

Subject: Update on a Possible Inner London Clean Air Zone

Report to: Environment Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 23 June 2011

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the back ground to a discussion with expert guests on the feasibility of a Clean Air Zone in inner London.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the report as background to discussing with expert guests the feasibility of a Clean Air Zone in inner London.**

3. Background

- 3.1 In response to the Mayor's draft Air Quality strategy the Committee considered the role of additional London-wide measures, but was concerned to focus action where the problem is most acute. Accordingly, the Committee recommended that low emission zones be established to tackle pollution hotspots, supported by the Mayor to ensure consistency and avoid confusion. The draft strategy stated that the Mayor would work with boroughs that wished to establish local low emission zones. However, the option for a low emission zone covering inner London was not taken forward, and the Mayor's adviser suggested to us that further analysis had shown that this would not be cost-effective.
- 3.2 However, we were also told that if a number of boroughs were interested in implementing local low emission zones (LEZ), the GLA would support the development of a common framework. To advance the debate and enable an assessment of the merits of local, inner and London-wide LEZ approaches, we recommended that the analysis of the costs and benefits of these schemes be published, including the costs to Londoners of replacing or retrofitting vehicles. This should include the feasibility of adopting schemes such as those operating in Germany, which do not require expensive infrastructure.
- 3.3 The final version of the Air Quality strategy committed the Mayor to work with boroughs to assess the feasibility and cost effectiveness of a central London LEZ in the Congestion Charging zone

4. Issues for Consideration

4.1 The Committee will put questions to:

- Peter Wright, Policy Manager (Planning), Transport for London; and
- Simon Birkett, Director, Clean Air in London.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in the report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report:

None

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers: None
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