

Conservative Group motion – July 2022 – Proposed ULEZ expansion

Proposer: Councillor Matt Hartley. Seconder: Councillor Pat Greenwell.

Council notes that the Mayor of London is proposing to expand the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) from its current boundary of the North and South Circulars to cover almost all of Greater London, including the entirety of the Royal Borough of Greenwich, by August 2023.

Council notes that the proposed expansion would mean that residents with non-compliant vehicles would pay £12.50 per day to drive within the expanded ULEZ zone i.e. to drive outside of the South Circular as well as within it.

Council notes that the proposed ULEZ extension:

- would extend ULEZ charges to areas in the Royal Borough of Greenwich where residents are significantly under-served by public transport options, disproportionately impacting these areas compared to other areas with better public transport alternatives
- would significantly add to the cost of living crisis facing Greenwich residents impacted by the expansion
- would also significantly impact many local small business owners as they recover from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic
- would be a regressive measure in that residents who own older cars, who tend to be on lower incomes, are disproportionately penalised
- has been proposed less than year since the previous extension (to the South Circular in October 2021), the ramifications of which have yet to be fully assessed

Council further notes that the proposed ULEZ expansion will cost an estimated circa £200m, and notes that this funding could instead be spent on fairer and more effective measures to improve air quality such as:

- a faster upgrade to a zero-emission bus fleet
- increasing the roll-out of rapid charging points
- encouraging more freight consolidation schemes
- bringing back the previous Boiler Cashback Scheme to encourage residents to upgrade their boilers to reduce household emissions
- financing a generous scrappage scheme to support residents to replace older vehicles

Council notes that the Royal Borough of Greenwich has the opportunity to express its view as part of Transport for London's consultation on the proposed expansion, which closes on 29th July 2022.

Council therefore requests that the administration uses the opportunity provided by this Transport for London consultation to:

- formally oppose the Mayor of London's proposed ULEZ expansion beyond the South Circular
- request that the Mayor of London instead focuses the funds set aside for this on fairer and more effective ways to improve air quality
- request that – in the event that the Mayor of London chooses to press ahead with the ULEZ expansion following the consultation – a much more generous scrappage scheme is introduced than in the previous expansion, to minimise the financial burden on Greenwich residents if this expansion goes ahead.