

Subject: Motions

Report Number: 9

Report to: London Assembly (Mayor's Question Time)

Date: 14 October 2009

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

1. Recommendation

1.1 **That the Assembly considers the motion set out below.**

2. The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Mike Tuffrey AM** and will be seconded at the meeting:

"The Assembly welcomes the Mayor's commitment to reduce carbon emissions by 60% (from a 1990 baseline) by 2025. The Assembly notes the need to take urgent action now to tackle climate change and cut CO2 emissions in London. The Assembly therefore urges the Mayor and all the GLA family to sign-up to the 10:10 campaign and to commit to cutting carbon emissions by 10% in 2010."

3. The following motion has been proposed in the name of **Caroline Pidgeon AM** and will be seconded at the meeting:

"The London Assembly notes that there is currently some £28million outstanding in unpaid congestion charge fees and fines by foreign embassies in London, and this figure is growing by the month.

The Assembly congratulates the 70% of diplomatic missions that do pay the congestion charge on time, but regrets that some of the worst offenders include the embassies of the United States, Russia, Germany and Japan.

The Assembly notes that the United States Embassy paid the Congestion Charge between February 2003 and July 2005, further notes that the US government has not asked for a refund of the charges paid at that time, and the Assembly would point out to the US government, and other diplomatic missions, that the Congestion Charge is not a tax, but a specific charge for a specific purpose, the money raised solely being allocated to transport projects.

The Assembly further regrets that Transport for London have given up on chasing the embassies that don't pay the congestion charge and left it in the hands of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to do so.

We therefore call on the Mayor to write to the Head of State of every nation with Congestion Charge payments and fines outstanding, demanding payment and to publish the responses of each country. We also call on the Mayor to use every available opportunity to 'name and shame' those countries refusing to pay the congestion charge, and invite each Ambassador of

those countries to explain to Londoners why they refuse to and agree to publish those explanations on the GLA website"

Background Papers: None.

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