

**Councillor Malcolm Cuning**  
**Leader of the Labour Group**  
**Scottish Labour Party**  
**Linn Ward – 1**

**Phone: 0141 287 3937**  
**E-mail: malcolm.cuning@glasgow.gov.uk**



Our Ref : MC/TR/L220317ChiefExec

17 March 2022

Annemarie O'Donnell  
Chief Executive  
Glasgow City Council

By email: annemarie.odonnell@glasgow.gov.uk

Dear Annemarie

### **Call In - LOW EMISSION ZONE: FINAL SCHEME DESIGN AND FORMAL SUBMISSION**

We write regarding Item 9 of the City Administration Committee's agenda of 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

You will be aware that the introduction of the Low Emission Zone continues to attract significant public attention and concern, most notably from the Taxi sector. These concerns have been raised consistently with Elected Members, but most definitively in the objection to the scheme from the Unite the Union Cab Section received on 19<sup>th</sup> January. As you will note from Councillor Cuning's amendment, we wished to better reflect those concerns in the implementation of the policy.

It was noted in the paper presented by Councillor Richardson that in the interests of certainty there would be no further amendments to the final scheme design, despite the formal objection.

There was an earlier opportunity, on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March, at the Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction CPC to amend the proposals to address these concerns.

However, despite this opportunity, it was not until very late on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March that further proposals to mitigate these concerns were tabled by the Administration. Elected Members did not have sight of that proposal until Thursday morning, but we understand that the Glasgow Times had sight prior to that.

Given the timescales involved, the only possible opportunity to scrutinise those new proposals was at the City Administration Committee. The text of the amendment was vague as to the meaning and impact of the proposals, though the intent was clear.

Further, we are not satisfied that the proposals were sufficiently described at the meeting, nor are we satisfied that Officers were in a position to give satisfactory answers to questions. Far from the intent of the original proposal that "operators have certainty over the start of LEZ enforcement", this last minute and vague proposal does the exact opposite.

Prior to its submission to Scottish Ministers, we believe that Elected Members require to be given answers to questions around the legal, operational, and financial implications of the revised proposals:

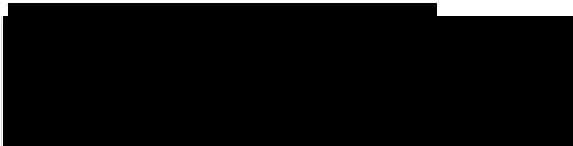
- How does the revised proposal sit within the legislative framework?
- What discussions – if any – have been had with the Scottish Government regarding this effective change to enforcement arrangements?
- Do the proposals give rise to a risk of legal action from drivers of non-Taxis who could similarly provide evidence of arrangements in place to achieve LEZ compliance?
- What does “a time limited period” for exemption from penalty charges mean?
- Do these proposals adequately address concerns around supply chains and capacity to carry out necessary retrofitting of the Taxi fleet?
- How might this scheme work, on a practical level?
- What will the additional cost to the Council be because of this new process?

It is on this basis that we request to ‘call-in’ the decision of 10<sup>th</sup> March. Please note that the above list of questions is far from exhaustive. We believe that Operational Performance and Delivery Scrutiny Committee is the most appropriate scrutiny committee to consider this request but recognise that is at your discretion.

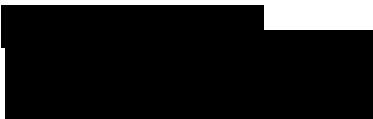
We recognise that public health is of utmost importance in this debate and do believe that there requires to be certainty for all those potentially affected by the introduction of the Low Emissions Zone. Therefore, we would appreciate that this issue is addressed as speedily as possible.

We look forward to hearing from you.

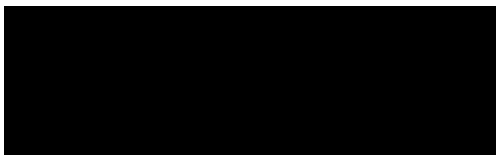
Kind regards



**Councillor Malcolm Cuning,  
Leader of the Glasgow Labour Group**



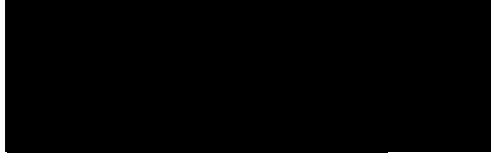
**Councillor Eva Murray,  
Depute Leader of the Glasgow Labour Group**



**Councillor Bill Butler,  
Councillor for Garscadden/Scotstounhill**



**Bailie Marie Garrity,  
Councillor for East Centre**



**Councillor Maureen Burke,  
Councillor for North East**