



**Full Council – 10 July 2023**

**Conservative Group Motion**

**Don't Punish Brent's Drivers**

This Council notes that:

1. The Mayor of London has proposed a number of schemes that would penalise drivers in Brent.
2. Introduced in 2019, the Mayor of London oversaw the expansion of the ULEZ in 2021.
3. In 2022 the Mayor of London announced that he would be expanding the ULEZ to cover all of London.
4. Prior to the 2021 ULEZ expansion, TfL ran a £61mil scrappage scheme. The scrappage scheme ran out of money and was closed less than a month after it was launched.
5. The Mayor of London has claimed that a pay-per-mile drivers charge, alongside a daily driving fee, would be a “fair scheme”.
6. An 18-minute drive from Kensal Rise to Sudbury would take two buses and some two and a half times longer on public transport.
7. According to the RAC “[The Mayor of London] proposals to charge vehicles outside of London to enter the boundary are likely to impact hardest on workers such as carers, tradespeople and night-time economy staff for whom there is no alternative to using a vehicle.”
8. There are no concession for the elderly or for those on low income who need their vehicle to get to work.
9. There are not enough new or compliant vehicles to satisfy demand
10. Because of the impending expansion of the ULEZ, the cost of newer compliant cars has rocketed, making the prospect of buying a suitable car or van even more difficult for those on low incomes.

This Council believes that:

1. If a scrappage scheme is launched for the latest proposed ULEZ expansion, it would likely run out of money quickly – leaving thousands to choose between paying £12.50 a day or having to buy a new or newer compliant vehicle, without subsidy.
2. Due to Brent's geography, introducing a 'pay-per-mile' scheme would tax Brent residents for travelling across our borough; it already affects the south of the borough adversely.
3. The Mayor of London schemes will hit commuters, businesses and parents dropping their children off at school.
4. As Brent residents continue to be challenged by a cost-of-living crisis, these proposals show how out of touch the Mayor of London is with the needs of Londoners.
5. Air quality is important, but that ULEZ is the wrong solution and is a regressive tax in outer London boroughs. By wanting to expand ULEZ to outer London Boroughs the Mayor of London message is that you can pollute, as long as you can afford the £12.50. The ULEZ will have negligible or nil impact on air quality but will cause significant social and economic harm to our residents.

The ULEZ does not address pollution caused by Diesel electric trains and aircraft.

The ULEZ does not stop polluted air from outside the zone being blown into London.

The signage is misleading and does not convey to drivers that they are entering a clean air zone and that they may have to pay for the privilege of doing so.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- (1) Condemn the Mayor of London's proposals to tax Brent residents further for driving in the borough.
- (2) Write to the Mayor of London, urging him to scrap plans for ULEZ expansion and 'pay per mile'.
- (3) Write to the Mayor of London suggesting that the ULEZ signage be changed so as to convey that drivers are entering a 'clean air zone' and that they may have to pay online for doing so. Such signage is in place in Birmingham, Manchester and other cities in the UK.

Councillor Michael Maurice  
Kenton Ward