or have a lease in place) an electric hackney carriage you would still be able to apply (with suitable evidence) for this grant. This only applies for purchases or leases after 10 September 2018.



OPTION 3 Electric taxi rental scheme

This option is available to Birmingham hackney carriage drivers.



We are creating a fleet of at least 50 electric hackney carriages which will give you the option to rent a vehicle or 'try before you buy' for short periods of time.

To take advantage of this option you would need to:

1. Register with the scheme through our rental partner.
2. Sell or scrap your non-compliant vehicle and provide evidence that this has happened.

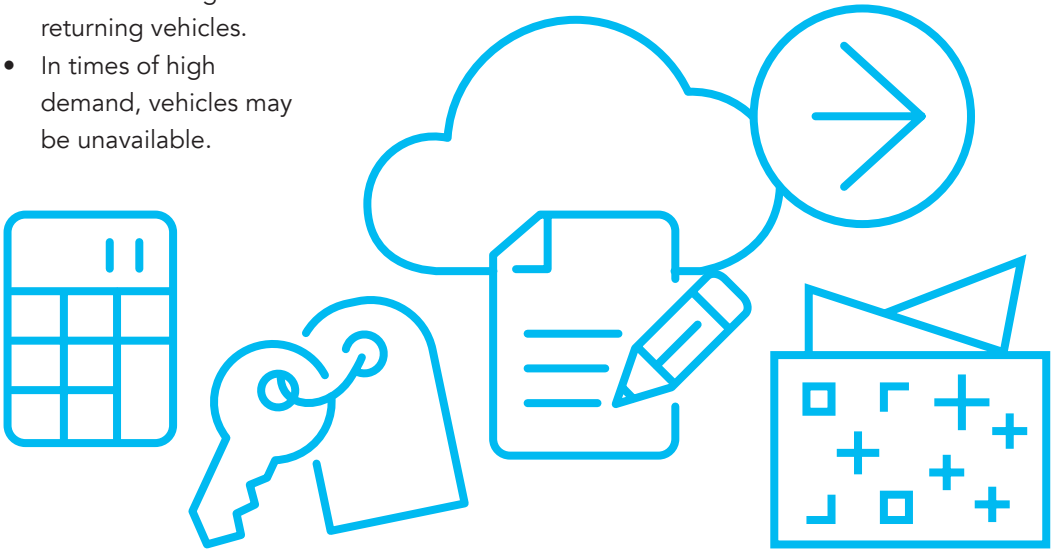
If you use the 'try before you buy' option you will be able to rent an electric taxi for a short period without selling or scrapping your non-compliant vehicle.

Once the 'try before you buy' period is completed, you will need to scrap or sell your non-compliant vehicle if you want to continue to use the rental scheme.

3. Book and operate the taxis through the short-term rental scheme.

Things to consider:

- There will be a cost to drivers to rent the vehicles.
- The vehicles may be based at one or several locations – depending on your rental arrangement and the facilities of the rental partner. You will have to make your own way to and from this location when collecting and returning vehicles.
- In times of high demand, vehicles may be unavailable.
- The scheme will prioritise drivers who do not own or operate another taxi registered with Birmingham City Council.
- Vehicles cannot be sub-leased.



SECTION B Private hire vehicle licensing

Are you a private hire driver or owner? Read this first to find out how you are affected.

Here are your options:
You can read more about these on pages 13 – 19.

1

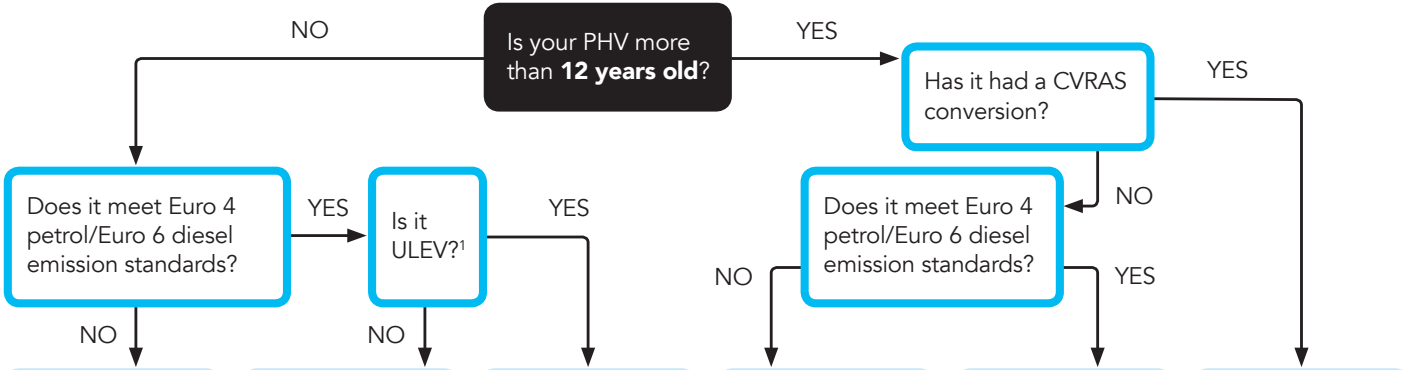
OPTION 1:
Up to £1,000 grant to contribute to the upfront cost of upgrading to a CAZ compliant diesel or petrol vehicle.

2

OPTION 2:
Up to £2,000 grant to contribute to the upfront cost of upgrading to a hybrid vehicle or a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle that is not eligible for the government's plug-in grant[4], but meets CAZ requirements.

3

OPTION 3:
Up to £2,500 operational support to contribute towards the running costs of a fully electric vehicle or long-range plug-in hybrid vehicle (defined as being eligible for the government's plug-in grant)[4].



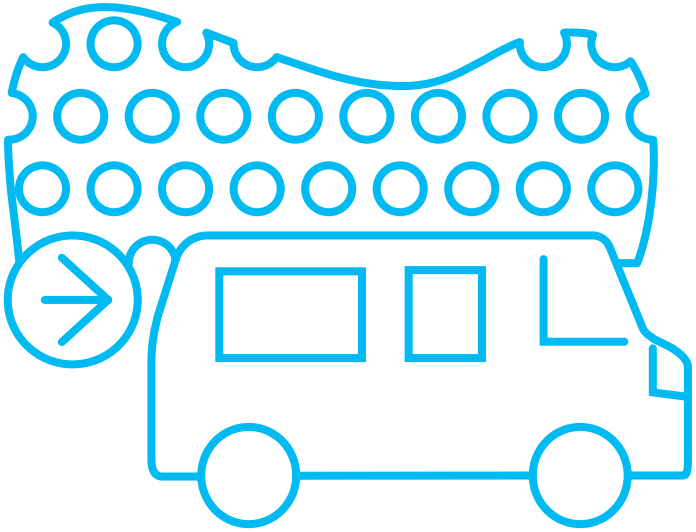
From 01.01.21, ALL newly licensed vehicles MUST be ULEV[1].

* may be eligible for retrospective Clean Air Fund support if purchased after 10.09.18.

End notes appear on page 20.

OPTION 1 Upgrade to a CAZ compliant diesel or petrol vehicle

This option is available to Birmingham drivers who own or lease a private hire vehicle and to PHV leasing companies[2] with vehicles licensed by Birmingham City Council.



You must currently have a PHV which is not compliant with Clean Air Zone standards (petrol Euro 4, diesel Euro 6).

We will provide grant funding of up to £1,000 towards the purchase or long term lease of a CAZ compliant petrol or diesel vehicle which meets the requirements of Birmingham City Council's licensing policy.

To take advantage of this option you will need to:

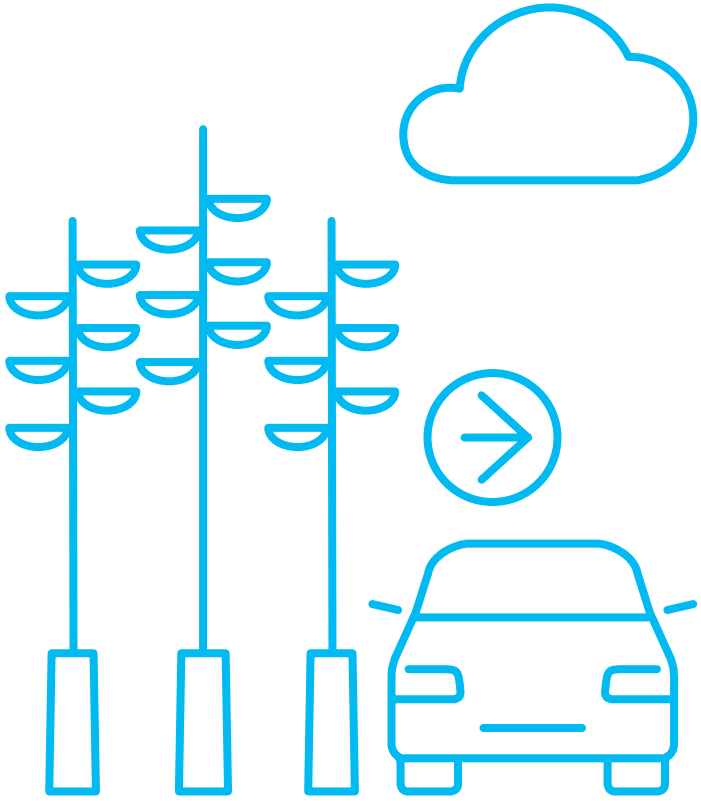
1. Register your interest in the scheme.
2. Purchase or lease a compliant vehicle.
3. On delivery of the vehicle provide proof of

purchase or lease and an assessment of the vehicle's value, and sign the grant terms and conditions.

We will make a single payment to reimburse you for up to £1,000 of the vehicle's pre-VAT cost.

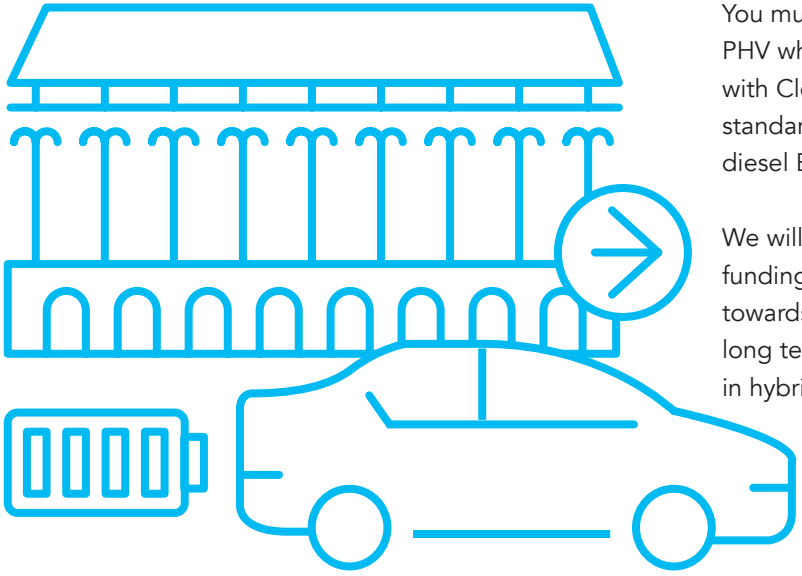
Things to consider:

- Once you have purchased or leased the new vehicle, your old vehicle can no longer be licensed by Birmingham City Council.
- Funding can only be applied to a vehicle once. This means that some drivers may not be able to receive funding if they are leasing a vehicle which has already received funding.
- If you have already purchased (or have a lease in place) a CAZ compliant diesel or petrol PHV you would still be able to apply (with suitable evidence) for this grant. This only applies for purchases or leases after 10 September 2018.



OPTION 2 Upgrade to a hybrid or plug-in hybrid electric vehicle

This option is available to Birmingham drivers who own or lease a private hire vehicle and to PHV leasing companies[2] with vehicles licensed by Birmingham City Council.



You must currently have a PHV which is not compliant with Clean Air Zone standards (petrol Euro 4, diesel Euro 6).

We will provide grant funding of up to £2,000 towards the purchase or long term lease of a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle or hybrid electric vehicle that is not eligible for the government's plug-in grant[4]. The vehicle must be CAZ compliant and meet the requirements of Birmingham City Council's licensing policy.

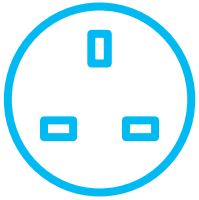
To take advantage of this option you will need to:

1. Register your interest in the scheme.
2. Purchase or lease a suitable vehicle.
3. On delivery of the vehicle provide proof of purchase or lease and an assessment of the vehicle's value, and sign the grant terms and conditions.

We will make a single payment to reimburse you for up to £2,000 of the vehicle's pre-VAT cost.

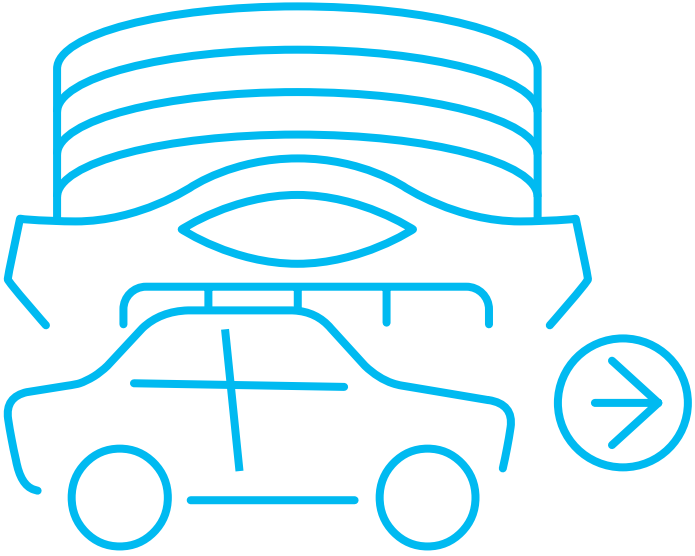
Things to consider:

- Once you have purchased or leased the new vehicle, your old vehicle can no longer be licensed by Birmingham City Council.
- Funding can only be applied to a vehicle once. This means that some drivers may not be able to receive funding if they are leasing a vehicle which has already received funding.
- There are currently a relatively small number of public electric charging points available within Birmingham. But we are set to expand this network with at least 197 new charging points (including at least 97 rapid charge points) across the city.
- If you want to install an electric vehicle charge point at your home, the government's Electric Vehicle Homecharge Scheme provides grant funding of up to 75% towards the cost of installing smart charge points at domestic properties across the UK. Find out more at **gov.uk/government/publications/customer-guidance-electric-vehicle-homecharge-scheme**
- If you have already purchased (or have a lease in place) a plug-in hybrid or hybrid electric PHV you would still be able to apply (with suitable evidence) for this grant. This only applies for purchases or leases after 10 September 2018.



OPTION 3 Upgrade to a fully electric or long range plug-in hybrid vehicle

This option is available to Birmingham drivers who own or lease a private hire vehicle. You must currently have a PHV which is not compliant with Clean Air Zone standards (petrol Euro 4, diesel Euro 6).



We will provide grant funding of up to £2,500 as a contribution to the operating expenses of a fully electric vehicle or long-range plug-in hybrid vehicle. This is defined as vehicles that are eligible for the government's plug-in grant[4]. The funding will consist of two annual payments of up to £1,250, which could be used to cover costs such as electric charging, insurance, servicing etc.

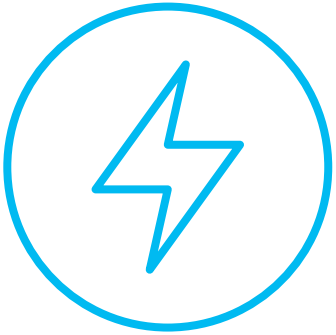
To take advantage of this option you will need to:

1. Register your interest in the scheme.
2. Purchase or lease a suitable vehicle.

3. On delivery of the vehicle provide proof of purchase or lease and sign the grant terms and conditions.
4. Before each annual payment, you must provide evidence that you are still in possession of the vehicle and of the running costs incurred.

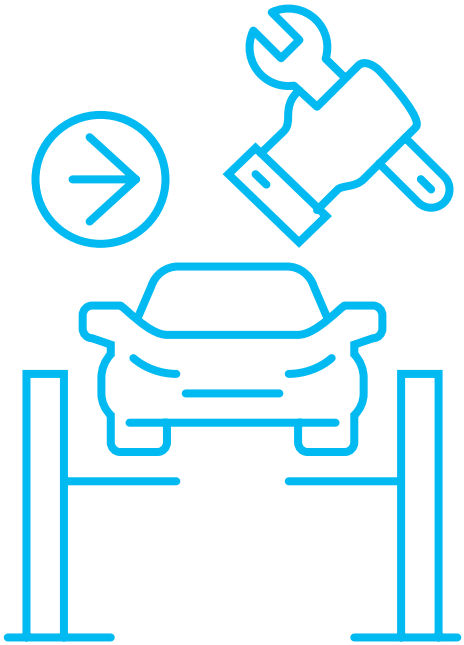
Things to consider:

- Once you have purchased the new vehicle, your old vehicle can no longer be licensed by Birmingham City Council.
- The government's plug-in grant means that the purchase price of the vehicle will already have been discounted by up to £3,500. Find out more at **gov.uk/plug-in-car-van-grants**
- There are currently a relatively small number of public electric charging points available within Birmingham. But we are set to expand this network with at least 197 new charging points (including at least 97 rapid charge points) across the city.
- If you want to install an electric vehicle charge point at your home, the government's Electric Vehicle Homecharge Scheme provides grant funding of up to 75% towards the cost of installing smart charge points at domestic properties across the UK. Find out more at **gov.uk/government/publications/customer-guidance-electric-vehicle-homecharge-scheme**
- If you have already purchased (or have a lease in place) an electric PHV you would still be able to apply (with suitable evidence) for this grant. This only applies for purchases or leases after 10 September 2018.



End notes

These notes provide further clarification about various terms used earlier in the booklet.



1 Ultra Low Emission Vehicle, or ULEV, means the vehicle must emit less than 50g CO_2/km and be able to travel at least 70 miles without any emissions at all.
(See pages 5 and 13.)

2 There will be a limit on the total funding amount available to leasing companies.
(See pages 6, 14 and 16.)

3 The Clean Vehicle Retrofit Accreditation Scheme certifies manufacturers of retrofit technologies. Vehicles fitted with a CVRAS approved retrofit solution will gain CAZ compliance and will not have to pay to enter a CAZ in Birmingham or any other UK city. The scheme covers buses, taxis and HGVs. The scheme is managed by the Energy Saving Trust on behalf of the government. It accredits retrofit technologies that can reduce NO_X emissions to Euro VI/Euro 6 standards. More information at **energysavingtrust.org.uk/transport/freight-and-retrofit/clean-vehicle-retrofit-accreditation-scheme-cvras**
(See page 6.)

4 The government offer a discount of up to £3,500 on the price of new low emission vehicles. Details of the grant and eligible vehicles at **gov.uk/plug-in-car-van-grants**
(See pages 12, 16 and 18.)

Useful information

What to do next

To register your interest in one or more of the grants complete an online form:
brumbreathes.co.uk/taxis

If you have any queries about these grants please contact us:
cleanair@birmingham.gov.uk

Installing retrofit technology

A list of CVRAS accredited solutions:
businessbreathes.co.uk/retrofit-vehicle-solutions

CVRAS scheme

For information about the Clean Vehicle Retrofit Accreditation Scheme:
energysavingtrust.org.uk/cvras

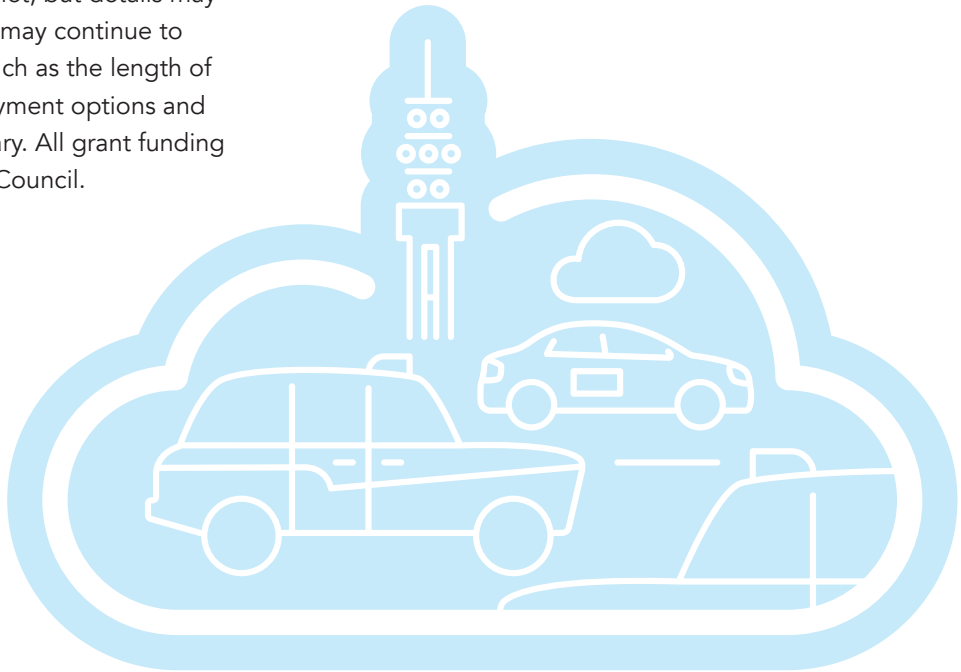
Upgrading to an electric vehicle

More information about the government's Electric vehicle Homecharge Scheme:
gov.uk/government/publications/customer-guidance-electric-vehicle-homecharge-scheme

More information about the government's plug-in grant:
gov.uk/plug-in-car-van-grants

Disclaimer

The terms and conditions for the clean air taxi funding have not yet been finalised. Every effort has been made to present accurate information in this leaflet, but details may change before funding is awarded. We may continue to review how this scheme is operating (such as the length of the scheme, eligibility checks, grant payment options and more) and make changes when necessary. All grant funding is at the discretion of Birmingham City Council.



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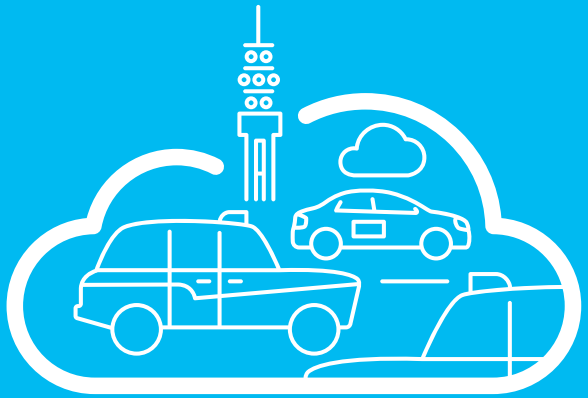
£15m package of support for Birmingham's taxi owners and drivers

Express your interest now

Apply for grants towards the following:

- Retrofit technology for your existing vehicle.
- A contribution towards the running costs of an electric or plug-in hybrid vehicle.
- A contribution towards the outright purchase of a hybrid or plug-in hybrid vehicle.



All information correct at time of printing: September 2019. (Ref: 90.23)

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