

Public Document Pack

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09 October 2023

Dear Member,

County Council - Friday, 13 October 2023

Please find enclosed the briefing notes for the motions to be debated at the meeting of the County Council to be held on Friday, 13 October 2023.

Agenda No	Item
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11(a)	Motion on impact of the London Ultra-Low Emission Zone on West Sussex (Pages 3 - 6)
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Briefing note on factual background information attached.

11(b)	Motion on Support for Care Leavers (Pages 7 - 8)
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Briefing note on factual background information attached.

Yours sincerely

Tony Kershaw
Director of Law and Assurance

To all members of the County Council

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County Council – 13 October 2023

Item 11(a) - Notice of Motion on impact of the London Ultra-Low Emission Zone on West Sussex from Cllr Burrett

Briefing Note

Scope of ULEZ expansion

The London Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) was introduced to Central London in April 2019, expanded to inner London in October 2021 and expanded to include the Greater London from the end of August 2023. The expansion to Greater London follows consultation during summer 2022.

Vehicle compliance levels, charges and exemptions

Non-compliant vehicles will be subject to a daily charge of £12.50, which will apply to all pre-Euro 4 standards petrol vehicles registered before January 2006, and all pre-Euro 6 diesel vehicles registered before September 2015. Specific grace periods are planned to support disabled people, including those on disability benefits and those with wheelchair accessible vehicles until October 2027.

Forecast impacts on air quality

- The expansion is forecast to reduce nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions from cars and vans in outer London by 10 and 7 percent respectively, and reducing PM_{2.5} car exhaust emissions in outer London by nearly 16 per cent ([House of Commons Library Briefing, PDF, 453KB](#)).
- The reductions in concentrations mean there is relatively little change in the number of people living in areas exceeding the current NO₂ limit value of 40µg/m³ (about 2,500 fewer people which is less than 0.5 per cent of the population) because this is largely unaffected in areas where it is exceeded in central and inner London (where ULEZ already operates).
- It is estimated that over 20,000 additional London residents could live in areas meeting the World Health Organisation (WHO) interim target 2 of 30µg/m³ NO₂ due to the scheme, while over 300,000 additional residents could live in areas that meet the tighter WHO interim target 3 of 20µg/m³.

Scrappage scheme eligibility

A £110m scrappage scheme started in January 2023 for low income and disabled Londoners (£1k for a motorbike, £2k for a car, £5k for a wheelchair accessible vehicle or partial bus and tram pass payment). Eligible charities (e.g. community transport) and micro-businesses can receive grants for scrapping vehicles (£5 for a van, £7k for a minibus) or retrofitting to ULEZ standards. This scheme only applies in Greater London.

Impact assessment – vehicle compliance, impacts on low-incomes, non-London communities, daily charge periods, and dispersal impacts

Transport for London (TfL) have forecast that 95% of cars, and 91% of vans are expected to be compliant by the end of 2023 [[Link to Mayoral decision - Appendix 2 – see response to ref B1](#)].

TfL state that, by August 2023, compliant petrol vehicles will have been available for 18 years, and that, given the age of vehicles and size of the market, they expect compliant vehicle options to be available at a relatively low cost. [[Link to Mayoral decision – Appendix 2 \(PDF, 2.2MB\) – see response to ref B2](#)]

The consultation raised concerns about the charging period from midnight to midnight, meaning that someone would need to pay £25 for a trip into London before midnight, if they leave after midnight. TfL confirm this as correct but state that another £12.50 is not payable if they were to enter London again later that day. [[Link to Mayoral decision – Appendix 2 \(PDF, 2.2MB\) – see response to ref A20](#)].

Impact beyond London

TfL identified amongst the scheme impacts: “Short-to-medium term minor negative community severance impacts for people living in communities adjacent to the London-wide ULEZ boundary who are required to travel into outer London by non-compliant vehicle to access employment, services and facilities”. [[Link to Mayoral decision – see 4.2.1](#)]

Consultation comments have highlighted concerns that the ULEZ expansion will push congestion and pollution outside the zone and make surrounding areas worse. TfL have responded that they have modelled the pollution and transport impacts of the proposals on the non-Greater London area within the M25. They expect pollutant levels to also fall in this area, and they expect negligible changes in traffic flows outside the proposed expanded ULEZ. They have also stated that they did not previously observe increased pollution on boundary roads following the introduction of the Central London ULEZ in 2019, or its expansion in inner London in 2021. [[Link to Mayoral decision – Appendix 2 \(PDF, 2.2MB\) – see response to ref B10](#)].

Scrappage scheme eligibility

Adjacent authorities including Surrey County Council have requested that residents outside Greater London be included in the scrappage scheme. TfL have responded that they have called for a national scrappage scheme, to those outside of London, and state that government funding has been provided covering other cities including Birmingham, Manchester and Portsmouth. They also note that, with a finite amount of funding available, the scrappage scheme will be most effective when funds are targeted at those who will be disproportionately impacted and less able to avoid the charge without mitigation or appropriate support. [[Link to Mayoral decision – Appendix 2 \(PDF, 2.2MB\) – see response to ref E7 and section 5.6.5](#)]

Judicial review

A challenge to the proposals brought forward by four London boroughs (Bexley, Bromley, Harrow and Hillingdon) and Surrey County Council failed on all three grounds ([Hillingdon -v- Mayor of London judgment \(PDF, 295KB\)](#)).

Issues concerning scheme implementation

- There has been no published assessment of the impacts on residents and businesses outside Greater London in terms of the volume or types of people likely to be impacted.

- There appears to be no specific explanation or detailed assessment provided by TfL of options for a 'buffer zone' approach to scrappage scheme for those affected in adjacent areas outside Greater London.
- There is no explanation by TfL as to why a charging period cannot apply over a movable 24-hour period to avoid a double charge for travel in/out of London before and after midnight.
- No detailed modelling information appears to have been published to support the summary response claiming negligible changes in traffic flows and emission reductions in areas outside the expanded ULEZ area.

Response to Consultation

West Sussex County Council did not formally respond to the consultation that TfL undertook in 2022. However, the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport wrote to the Mayor of London in July 2023 setting out the issues stated above.

Lee Harris

Director of Place Services

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County Council – 13 October 2023

Item 11(b) - Notice of Motion on Support for Care Leavers from Cllr Linehan

Briefing Note

Background

The Care Leavers service supports our young people as they move towards independence. The service currently cares and supports 594 young people with an allocated Personal Advisor (PA) and a further 78 with other extended support. In 2018 statutory guidance extended PA support to all care leavers up to age 25 and not only, as previously, if they were engaged in education or training.

The Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee on 13 September 2023, included a paper on ['Leaving Care in West Sussex \(PDF, 213KB\)'](#) in direct response to the comments from the County Council's Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) by Ofsted in March 2023 about meeting the needs of our care leavers.

Corporate Parenting

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 introduced corporate parenting principles to which local authorities must have regard. These include the promotion of physical and mental health and wellbeing; to encourage them to express their views and to take those views into account; to help them gain access to and make the best use of services of the local authority and relevant partners; to promote high aspirations and seek to secure the best outcomes for them; to be safe and have stability in their home lives, relationships and in education or work, and to prepare them for adulthood and independence.

As corporate parents the County Council's aim is to make sure that our children get the same opportunities, in education, employment and training, and in life generally, as other young people are not discriminated against, and that they have every opportunity to live fulfilling and successful lives without barriers.

National Context

The Independent Review of Children's Social Care led by Josh McCallister published in May 2022 had a recommendation that:

"Government should make care experience a protected characteristic" and "New legislation should be passed which broadens corporate parenting responsibilities across a wider set of public bodies and organisations."

Many care leavers face discrimination, stigma, and prejudice in their day to day lives. Public perception of care experience is that these children are damaged and that can lead to discrimination and assumptions being made about them. This discrimination can be similar in nature to other groups that have a legally protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010.

This stigma and discrimination can be explicit but can also be implicit and evidenced in the way that care leavers and care experience is discussed in schools,

workplaces, and the media. This can lead to care leavers being refused employment, failing to succeed in education or facing unfair judgements about their ability to parent when they have families of their own. The Office for National Statistics and various sector led organisations track and monitor various data regarding children we care for and care leavers, below are some headlines:

All Children (England):

- This year, around 36,000 children and young people will enter the care system: That's 100 children every day
- There are around 103,000 children cared for away from home
- Nearly 70,000 children live with over 55,000 fostering households
- There are currently 1,990 children waiting for adoption in England
- Global majority children (i.e. mainly non-white) are disproportionately represented in our care system. Global majority children make up 5% of the general population but 7% of in care and care leavers
- Global majority children are less likely to go on to be adopted and wait longer to find their adoptive family

Care leavers and care experienced young people (England):

- Over 10,000 young people in England leave the care system every year on their 18th birthday
- Care leavers make up 25% of the homeless population
- Almost 25% of the adult prison population have previously been in care, and nearly 50% of under 21-year-olds in contact with the criminal justice system have spent time in care
- 7% of care leavers aged 17 years; 4% of care leavers aged 18 years and 6% of care leavers aged 19 to 21 years are in accommodation considered to be unsuitable
- 41% of care leavers aged 19 to 21 years are not in education, employment, or training, compared to 12% of all 19 to 21 year olds
- 13% of care leavers enter higher education by their 19th birthday, compared to 45% of the wider population
- Care-experienced applicants are 179% more likely to apply for health and social care than non-care-experienced students, and 50% more likely to apply for nursing and midwifery

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies, such as councils, to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation of people with protected characteristics. Fifty-four local authorities have taken the step to recognise care experience as a protected characteristic.

Lucy Butler

Director of Children, Young People and Learning