

## 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 to improve Merton's air quality is a key driving factor in the increase in the life expectancy gap between the east and the west of the borough to nine years.

This Council acknowledges that some action has been taken to address these concerns by:

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

However, this Council is concerned by the extra burdens placed on residents in Merton, especially in Wimbledon and Raynes Park regarding the imposition of the Diesel Parking Tax in 2017 and the upcoming plans to significantly increase parking permit fees from April 2019.

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

Therefore, Council resolves to ask the Cabinet to:

1. Lobby 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<sub>x</sub> emissions by 87%)
2. Review the location of the new secondary school to another location within Merton that has cleaner air – thus helping improve the children's' health
3. Abandon discriminatory parking taxes which do nothing to improve air quality
4. Look at positive actions to improve air quality which the residents can support (e.g. large tree planting program, investment in safe space for cycling and storage).

**Cllr Daniel Holden**

**Cllr Nick McLean**

**Cllr David Dean**

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