

Motion 2

ULEZ Expansion

Proposer: Mr Perry Cole

Seconder: Mr Jeremy Kite

Background information – provided by the Conservative Group

This Council recognises the importance of air quality to Kent Residents and our Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy, a sub strategy of the Kent Environment Strategy, that sets out the current understanding of the air quality issues and clear actions to improve air quality in Kent going forwards.

The Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy sets out how we, in partnership with Medway Council and the Kent district councils, will respond to the UK climate emergency and drive clean, resilient economic recovery across the county. The purpose of this strategy is to identify an evidence-based approach to deliver clean growth. This includes strategies and actions to eliminate poor air quality, reduce fuel poverty and deliver an affordable, clean and secure energy supply.

However, this Council condemns the implementation of the London ULEZ expansion that will impact business and separate families and friends who live in Kent from those who live in the historic parts of Kent that are now within the Greater London Boundary, disproportionately hitting essential key workers and those on low incomes who cannot afford to buy new, compliant cars and therefore call upon the Mayor of London to reverse this decision.

This Council should also confirm that it will not permit any new ULEZ signs on Kent County Council land, nor any existing LEZ signs to be changed.

Motion:

That County Council:

- Notes the existing KCC commitment to air quality in Kent via the Kent and Medway Low Emissions Strategy;
- Notes the disproportionate impact the ULEZ expansion will have on essential key workers and those on low incomes;
- Requests that the Leader of the Council write to the Mayor of London, expressing this Council's considerable concern about the impact of the expansion and calling on the Mayor, explicitly, to reverse the decision.
- Requests that the Executive confirm that it will not permit any new ULEZ signs being erected on Kent County Council property nor any existing LEZ signs being changed.