

EXECUTIVE

3 August 2022

Questions for Written Reply

1. From Dr Brendan Donegan to the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces

Air pollution is the single largest environmental health risk in Europe but the science is fairly technical, so will the Council consider providing training to councillors and officers so they can make informed decisions on ULEZ and other measures intended to combat the wide-ranging health costs?

Reply:

The London Borough of Bromley employs qualified technical staff in the fields of traffic management and air quality to prepare reports and make recommendations for member decision.

However, should the relevant decision-making committee's Chairman make a request to the Director of Environment and Public Protection for member training on matters related London's air quality prior to any policy decision regarding ULEZ proposals then this will be considered.

2. From Dr Brendan Donegan to the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces

The motion on ULEZ mentions Bromley Council's Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). Does Bromley Council intend to report on progress made against KPIs in the AQAP and, if so, when?

Reply:

The Annual Status Report (ASR) 2021 is a standard format report which provides information on the London Borough of Bromley's air quality monitoring results for the previous year and provides an update on the progress of the authority in the last year regarding the action points within the approved Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) 2020 – 2025.

The ASR 2021 was submitted to the Mayor of London and DEFRA, for their information and approval, on 30th May 2022. Once approved, the report will be published on the London Borough of Bromley's website, we currently await comment from the Mayor of London's Air Quality Team. ASRs from previous years are available online.

The ASR 2021 is the 1st year reporting on progress made towards delivering the current AQAP's actions.

3. From Louise Clark to the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces

In the ULEZ motion to be debated the Council states it is “particularly concerned about the impact on self-employed and businesses..” Please can the Council publicly state the level of concern it has for those who have no choice but to breathe in polluted air and are at risk of disease if the zone is not expanded.

Reply:

The London Borough of Bromley is concerned for the health and welfare of all Bromley’s residents, workers, and visitors.

The Council monitors local air quality and has declared both Smoke Control Zones and an Air Quality Management Area.

The Authority has an approved 5-year Air Quality Action Plan [Exec 160920 Air Quality App B.pdf \(bromley.gov.uk\)](#) which contains 82 actions to improve local air quality, to be delivered by service areas from across the council.

Objectively, Bromley has the best air quality of all the London Boroughs. In 2021 no breaches of national air quality standards were measured in Bromley – see Annual Summary Report 2021.

4. From Mandy James to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

The motion opposes ULEZ on grounds of impact on certain groups (e.g. low income households). Can Bromley Council support ULEZ on the condition that exemptions for these groups be introduced?

Reply:

There are several other objections that the Council has to the expansion of the ULEZ to incorporate the Borough – please refer to the *published* letter from the Leader.

5. From Mandy James to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

Does Bromley Council have data on the number of households affected by ULEZ in the way described in the motion, e.g. does Bromley have data on the number of noncompliant vehicles in the borough?

Reply:

The ULEZ evidence base has a map of non-compliant vehicles, from this data it is our understanding that in 2021 there were at least 37,600 non complaint vehicles registered within Bromley. This equates to about 25% of all vehicles registered in Bromley not being compliant.

6. From Hilary Gee to the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces

We need to halve emissions by 2030 to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees. The Council's own calculations indicate Bromley's 5000 extra trees will reduce borough emissions by 0.008% after 30 years. If not ULEZ, then what methods will the Council use to reduce effectively the borough's emissions?"

Reply:

The Council is already moving forward its work to tackle borough-wide emissions (as and when appropriate funding is made available). A Carbon Management progress report setting out what has already been done (or is currently in progress), was presented at the ECS PDS Committee meeting in January 2022.

The Carbon Management Team will also be presenting a report at the ECS PDS meeting in September 2022, specifically about signposting residents, businesses and community groups to various grants, services and other initiatives aimed at energy savings and reducing CO2 emissions.

Transport is one of the borough's key sources of emissions. To support the transition to low carbon vehicles and significantly reduce borough-wide emissions, the Council has developed an Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy to support a rollout programme of EV charging points. An EV Charging Infrastructure Pilot is currently being developed to test several different charging solutions. The (6-12 month) pilot will hopefully be mobilised this autumn, with the results helping to inform the most suitable changing technologies together with the appropriate numbers to install within the borough.

In addition, the Carbon Management Team are members of several London Councils steering/working groups that are working hard to develop a pan-London approach to delivering seven climate priorities to achieve net zero emissions in the capital.

In urban forestry, the science element of trees is used to calculate values for ecosystem services, for example: carbon sequestered, pollutants filtered out of the air and volume of storm water reduced that would require treatment. Trees are unique in that their benefits in terms of number of ecosystem services provided increases as the trees age and increase in size.

To reflect a more realistically a value for carbon sequestered (to reduce LBB emissions), it is recommended that a Tree-economics survey is conducted of the entire LBB tree stock to determine the benefits brought in terms of ecosystem services which will give monetary values for each element.

Alternative planting techniques will be considered which have a shorter time frame for establishment such as the Miyawaki method used to create mini-forests which on average takes 10-20 years to establish. Native species would be selected for this project being mindful of current pests and diseases and seeking where available grant funding.

7. From Sian Stickings to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

2020 National Travel Survey statistics indicate the most common purpose for a trip taken by car was leisure (30%). Given that these trips have a negative impact on all residents (and 23% of Bromley households have no car) how does Bromley Council propose to reduce the number of trips?

Reply:

It is not, in my view, the role of the Council, to tell residents, when or how they use their car. We trust to the good sense of residents to decide in the light of their personal circumstances when and for what purpose they use their car.

8. From Sian Stickings to the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety

Just two A roads in Bromley Borough are the responsibility of TfL, and yet page 3 of Bromley Council's Air Quality Action Plan states that the majority of Bromley's busy A roads are the responsibility of TfL. Please comment.

Reply:

The three A roads administered by TfL within the Borough are the A20, A21 and part of the A232. These are three of the roads with the greatest exceedance of air pollutants. That is not to say that some of the A roads administered by Bromley do not also exceed air quality objective limits for NOx.

9. From Andrew Stotesbury to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

Please will LBB confirm that there are no residential dwellings remaining in the Bromley Borough that have facades made or over-clad with unsafe flammable cladding.

Reply:

We cannot confirm this – there remain buildings under investigation or in the process of remedial work.

10. From Andrew Stotesbury to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

If unable to do so: How were these developments able to be approved by LBB Planning and Building Regulations departments? What is the Executive doing to ensure this never happens again and remedials are swiftly rectified?

Reply:

Any developments approved under the Building Regulations or granted planning approval by the Council would have been in accordance with planning policies and / or Building Regulations in place at the time of granting. Some developments are approved under the Building Regulations by third party Approved Inspectors (AI) in which cases the AI and not the Council is the Building Control Authority.