

COUNCIL		
Report Title	Motion 5 in the name of Councillor Walsh to be seconded by Councillor Smith	
Key Decision		Item No.
Ward		
Contributors	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
Class	Part 1	Date: January 20 2016

“This Council believes:

1. Boris Johnson as Mayor of London has consistently failed to deal with London’s illegal level of air quality; the situation is so dire now that London breached its annual air pollution limits within the first week of 2016.
2. That alongside CO2 emissions from all motor vehicles being dangerous to health, particulates and Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) emissions from diesel vehicles cause or exacerbate a significant majority of respiration related health issues in London.
3. Most new petrol vehicles are equal to diesel for CO2 emissions, but diesel emissions are significantly more damaging to health than emissions from petrol vehicles. The vast majority of petrol vehicles emit less harmful emissions of nitrogen oxide (NOx) than even the newest diesel vehicles.
4. That as a Council we should support and where possible incentivise local residents in taking positive action to improve our collective environment and health.

This Council notes:

1. A recent air quality analysis of Lewisham was undertaken and presented to the January 2015 Sustainable Development Committee by the London Air Quality Network, that highlighted the particulate (PM10/2.5) impacts and hot-spots across the Borough, and noted the areas where the levels was above the EU-wide legal maxima
2. Diesel emissions have been linked to cancer, heart and lung damage, in addition to a range of other health issues. The World Health Organisation has classified diesel emissions as carcinogenic.
3. That air pollution is an equality factor, where the poorest in our Borough are more likely to feel the effects of it than their better off counterparts.
4. A report commissioned by the GLA last year found that nearly 9,500 people die prematurely each year because of the capital’s dirty air. An ultra low emissions zone is due to begin in 2020 in London to help tackle the problem – almost 60,000 lives later. Compliance should have been achieved by 2010, and the Supreme Court ruled that compliance had to be achieved as soon as possible.

5. The UK has been in breach of EU NO2 pollution limits for five years now and again last spring was ordered by the supreme court to publish an action plan on how to tackle this major health crisis. The resulting government plan was published in December, but London, Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool, Cardiff and Edinburgh and other major cities will still be in breach of NO2 limits for at least another five years, despite the new measures.

This Council resolves:

1. To demand that the next Mayor of London takes this issue seriously, and to write to the new Mayor of London & the Government Minister for them to look at how they can speed up plans to reduce this issue, and to put the case forward for a strategy that includes incentivising owners of polluting privately-owned passenger cars to change their vehicles.

2. To take responsibility for saving Lewisham lives, where the current Mayor of London hasn't, by investigating how we as a Council can play our part locally through exploring and bringing forward our own action plan including an impact study of surcharging the most polluting vehicles in the Borough to park, for scrutiny by the Council and consultation with local residents."