

# London Councils' Transport & Environment Committee Executive

## Cleaner Vehicle Checker

Item no: 4

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**Summary:** It is well documented that emissions in real world driving conditions significantly exceed those in the test laboratories. The GLA will introduce a Cleaner Vehicle Checker that will tell those who want to buy a new car the performance of that car in real world conditions and therefore aims to influence purchasing decisions towards those cars that create less pollution.

**Recommendations:** The Committee is asked to:

- Note and discuss the report.

## **Cleaner Vehicle Checker**

### **Overview**

1. As is well documented, real driving conditions result in vehicles emitting substantially more pollution than in the laboratory environment in which they are tested. The Euro VI is no exception to this.
2. The Cleaner Vehicle Checker, which is part of the C40's Global Car Rating system, will be launched in London this autumn and will be a web tool where individuals and businesses can check whether the new car or van they want to buy is performing as it should in the real world. It is designed to inform purchasing decisions to cleaner models that are available today.
3. New vehicles will be given ratings from a scale of A+ (best) to H (worst) based on the level of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions they emit on the road, outside of laboratories. A+ rating are given to vehicles that meet Euro VI petrol limits for NO<sub>x</sub> emissions, while H ratings will be given to those emitting more than 12 times the current NO<sub>x</sub> limit for diesel cars.

### **Aims**

4. The Cleaner Vehicle Checker will help Londoners, local authorities and businesses make informed choices when purchasing new vehicles and recognise the environmental benefits of switching to zero or ultra-low emission vehicles. It should also incentivise manufacturers to build cleaner vehicles sooner by holding them to account for the performance of their vehicles in real world driving conditions and encourage a race to the top in the development of clean technology.
5. The cleaner vehicle rating could be used within the procurement system, to ensure that local authorities and businesses procure the vehicles that deliver the emissions expected by the Euro VI standard but not always delivered in real driving conditions. This will help to ensure any diesel or petrol vehicles brought into fleets are as clean as possible and encourage manufacturers to do more.

### **Delivery Partners**

6. The GLA is working with Emissions Analytics, a well-respected independent vehicle testing company that has developed a database of 'real-world' emissions from a wide range of new cars and vans sold in the UK, and other European countries. Emissions Analytics is actively testing new vehicles as they become available and will provide their most current and up-to-date datasets.
7. Given this comprehensive dataset, the Cleaner Vehicle Checker will also be able to offer a free 'health check' service to London fleet operators interested in learning more about their fleets' emissions performance generally. Fleet managers will be able to download, complete and submit a template with their fleet details to receive an analysis report from Emissions Analytics. This will enable fleet operators to quickly identify the worst polluting vehicles of their fleets and prioritise them for replacement. Upon receipt of the results, fleet managers will also have the further option of procuring a consultancy service from Emissions Analytics to design a plan to improve their fleet's overall emissions performance.
8. The GLA will also be working with ICCT (International Council on Clean Transportation), an international research organisation dedicated to supporting government action to improve the environmental performance and energy efficiency of road, marine, and air transportation. ICCT will help to improve our understanding of vehicle emissions by carrying out an extensive roadside testing programme to analyse around 100,000 tailpipe samples around London.

9. This research will enable London to make further, informed policy decisions on how to significantly improve air quality.

## **Recommendations**

The Committee is asked to:

- Note and discuss the report.

## **Financial Implications**

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

There may be financial implications to individual authorities, should they adopt the Vehicle Checker rating system in their procurement practices and make choices based on that information.

## **Legal Implications**

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

## **Equalities Implications**

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