



Havering
LONDON BOROUGH

London Borough of Havering,
Town Hall, Main Road,
Romford RM1 3BD

www.havering.gov.uk

Date: 6 April 2023

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP

Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister

We, the undersigned, a cross party group of elected representatives from the London Borough of Havering, wish to bring our concerns to your attention regarding the potential repercussions as a result of the proposed expansion of the Ultra-Low Emission's Zone (ULEZ) to our area.

As you are aware, ULEZ was introduced in Central London in 2019, with the aim of improving air quality and reducing emissions. We understand these ambitions as the London Borough of Havering has its own Air Quality Action Plan. However, as you are no doubt aware, the proposed expansion of ULEZ to cover the entirety of the Greater London Area will have a significant impact on many of our poorest communities, as well as preventing normal social and business travel, harming relationships with friends and families who live in neighbouring county and borough council areas such as Thurrock BC, Essex CC and Kent CC. We are particularly concerned that key workers who live in these council areas, but work in Havering, will decide no longer to do so because of the costs, putting further pressure on public services such as the Police, along with the local health and social care sector. It will also impact our charitable sector where workers will be affected in the same way and our youth groups who will have to raise money to afford new mini-busses as the scrappage scheme will only partly cover costs. Furthermore, many people will simply not visit towns like Romford for shopping if they have to pay a £12.50 tax each time they cross the boundary.

During a time of a cost-of-living crisis, the expansion of ULEZ is the wrong thing to do and will place an additional burden on many families who are already struggling to make ends meet. The cost of upgrading older vehicles to meet the ULEZ standards is prohibitively high for many and the lack of alternative transportation options means that many residents will be forced to pay the daily charge, leading to increased costs and financial pressure. The Mayor's scrappage scheme fails to go far enough and for many residents, they will not be eligible for the scheme anyway.

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Furthermore, the expansion of ULEZ will disproportionately affect those who rely on older vehicles, such as small business owners and those in trades. These groups are already grappling with the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the additional costs associated with ULEZ will only exacerbate their financial difficulties at a time when we need economic growth.

While we recognise the importance of enhancing air quality and reducing emissions, we believe that the proposed ULEZ expansion, as demonstrated by the Mayor's independent impact assessment, will have a negligible effect on reducing pollution. Thus, we urge you to consider the impact of the ULEZ expansion on the poorest in our communities and use the veto powers afforded to the Government under Section 143 GLA Act 1999 to stop the Mayor of London imposing this policy on Havering.

We believe that alternative approaches, such as increasing investment in public transportation, supporting the development of greener technologies, and providing further resources for the education of those within the Borough on the dangers of pollution, should be explored.

We appeal to you in the strongest terms to stop the ULEZ expansion or at the very least, allow boroughs like ourselves to decide whether it should be adopted here or at the very minimum, its implementation delayed until 2026.

We request a meeting with you to discuss this extremely serious matter in the hope that the government will take action to protect Havering residents from the devastating effects of ULEZ on the people we all represent.

Thank you for considering our concerns. We hope to hear back from you on this matter as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully



Cllr Ray Morgon
Leader of Havering Council
Havering Residents Association



Andrew Rosindell MP
Member of Parliament for Romford
Conservative



Keith Prince AM
Assembly Member for Havering and Redbridge
Conservative

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