



Agenda Item:	Reference: HACC.496
Date: July 14 2007	
Air Quality – introduction of the Low Emission Zone for Greater London	

1. Members will be aware from the reports and presentations over the past several years that one of the projects which the Mayor of London was proposing as an environmental improvement was the introduction of a “Low Emission Zone” (LEZ) in which the operation of certain classes of commercial vehicles would be restricted. Those which could not meet prescribed emission standards would be charged for each day in which they are operated in the defined area of the zone.
2. There has also been speculation that the Mayor might impose emissions controls specifically on the Heathrow Airport area because of the sensitivity of the air quality situation there and a need to implement improvements to meet international health standards.
3. The Mayor has now announced the final details of this LEZ scheme which will come into effect on February 4 2008. Mr Livingstone said :

“Despite significant improvement in recent years, London’s air pollution is the worst of any city in the UK and amongst the worst in Europe. Road traffic emissions are the main cause of air pollution emissions in London. That is why I am proposing to make the whole of London a Low Emission Zone so that the most polluting diesel-engined lorries, buses, coaches, minibuses and large vans, are deterred from driving within our city.

Reduced traffic pollution will improve the health and quality of life of people who live in, work in and visit London, especially those suffering from respiratory or cardiovascular illnesses that restrict their daily activities”.

4. The scheme will apply to the most polluting vehicles which will be required to meet specific emission standards; if they do not, their operators will need to pay a daily charge. Cars, motor cycles and small vans (under 1.205 tonnes unladen weight) are not included in the LEZ controls. The controls will be permanent, in effect 24 hours a day, each day of the year.
5. From February 4 2008, the scheme will apply to diesel-engined lorries over 12 tonnes in weight. From July 2008, it will also apply to lorries over 3.5 tonnes and to buses and coaches. From October 2010, large vans and minibuses of over 8 passenger seats will also be included in the LEZ controlled areas.
6. Under European Union regulations, standards are prescribed which makers of road vehicle engines have to comply with. Vehicles first registered as new on or after 1 October 2001 are assumed to be capable of meeting the Euro III standards for particulate matter and so to meet the LEZ emission standard.
7. Vehicles not meeting the emission standards will be required to pay a daily charge if used within the LEZ. A number of reasons are listed as to why vehicles which are driven in the LEZ may be subject to Penalty Charge Notices including non-

compliance with the LEZ emission standards, if not exempt or entitled to a 100% discount or if the relevant charge is not paid by midnight on the next working day after the day of travel.

8. A separate charge may be issued for each charging day when the regulations are not complied with and these range from £1,000 a day for lorries, buses, coaches over 3.5 tonnes to £500 for large vans minibuses and other relevant vehicles – both reduced by 50% if paid within 14 days.
9. The LEZ boundary generally follows that of Greater London except that some minor adjustments are made to exclude from control some short lengths of highways close to the boundary.
10. In the area of Heathrow, the A.4 and A.30 roads bordering the Airport are subject to control as is the M.4 Spur road but not the length of M.4 from the Greater London boundary to the Heston Interchange. The A.3044 on the western boundary of Heathrow Airport is also not to be controlled. The M.25 motorway is outside of Greater London and will not be affected.
11. Road vehicles create a much greater contribution to air contamination than the aviation industry does and imposition of the LEZ should make a welcome contribution to improving air quality in the area.