

Decision Number: 03/2022-23

Portfolio Holder Executive Decision Statement


The Local Authority (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

Subject: Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) expansion for 2023 Response
Details of Decision taken Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) intend to respond to the above consultation. The response details our concerns for residents and businesses on the fringe of the ULEZ whilst acknowledging the potential benefits towards local air quality.
Reason for Decision SDC adjoins the outer edge of London sharing boundaries with London Borough of Bexley and London Borough of Bromley. Therefore, the proposed ULEZ expansion would affect residents and businesses on the fringe of the ULEZ.
All Documents considered: SDC ULEZ Consultation
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the Member when making the Decision: NA
Financial implications NA
Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement NA
Equality Impacts (Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty) The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

When completed a copy of this record must be sent to the Democratic Services Section by e-mail and a signed copy by internal mail

(For Democratic Services use)

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Local Member (s), other Portfolio Holders and Chief Officer/Head of Service Consulted Cllr McArthur- Cleaner & Greener Portfolio Holder	
Details of any conflicts of interest a) declared by any executive member who is consulted by the Decision Taker b) and any details of dispensations granted by the Chief Executive in respect of any declared conflict	
Decision taken by:	Portfolio Holder for Cleaner & Greener
Signed by Portfolio Holder	
Date of Decision	28.07.22
Record made by:	Phil Magee
Date of record:	28.07.22

When completed a copy of this record must be sent to the Democratic Services Section by e-mail and a signed copy by internal mail

By email only

cleanairyourview@tfl.gov.uk

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Ask for: Planning Policy Team

Email: Planning.policy@sevenoaks.gov.uk

My Ref:

Your Ref:

Date: 25th July 2022

Dear TFL

Proposed Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) expansion for 2023 Response

Please find our formal response to the ULE expansion below:

Sevenoaks District Council is a predominantly rural local authority situated in West Kent lying to the south east of London. It adjoins the outer edge of London sharing boundaries with London Borough of Bexley and London Borough of Bromley.

We have made a commitment to be Net Zero by 2030 and as part of this is committed to being a “community leader” by encouraging low carbon measures across the District through education, best practice, incentives, policy and opportunities. This standpoint has informed the creation of our Movement Strategy, which outlines the key issues and priorities for sustainable movement and transport for the District. It covers our intentions to encourage active forms of travel such as walking and cycling, using public transport and reducing car usage. Further to this, emissions from combustion engines, particularly diesel vehicles, has been identified as a main cause of poor air quality within the District. The major roads passing through the district include the M25, M26, A21 and A25, linking many parts of London to the Dover port and the Channel Tunnel. As a result, there is a significant amount of continental traffic that passes through the District, including HGVs, as well as the presence of local traffic and commuters passing through into London from other areas within Kent. This creates several air pollution hotspots, chiefly in the towns of Sevenoaks, Swanley and Westerham.

Broadly we welcome the expansion of the ULEZ and appreciate and understand the benefits that it will bring to local air quality. We recognise that whilst the ULEZ will not cover Sevenoaks District it will encourage businesses and private vehicle users

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adjacent to the zone to consider purchasing more efficient vehicles for use within the ULEZ. It is noted from the 2011 Census that the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley are both popular places where Sevenoaks Districts workers are employed and commute to. Similarly, the ULEZ may encourage these commuters to consider more efficient vehicles for use within the ULEZ, but it could also result in an increase in costs to some of these commuters who do not have a ULEZ compatible vehicle.

We recognise that the ULEZ boundary has been drawn so as to allow those on the fringes of the ULEZ to bypass the zone using major routes (such as the A21 to Junction 4 of the M25). However, we have some concerns that residents on the fringes of the ULEZ and whose primary amenity centre (including for shops, schools, GPs etc.) is within the ULEZ (i.e. Orpington, Sidcup etc.) will be disadvantaged if they do not have a ULEZ compatible vehicle. As a result, they may have to travel further, thereby generating more emissions, to alternate town centres within Sevenoaks District, inevitably driving through our Air Quality Management Areas. It has recently been announced by Kent County Council that a number of commercial bus routes in the rural villages adjacent to the ULEZ boundary are to be cut impacting upon the ability of residents to travel into ULEZ or alternate town centres on public transport. There are a number of small commercial yards/ business parks located along the edge of the proposed ULEZ boundary. Where non-ULEZ vehicles are in use at these sites these businesses may be significantly disadvantaged by the expansion. This may also increase the number of journeys through Sevenoaks District by vehicles avoiding ULEZ.

We would ask TFL to consider including residents and businesses on the fringe of the ULEZ (up to the M25) in any schemes that help address inequalities caused by the expansion of the ULEZ (i.e. scrappage schemes). This request is especially timely with the cost of living crisis the country is currently experiencing. Whilst acknowledging the benefits of ULEZ standard vehicles, we would not want residents and businesses on the ULEZ border with non-compliant vehicles to be disadvantaged by virtue of where they reside or where their business is situated with the cost of replacing their vehicle.

We also support the comments provided by Kent County Council on your consultation and look forward to working with you in meeting some of our concerns suggested above.

We trust the above comments will be taken into consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Margot McArther
Cleaner and Greener Portfolio Holder