



Full Council – 19 September 2016

Motion selected by the Labour Group

Air quality in Brent

Brent Council notes that 2016 marks the 60th anniversary of the Clean Air Act of 1956.

This legislation was passed following the great London smogs of the 1950s. The legislation made a huge difference to life in London and saved countless lives.

Brent recognises that politicians at the time did an amazing thing and responded on the scale that was required. Today we face another pollution public health emergency in London and now it's our turn to act for the good of Londoners and for future generations to come.

In 2016, 9500 Londoners are dying from long-term exposure to air pollution every year and latest research revealing over 443 schools in the capital are in areas exceeding safe legal pollution levels.

Brent Council therefore welcomes the action plan to "battle London's toxic air" proposed in July 2016 by the new Mayor of London - Sadiq Khan

In particular we welcome the following proposals:

- Implementing a £10 Emissions Surcharge (dubbed the 'T-charge') on the most polluting vehicles entering central London from 2017. The charge would apply to all vehicles with pre-Euro 4 emission standards (broadly speaking those registered before 2005) and will cost an extra £10 per day on top of the existing Congestion Charge.
- Introducing the central London Ultra-Low Emission Zone one year earlier in 2019
- Extending the Ultra-Low Emission Zone ('ULEZ') beyond central London from 2020
- Developing a detailed proposal for a national diesel scrappage scheme for Government to implement
- Bringing forward the requirement for all double-deck buses to be ULEZ-compliant in central London from 2020 to 2019
- Implementing clean bus corridors – tackling the worst pollution hotspots by delivering cleaner buses on the dirtiest routes

- We note that the Emissions Surcharge in 2017, followed by an expanded ULEZ in 2020, would be the toughest crackdown on the most polluting vehicles by any major city around the world.

Brent Council recognises the concerns expressed by residents throughout Brent about air quality in our borough

We urge TFL to make "clean bus corridors" in Chamberlayne Road and Wembley High Road a priority.

We ask officers to report by the end of 2016 on quick win measures and a long term strategy for Brent Council to improve quality in Brent.

Cllr Neil Nerva