

# London Councils' Transport & Environment Committee

## Draft Consultation Responses to Mayor's ULEZ and Defra's Draft Air Quality Plan

Item no: 13

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**Date:** 15 June 2017  
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### Summary

The Mayor of London is consulting on introducing the central London Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) in April 2019 as opposed to September 2020 and to include Particulate Matter (PM) in its emissions standards. Defra are consulting on their recently published draft air quality plan. London Councils plans on responding to these consultations and members are asked to discuss and agree the drafts consultation responses, at Appendix A & B.

### Recommendations

- Discuss and agree the proposed London Councils response to the third phase of the Mayor's air quality consultation at Appendix A.
- Discuss and agree the proposed London Councils response to Defra's draft air quality plan at Appendix B.

## **Draft consultation responses to Mayor's ULEZ and Defra's draft Air Quality Plan**

### Phase 3a of Mayor's air quality consultation

1. Phase 3a of the Mayor's air quality consultation was published on 4 April 2017. This phase of the consultation sets out plans to move the introduction of the central London ULEZ forward to April 2019. This is 5 months earlier than proposed in phase 2 of the consultation, and 17 months earlier than the currently confirmed September 2020 date. The consultation also seeks views on the inclusion of Particulate Matter (PM) in the ULEZ emissions standards, alongside standards for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>).
2. London Councils officers have engaged with boroughs officers to draft a response to this consultation, which is at Appendix A. The main points are replicated here:
  - a. London Councils in principle supports the proposals to bring forward the introduction of the ULEZ to April 2019, given the air quality benefits this would bring. However, we are very aware that some organisations have made arrangements to meet the previously consulted on September 2019 deadline and may face significant cost penalties if this was brought forward. We therefore want TfL to consider individual cases in certain circumstances and agree either reduced payments or exemptions;
  - b. London Councils supports the proposals for the sunset period of three years for residents and disabled tax class vehicles;
  - c. London Councils supports plans to expand the ULEZ emissions standards to include Particulate Matter (PM) alongside NO<sub>2</sub>. This will ensure that retrofitted vehicles are also subject to the same regulations as new vehicles, and would bring the ULEZ into line with national plans for a Euro VI retrofit certification scheme;
  - d. London Councils re-iterated its position that the Mayor should look again at the exemptions being proposed under the ULEZ scheme, and provide an opt-out mechanism for specific dates rather than provide full-time exemptions.
  - e. London Councils calls on the Mayor to reduce the negative impacts on those social groups as identified by the IIA. These include BAME retail and wholesale industry businesses using vans in central London; school children from low income families due to increased cost of school trips by coach; groups reliant on charitable or voluntary services (e.g. disabled, older people, faith groups).
3. Defra published its Air Quality Plan on 5 May 2017. It sets out a series of actions for reducing air pollution, and specifically NO<sub>2</sub> across the UK. A summary of the main points of London Councils' response are listed below, the full response is at Appendix B:
  - a. Given that London has been implementing a number of the policies suggested in this plan, many of the proposals are not relevant to London boroughs directly. However, given the seriousness of the issue in London, and that air pollution does not respect administrative boundaries, we believe it is appropriate to submit a formal response.
  - b. London Councils raises concerns with the Defra air quality plan. The plan lacks details of any central government action to address air quality issues, and instead places most of the responsibility on local authorities without providing any commitment or detail around additional funding support;
  - c. The response re-iterates London Councils' support for changes to Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and also suggests changes to company car taxes as well, to disincentivise people from buying the most polluting vehicles;

- d. London Councils calls on the government to introduce a new Clean Air Act, to ensure that the UK's legal pollution limit values match, or improve upon, the EU's regulations.
4. The deadline for the ULEZ consultation is 25 June, while the deadline for the Defra Air Quality Plan consultation is 15 June.

#### **Recommendations**

- Discuss and agree the proposed London Councils response to the third phase of the Mayor's air quality consultation at Appendix A.
- Discuss and agree the proposed London Councils response to Defra's draft air quality plan at Appendix B.

#### **Financial Implications**

5. There are no financial implications to London Councils arising from this report.

#### **Legal Implications**

6. There are no legal implications to London Councils arising from this report.

#### **Equalities Implications**

7. There are no equalities implications to London Councils arising from this report.