

Merton Council

Council

6 February 2019

Supplementary agenda 4

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Liberal Democrat Strategic Theme Motion 1 Effective action to cut the most polluting vehicles

This Council notes:

- The proposals for increasing parking charges adopted by Cabinet on 14 January 2019 and currently out for consultation, in the report *Public health, air quality and sustainable transport – a strategic approach to parking charges 2*;
- That this proposed policy on parking charges cannot ~~be~~ and is not a revenue-raising strategy;
- The reference made by the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 9 January, that Cabinet was required to receive additional evidence to demonstrate that “increasing parking charges results in a decrease in traffic, and on the link between higher costs for high polluting cars and changing the behaviour of drivers” for which further work is already underway, concurrent to the consultation period;
- A planned review of the diesel levy and emissions based charging that will report back later this year, and the start of the procurement process for an IT system that can support an emissions based charging policy.

This Council believes:

- Air quality is a significant public health issue that, as with all policy changes, requires a link to be made between the action proposed, the outcome desired, and a means of measuring success;
- That ~~any this innovative proposed~~ scheme for parking charges is undermined in the eyes of presented to the public ~~by a lack of any with~~ evidence ~~or and~~ analysis that the specific charges being proposed will improve air quality by driving down car use or reducing journeys by incentivising changing to more sustainable travel options;
- That as vehicle emissions have a direct relationship to air quality, and emissions based charging conforms to the ‘polluter pays’ principle, there is a clear logic which is now commonplace in London for a higher premium to be charged for vehicles that have higher emissions, and a lower charge for cars that have lower emissions and additional incremental charges for second and third vehicles belonging to one household; and
- That some residents will need help switching to greener transport options. This is especially those who bought diesel vehicles on the understanding that they were more environmentally friendly, based on Government advice.

This Council therefore requests that Cabinet:

- ~~Abandons the Awaits the results of the public consultation on the~~ proposals outlined in the *Public health, air quality and sustainable transport – a strategic approach to parking charges 2* adopted by Cabinet on 14 January 2019;
- ~~Urgently brings forward~~ In future considers additional proposals for parking charges based on emissions, using evidence resulting from the planned review of the diesel levy and emissions based charges ~~(expediting that review if necessary)~~, and learning lessons from similar schemes adopted by other London Boroughs, including results from when and if Sutton introduces charges along these lines;
- Supports and promotes the Mayor of London’s new scheme to help smaller business owners scrap older more polluting vehicles, and investigates ways to help those with lower incomes to change to less polluting vehicles, such as a scrappage schemes for older cars, or only applying emissions based charges to new vehicle applications for controlled parking permits/appropriate sunset periods;

- [Continues to Engage](#) with the Mayor of London on [air quality initiatives from City Hall: extending including the Ultra Low Emission Zone to Merton, or the possibility, as we welcome the introduction](#) of a mini-ULEZ for the borough [beginning in April 2019 as per Merton's Air Quality Action Plan](#); other action to limit the number of high polluting HGVs travelling through the borough; [assessing](#) the possibility of Low Emission Bus Zones, like on Putney High Street.
- Signed
Cllr Simon McGrath Cllr Anthony Fairclough Cllr Carl Quilliam

Motion now to read:

This Council notes:

- The proposals for increasing parking charges adopted by Cabinet on 14 January 2019 and currently out for consultation, in the report *Public health, air quality and sustainable transport – a strategic approach to parking charges 2*;
- That this proposed policy on parking charges cannot be and is not a revenue-raising strategy;
- The reference made by the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 9 January, that Cabinet was required to receive additional evidence to demonstrate that “increasing parking charges results in a decrease in traffic, and on the link between higher costs for high polluting cars and changing the behaviour of drivers” for which further work is already underway, concurrent to the consultation period;
- A planned review of the diesel levy and emissions based charging that will report back later this year, and the start of the procurement process for an IT system that can support an emissions based charging policy.

This Council believes:

- Air quality is a significant public health issue that, as with all policy changes, requires a link to be made between the action proposed, the outcome desired, and a means of measuring success;
- That this innovative proposed scheme for parking charges is presented to the public with evidence and analysis that the specific charges being proposed will improve air quality by driving down car use or reducing journeys by incentivising changing to more sustainable travel options;
- That as vehicle emissions have a direct relationship to air quality, and emissions based charging conforms to the ‘polluter pays’ principle, there is a clear logic which is now commonplace in London for a higher premium to be charged for vehicles that have higher emissions, and a lower charge for cars that have lower emissions and additional incremental charges for second and third vehicles belonging to one household; and
- That some residents will need help switching to greener transport options. This is especially those who bought diesel vehicles on the understanding that they were more environmentally friendly, based on Government advice.

This Council therefore requests that Cabinet:

- Awaits the results of the public consultation on the proposals outlined in the *Public health, air quality and sustainable transport – a strategic approach to parking charges 2* adopted by Cabinet on 14 January 2019;
- In future considers additional proposals for parking charges based on emissions, using evidence resulting from the planned review of the diesel levy and emissions based charges and learning lessons from similar schemes adopted by other London Boroughs, including results from when and if Sutton introduces charges along these lines;
- Supports and promotes the Mayor of London’s new scheme to help smaller business owners scrap older more polluting vehicles, and investigates ways to help those with lower incomes to change to less polluting vehicles, such as a scrappage schemes for older cars, or only applying emissions based charges to new vehicle applications for controlled parking permits/appropriate sunset periods;
- Continues to engage with the Mayor of London on air quality initiatives from City Hall: including the Ultra Low Emission Zone, as we welcome the introduction of a mini-ULEZ for the borough beginning in April 2019 as per Merton’s Air Quality Action Plan; other action to limit the number of high polluting HGVs travelling through the borough; assessing the possibility of Low Emission Bus Zones, like on Putney High Street.

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Liberal Democrat Strategic theme Motion 2

Air quality Scrutiny Champion

This Council notes:

- That the borough is designated an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA);
- LB Merton's Air Quality Action Plan 2018–2023;
- Research showing that [as across London](#), a number of LB Merton schools are located in areas with dangerously high pollution levels.

This Council believes that:

- Air quality is a significant public health issue that needs action from [the government, the Mayor of London and from](#) the Council;
- and
- There ~~should be~~ [is](#) a focus on measurement of the success of the Council's air quality strategies, and ~~a greater~~ [an increasing](#) focus on meeting targets and improving air quality.

Therefore, this Council requests that the Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny

Panel ~~maintains its role as appoint a councillor as~~ "Air Quality Scrutiny Champion" to [continue the work it is doing to](#) ensure air quality plans and actions throughout the borough are consistently monitored, and to support LB Merton's scrutiny of its commitments in relation to improving air quality. The [panel's proposed collective](#) role of ~~the~~ "Air Quality Scrutiny Champion" is set out below.

The scrutiny process is greatly valued in Merton, and this council supports that Panel system, and opposes the removal of scrutiny powers from them into the hands of individuals. The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel asis an autonomous body that sets its own remit, but council asks it in its role as Air Quality Scrutiny Champion

- ~~needs to continue to maintain~~ an up-to-date understanding of Council/contractor issues affecting air quality;
- ~~should to~~ obtain briefings from relevant officers as required;
- ~~should be facilitated in seeking to seek~~ co-operative working with the relevant Cabinet

Member(s) and ~~will to~~ provide input as required;

- ~~should report back to the panel on at least on an annual basis;~~
- ~~will to~~ work to promote improvements in the scrutiny of air quality plans and activity within the Council;
- ~~could be a nominated Council representative on any relevant outside body;~~
- ~~will not receive an SRA for this role;~~
- ~~should be appointed at the Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel at their planned meeting on 27th June 2019, as a time bound appointment with reappointment at the beginning of each new Council term."~~

Proposed by: Cllr Eloise Bailey

Seconded by: Cllr Paul Kohler

Signed by Cllr Eloise Bailey Cllr Paul Kohler Cllr Hina Bokhari

Motion now to read:

This Council notes:

- That the borough is designated an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA);
- LB Merton's Air Quality Action Plan 2018–2023;
- Research showing that across London, a number of LB Merton schools are located in areas with dangerously high pollution levels.

This Council believes that:

- Air quality is a significant public health issue that needs action from the government, the Mayor of London and from the Council; and
- There is a focus on measurement of the success of the Council's air quality strategies, and an increasing focus on meeting targets and improving air quality. Therefore, this Council requests that the Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel maintains its role as "Air Quality Scrutiny Champion" to continue the work it is doing to ensure air quality plans and actions throughout the borough are consistently monitored, and to support LB Merton's scrutiny of its commitments in relation to improving air quality. The panel's collective role of Air Quality Scrutiny Champion" is set out below.

The scrutiny process is greatly valued in Merton, and this council supports that Panel system, and opposes the removal of scrutiny powers from them into the hands of individuals. The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel is an autonomous body that sets its own remit, but council asks it in its role as Air Quality Scrutiny Champion

- to continue to maintain an up-to-date understanding of Council/contractor issues affecting air quality;
- to obtain briefings from relevant officers as required;
- to seek co-operative working with the relevant Cabinet Member(s) and to provide input as required;
- to work to promote improvements in the scrutiny of air quality plans and activity within the Council;

Conservative Group Strategic theme motion: Sustainable Communities with a focus on Air Quality.

This Council welcomes the focus on air quality in the London Borough of Merton and notes that this is a key concern of our residents. The failure ~~of the Conservative government to improve address~~ Merton's air quality is a key driving factor in the increase in ~~the~~ life expectancy discrepancies, childhood asthma, premature deaths and other public health emergencies across the UK, particularly in London. ~~gap between the east and the west of the borough to nine years.~~

This Council acknowledges that ~~some significant~~ action has been taken in Merton to address these concerns by:

- Creating an up-to-date Air Quality Action Plan, the majority of which has been implemented
- The soon to launch policy on anti-idling in the borough, with warning signage already being installed in some areas this winter
- Introduction of electric vehicle charging points with our partner Source London.

~~However, t~~This Council ~~is concerned by the extra burdens placed on residents in Merton, especially in Wimbledon and Raynes Park regarding also recognises~~ the imposition introduction

of the Diesel Parking Tax Levy in 2017 and the upcoming plans proposals to significantly increase parking permit fees from April 2019: as effective deterrent actions that will lead to an improvement in air quality in the borough.

This Council also recognises that ~~no significant~~ action has been taken and is ongoing to work with school communities to limit air pollution beside schools in the borough, ~~and that it has just awarded itself permission to build a the~~ new secondary school on the High Path Estate in an area of very poor air quality being a case in point.

~~Therefore,~~ Council resolves to ask the Cabinet to:

1. Lobby Continue to work with the Mayor of London and TfL urgently to clean up the bus fleet and ~~look to~~ introduce Low Emission Bus Zones in Wimbledon Town Centre, Raynes Park, South Wimbledon, Morden and Mitcham Town Centre (e.g. as per Putney High Street in the Conservative controlled London Borough of Wandsworth which has reduced NO_x emissions by 87%)
2. ~~Review the location of~~ Continue to monitor the air quality and air quality mitigations for the new secondary school ~~to another location within Merton that has cleaner air~~ – thus helping improve the children's' health
3. ~~Abandon discriminatory~~ Should the proposal be introduced, monitor the increase in parking charges taxes which do nothing to for their effectiveness in improving air quality
4. Look at positive actions to improve air quality which the residents can

Support, [particularly through use of the recently announced Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy Ward Allocation Scheme](#) ~~(e.g. large tree planting program, investment in safe space for cycling and storage).~~

Cllr Daniel Holden Cllr Nick McLean Cllr David Dean

Motion now to read:

This Council welcomes the focus on air quality in the London Borough of Merton and notes that this is a key concern of our residents. The failure of the Conservative government to address air quality is a key driving factor in the increase in life expectancy discrepancies, childhood asthma, premature deaths and other public health emergencies across the UK, particularly in London.

This Council acknowledges that significant action has been taken in Merton to address these concerns by:

- Creating an up-to-date Air Quality Action Plan, the majority of which has been implemented
- The soon to launch policy on anti-idling in the borough, with warning signage already being installed in some areas
- Introduction of electric vehicle charging points with our partner Source London.

This Council also recognises the introduction of the Diesel Levy in 2017 and the proposals to increase parking permit fees from April 2019 as effective deterrent actions that will lead to an improvement in air quality in the borough.

This Council also recognises that significant action has been taken and is ongoing to work with school communities to limit air pollution beside schools in the borough, the new secondary school on the High Path Estate being a case in point.

Council resolves to ask the Cabinet to:

1. Continue to work with the Mayor of London and TfL to clean up the bus fleet and introduce Low Emission Bus Zones in Wimbledon Town Centre, Raynes Park, South Wimbledon, Morden and Mitcham Town Centre (e.g. as per Putney High Street in the Conservative controlled London Borough of Wandsworth which has reduced NOx emissions by 87%)
2. Continue to monitor the air quality and air quality mitigations for the new secondary school– thus helping improve the children’s health
3. Should the proposal be introduced, monitor the increase in parking charges for their effectiveness in improving air quality
4. Look at positive actions to improve air quality which the residents can support, particularly through use of the recently announced Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy Ward Allocation Scheme