

My Ref: TG/SK/MoL001

Date: 20th April 2023

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London
City Hall
The Queens Walk
London SE1 2AA

Dear Mr Mayor,

ULEZ Expansion Objection

Following a resolution at Full Council, I am writing on behalf of Runnymede Borough Council in relation to your planned ULEZ expansion. This policy is being brought in without full consideration of the impact on residents outside of London, such as those in Runnymede, nor with co-operation with neighbouring authorities including Surrey County Council. I therefore write to request that you cancel the planned ULEZ expansion and instead work with residents and authorities in and around London to implement policies which will instead achieve meaningful improvements in air quality without harming our residents or economy.

ULEZ expansion will add further costs for residents and businesses at a time when budgets are already under pressure, disproportionately impacting those on lower incomes, including key workers who are required to commute to outer London or Heathrow, those requiring medical treatment in London and carers or relatives looking after people who live across the outer London boundary.

Runnymede Borough Council is committed to improving air quality and protecting both the health of residents and our natural environment. We are also, however, committed to ensuring the best use of resource, delivering value for money for our residents and implementing evidence-based policies. As your own impact assessment shows, ULEZ alone will have a negligible impact on improving air quality in outer London boroughs, and there is a risk of worsening the situation on Surrey roads. On this evidence the clear cost to residents and economic harm cannot be justified.

We believe that the residents living within Runnymede should not have to pay a London-centric tax which therefore appears to have been developed to provide a source of revenue generation rather than environmental improvements.

As resolved by Full Council I would therefore wish you to note that:

- The evidence and economic modelling fails to assess the impact on residents of outlying areas, including those in Runnymede, who do not have access to the same transport networks as within the Greater London area.
- The roughly £400 million of government funding set aside for the Mayor of London to spend on reducing air pollution would be better spent on proven measures such as an expanded car scrappage scheme, improving public transport, cycle ways, and other initiatives rather than a

network of ULEZ cameras that penalise lower income households and those that must travel for work.

- Runnymede Borough Council therefore does not support ULEZ expansion without full consultation, a cost-benefit analysis, and consideration of possible alternative measures to improve air quality.
- Without these essential measures to ensure effective policy which is beneficial to residents, Runnymede Borough Council rejects your proposal to expand the ULEZ £12.50 daily charge and potential large fines for non-compliant vehicles which will harm small businesses and those on lower incomes hardest.

[This letter has been co-signed by our local MP, Dr Ben Spencer and group leaders of political groups on Runnymede Borough Council who are all in agreement with the sentiments.]

Yours sincerely,

Leader, Runnymede Borough Council
Councillor for Woodham & Row Town

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