

Council – 7 December 2022

Elmbridge Borough Council's Agreed Notice of Motion regarding proposed Ultra Low Emissions Zone

This Council has a commitment to improving air quality in Elmbridge as detailed in our Air Quality Action Plan; this aims to reduce damaging emissions in the Borough as quickly as practically possible. While we have therefore welcomed the introduction of measures to improve air quality in Central London, we have concerns about the recent announcement by the Mayor of London to expand the Ultra-Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ) to all London boroughs for the following reasons:

- there is consistent and cross-party support for this Council to reduce its emissions and impact on the environment as quickly as practically possible;
- the communities of Elmbridge are inextricably linked with key points of infrastructure (businesses, hospitals, shops, services, etc.) within Greater London;
- the ULEZ £12.50 daily charge, and potential large fines for non-compliant vehicles, will have a disproportionate effect on small businesses and those on lower incomes already hit hardest by the cost-of-living crisis and inflation;
- the evidence and economic modelling of the impact is wrongly focussed on the impact only on Londoners and revenues for the Mayor of London, ignoring the impact on Elmbridge residents who do not have access to the alternative means of transport of tube and bus networks within the Greater London area;
- tax payers' money set aside for the Mayor to spend on reducing air pollution would be better spent on public transport, cycle ways, and other initiatives rather than a network of ULEZ cameras that penalise lower income households and those that must travel for work;
- to expresses support to expand Zone 6 beyond Hampton Court and Thames Ditton to include stations such as Esher, Walton, Hersham, Hinchley Wood, Cobham, Oxshott, Claygate, Weybridge and others; and therefore:

This Council therefore resolves that the Leader and Chief Executive write to the Mayor of London to express our opposition to the expansion of ULEZ without engaging with both EBC and Surrey County Council (as our public transport provider) to agree mitigation measures against the short-term impacts of the expansion of the ULEZ.