

## **The ULEZ is coming - or three of them actually!**

The Mayor of London, after consultation, has announced that an Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) will be extended to but will not include the N and S Circular Roads in 2021: <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone> .

This will follow:

- the creation of an initial ULEZ covering the Inner London Congestion Zone in 2019 (now subject to a T charge);
- and an ULEZ covering the whole of the Greater London area for heavy vehicles such as lorries in 2020.

The main effect of the 2021 ULEZ scheme will be to impose a daily charge of £12.50 on older cars (and vans) **entering or used within the Zone**. This will apply 7 days a week and at all hours. Older vehicles are roughly defined as those with diesel engines over 6 years old (i.e. those pre-dating the Euro 6 label) and those with petrol engines over 15 years old. You can check if your car is affected by entering its registration details on the TfL website mentioned above. The daily charge will **not** apply on days when you don't use it

The scheme is described on the TfL website but many aspects are not clear, nor are the consequential impacts on individual owners and volumes and patterns of car and van use discussed. There are extensive background papers available.

When operational this would appear to be the largest zonal designation designed to alleviate air pollution or congestion in Britain and perhaps in the world. In the absence of large financial grants for replacement cleaner vehicles it will have a significant effect on the lifestyles and perhaps livelihoods of those with non-exempt vehicles. For the most part these will be less well-off owners. In the opinion of many who support the scheme in principle this raises issues of fairness.

CAfB are concerned that the Zone does not include the heavily polluted North Circular. Subject to issues of fairness there are many campaigners who consider that the Zone should cover the whole of Greater London.

There is no sign that a national or local scrappage scheme will be available to help owners of older vehicles, as The Mayor seems to have originally hoped for when consulting on the scheme. There are no sunset provisions allowing owners of non-compliant vehicles some period to adjust to the ULEZ regime. The ULEZ will affect vehicle owners who live within the designated area and those from outer London and beyond who drive into it.

A massive public relations campaign will be required to inform people and businesses if they will be affected and how, to address the issue of lack of equity and to make the case for tough measures to achieve an improvement in air quality. TfL say they are planning and beginning to implement such a campaign but the method and scale are not so far known. We do know that some owners of older vehicles are getting warning letters via DVLA when their annual road tax payment is due and that there are some ads on the tube.

CAfB may plan a public meeting on this topic to in due course. In the meantime QPARA have a speaker on the ULEZ from TfL attending their monthly meeting at St Anne's, Salusbury Road, NW6 on 10<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm. If you are not a member of QPARA and would like to hear the speaker please contact QPARA via [qparainfo@gmail.com](mailto:qparainfo@gmail.com) .

N.B. CAfB can't take responsibility for any of the above information which is given in good faith. If you need more certainty you should apply to TfL who are implementing the scheme.

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