

Appendix 5 – Cost of Living Support Package

Recognising the current cost of living crisis, the Council has compiled a comprehensive support package to mitigate the increase in proposed charges for at-risk and low-income citizens. There is also a wide range of support for anyone who wants to shift to cleaner vehicles or more sustainable modes of travel.

Support for permit charges

There are existing and new offers available to support the proposed permit charges, including:

- Charge increases detailed in the proposed Amendment A7 would be phased in over two financial years. This would apply to everybody.
- Blue badge holders living, working or studying in Camden do not pay permit charges and receive further concessions to support parking at certain hospitals.
- Those registered as disabled and residents over 75 are eligible for 50% discounted Visitor permits and it is proposed that the allowance of 600 hours of short stay and 10 all day Visitor permits per individual currently offered for CPZs north of Euston Road will be extended to CPZs south of Euston Road.

Support for the shift to cleaner vehicles

Camden and the UK government both offer support for shifting to cleaner vehicles, including:

- The Mayor of London offers a [ULEZ car and motorcycle scrappage scheme](#), which has recently been expanded to help all residents scrap eligible polluting cars, motorcycles and wheelchair accessible vehicle. Zipcar and Enterprise have additional offers for successful participants of the scrappage scheme, including free driving credits.
- Sole traders, small businesses, micro businesses and charities can take advantage of similar help under the [ULEZ van and minibus scrappage scheme](#).
- At present, Camden has 307 on-street electric vehicle charging points to encourage the transition to cleaner vehicle. In addition, our Electric Vehicle Charging Point Action Plan, a daughter document of the new Camden Transport Strategy, sets out our ambitions for further minimum levels of charging points provided each year, to secure comprehensive borough-wide provision. As part of the [Camden Climate Investment](#), the council has raised money to invest in 80 more electric vehicle charging points. From funding awarded by the UK government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund, Camden will install a minimum of 160 fast, standalone charge points, expected to be delivered by mid to late 2025. Additionally, funding from the On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme, Camden's Climate Investment Bonds, Transport Strategy Capital Funds and chargepoint supplier-matched funds will be used for the installation of 80 fast, standalone chargepoints and 70 hub model chargepoints.

- Owners of eligible vehicles can also apply for the UK's EV Chargepoint Grant to cover part of the cost to buy and install a socket at their residence.

Support for shift to more sustainable modes

There are a range of offers to encourage more sustainable transport methods like cycling, public transit, and ride sharing, including:

- To promote the adoption of cycling and increase cycling confidence, Camden offers discounts on dockless bikes and e-scooters, [cycling skills courses](#), a [free bicycle loan scheme](#), and a [Try Before You Bike](#) partnership with Peddle My Wheels for e-cargo bikes. Low-income people are also eligible for discounted e-cycle and e-scooter rentals directly through Lime Access, Dott and Voi and businesses will be eligible for discounts on cargo bike hire and purchases through Camden, subject to availability. Camden is also accelerating its roll-out of additional cycle hangers and dedicated cycle lanes throughout the borough, as part of a £4 million capital investment programme in 2024/25.
- To support the use of public transport, low-income residents receiving certain benefits receive discounted travel through the [Jobcentre Plus Travel Discount](#) and the [Bus & Tram Discount photocard](#).
- Disabled and older people are eligible for the [Freedom Pass](#) for free and discounted travel. Disabled people can also use [Scootability](#), [PlusBus](#), [Taxicard](#) and [Dial-a-ride](#) to travel throughout the borough and London without the use of a private vehicle.
- To encourage the use of ride sharing over private vehicle use, Camden has a [Parking Permit Scrappage Scheme](#), where residents receive a two-year free car club membership in exchange for giving up their parking permit, subject to availability.
- Moving forward, businesses will also be eligible for free car club memberships and driving credits in exchange for giving up their parking permit, subject to availability.