

COUNCIL		
Report Title	Motion 1 in the name of Councillor Bonavia to be seconded by Councillor Onikosi	
Key Decision		Item No.
Ward		
Contributors	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
Class	Part 1	Date: November 25 2015

“This Council notes that Transport for London (TfL) are consulting on building a four-lane tunnel at Silvertown (the proposed Silvertown Tunnel) next to, and in addition to, the existing Blackwall Tunnel, which Mayor Boris Johnson claims will double road capacity across the Thames at this point and help ease traffic congestion.

This Council supports the principle of increasing transport capacity across the River Thames in order to unlock the economic potential of, and otherwise benefit, the people of south-east London.

This Council recognises there exist serious issues of traffic congestion and poor air quality around the approaches to the Blackwall Tunnel.

This Council is concerned that:

1. The concentration of river crossings resulting from the proposed Silvertown Tunnel risks exacerbating rather than dispersing the current pressures of traffic congestion. In particular, the proposed Silvertown Tunnel relies on the same southern approaches as the Blackwall Tunnel, including the stretches of the A2 and South Circular roads within the London Borough of Lewisham, which already suffer from daily congestion.
2. A resulting increase in traffic congestion is likely to also result in a deterioration of air quality in the London Borough of Lewisham and thereby negatively impact on the health of the Borough’s population.

This Council believes that any additional fixed river crossing should be constructed further to the east of the proposed Silvertown Tunnel as a more appropriate means of improving the existing traffic congestion and poor air quality.

This Council also reaffirms its commitment to encourage TfL to prioritise the significant improvement of public transport connections (including cycling and pedestrian modes) to and from the London Borough of Lewisham.

This Council therefore:

1. Resolves to oppose the proposed Silvertown Tunnel as specified in the current TfL consultation; and

2. Calls on the Mayor of the London Borough of Lewisham to ask the Mayor of London to work on a plan on increasing transport capacity between south-east and east London that seeks to improve air quality, with any proposed river crossing to be designed in a way that should meet such aim.”