

International Clean Air Summit calls for tough World Health Organisation pollution standards in new Environment legislation

- **22 business and local leaders called for the adoption of World Health Organization pollution standards in the Environment Bill**
- **Political agreement for an Environment Bill that is fit for purpose with legally binding commitments and a national framework to implement clean air**
- **London launch new report that shows they can meet tough World Health Organization air pollution standards, if government provide additional powers and support**

This morning UK100 and the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, hosted a round table of UK mayors, local leaders and businesses as well as international representatives calling for World Health Organization (WHO) limits as a minimum in the Environment Bill, alongside powers and resources for cities to deliver on Clean Air and Climate Change.

Air pollution is a public health crisis globally and in the UK. Dr Tedros Adhanom, Director-General World Health Organization reminded delegates that 9 out of 10 people breathe dirty air every day. Shockingly only 56% of high-income countries meet WHO guidelines limits on air pollution. London has today announced that with the right support they could meet PM2.5 WHO standards by 2030.

Here in the UK, Simon Stevens highlighted that 690 people are dying every week from cardiovascular and respiratory diseases exacerbated by air pollution and on high air pollution days we see 413 people being rushed to hospital as a result. The CEO of NHS England acknowledged that the NHS is both part of the problem and the solution, driving change to achieve clean air and protect public health.

Summit attendees were encouraged by the words of George Freeman MP, Minister for Transport who shared his ambition that councils will be given the freedom [and financial] support to develop place-based integrated transport systems and that MLCHG and Treasury should be involved in more strategic thinking and leadership around clean air and climate change.

Round table delegates were inspired by the words of Christiana Figueres who called on them to consider the Paris Agreement on Climate Change as they most important health agreement ever, as action in climate will improve health and tackle air pollution. She urged leaders to use the agreement to raise ambition, lead by example and scrub air pollution out of our lives for good. These sentiments were echoed by Nick Hurd MP, Minister for London who called for cross party consensus and an Environment Bill that is fit for purpose with legally binding commitments and a national framework to implement clean air.

The delegates were comprised of 22 signatories, behind UK100's Clean Air Declaration, made up of local authorities and businesses ready to partner to deliver on clean air (3). UK100

welcome other businesses and local authorities to join as a signatory of the Clean Air Declaration(1).

ENDS

For further information or interview bids, contact bex.bolland@uk100.org or 07718108996

Editor's Notes

1. UK100's Clean Air Declaration <https://www.uk100.org/clean-air/>
2. UK100 delivered the Clean Air Zone Declaration round table on 8th October and the International #CleanAirSummit round table on 23rd October with the financial support of the European Climate Foundation, ALD Automotive, Geotab, Enterprise Holdings and the Greater London Authority and in partnership with Fleet News and the Mayor of London.
3. The full final text of the declaration reads as follows:

“Urgent action to eliminate air pollution must be a national priority and we as local leaders and business leaders are committed to prioritising action to protect people's health and to tackle the Climate Emergency. Inadequate investment, a lack of national frameworks and consistent approaches, and the absence of necessary powers are stifling our ability to act.

Together we can eliminate air pollution by working in partnership and if action is taken forward across Government to:

- Require, and provide necessary resources for, the meeting of world leading World Health Organization air pollution standards, as a minimum, in the Environment Bill that will eliminate pollution from controllable sources.
- Establish a programme that provides financial support for the poorest in our society and for small businesses to switch to cleaner vehicles, shared transport or active travel via schemes such as mobility credits, and also includes a £1.5bn Fleet Renewal Programme, stimulating the market to deliver cleaner vehicles, including heavy freight, municipal vehicles and for retrofit solutions.
- Grant Local Authorities and Mayors the powers and funding they need to deliver zero emission transport networks, encourage and enable behaviour change, including the promotion of active travel, and tackle non-road transport sources of pollution including: public transport, infrastructure, construction, planning and enforcement.
- Create certainty for business and local government by setting out an ambitious roadmap to 2030 as part of a strengthened UK Government Clean Air Strategy that empowers business, local authorities and public bodies to collaborate with confidence and put in place the necessary actions needed for clean air.”

List of signatories to the International Clean Air Summit declaration:

Cities and local authorities:

- Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London
- Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester
- Cllr Dine Romero, Leader Bath and North East Somerset
- Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol
- Dan Jarvis, Mayor of Sheffield City Region
- Cllr Wassem Zaffar, Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment, Birmingham City Council
- Cllr Rosy Moore, Executive Councillor for Climate Change, Environment and City Centre, Cambridge City Council
- Cllr Judith Blake, Leader, Leeds City Council
- Cllr Adam Clarke, Deputy Mayor, Leicester City Council
- Joe Anderson, Mayor Liverpool City Council
- Steve Rotheram, Mayor, Liverpool City Region
- Cllr Richard Leese, Leader, Manchester City Council
- Cllr Nick Forbes, Leader, Newcastle City Council
- Cllr Sally Longford, Deputy Leader, Nottingham City Council
- Cllr Susan Brown, Leader, Oxford City Council
- Cllr Chris Hammond, Southampton City Council

Businesses:

- Gerry Keaney, CEO, British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association (BVLRA)
- Frank Thorpe, Managing Director, BYD UK
- Graham Vidler, Chief Executive, Confederation of Passenger Transport
- Ben Lawson, Vice President, Strategy, Enterprise Holdings
- Edward Kulperger, Vice President Europe, Geotab
- Stuart Lightbody, Fleet Director, M Group Services

About UK100

UK100 is a network of highly ambitious local government leaders committed to clean air and 100% clean energy. It is the only network for UK local authorities urban, suburban and rural, focused solely on climate change, clean air and clean energy policy. UK100's local leaders are committed to working together to tackle these challenges and are implementing innovative solutions to protect their residents.

UK100 on Clean Air: As well as taking action locally, UK100's network is united in calling on the UK government to do more. Clean air is a national problem that needs national action that enables locally designed solutions. Working with civil society, the public sector and business, UK100 is calling for legislation that protects us from dirty air and makes the UK a world leader in clean technologies and solutions. www.UK100.org