

Why Transport Issues are Important to your Business

The cost of transport for businesses can make up a substantial amount of your company's outgoings.

Rising Fuel Costs: The costs of traditional fuels have increased at a higher rate than inflation.

Congestion: Revenue is lost through employees being stuck in congestion, wasting company time and unnecessary fuel. It is estimated that congestion costs London businesses over £2million in lost revenue per week.

Congestion Charging: On Monday 17th February 2003, the London Congestion Charging Scheme was introduced. The charge is currently £8 between 7am to 6.30pm. Penalties will apply, if the charge has not been paid before 10pm on the day of travel.

Exemptions and discounts include:

- Disabled people, or institutions for disabled people, who hold a Blue Badge (formerly known as Orange Badge)
- Residents living within the congestion charging zone
- Drivers of alternative fuel vehicles
- Vehicles with 9 or more seats
- Drivers of roadside recovery vehicles
- Accredited breakdown organisations
- Drivers of electronically propelled vehicles.

If your company relies on the use of vehicles for your business, this scheme will have a considerable impact on your costs.

Transport & Business

BRIEFING NOTES

Health Problems

Many employees are taking more time off through respiratory illnesses caused by the declining quality of our atmosphere. Air pollution is the most obvious form of pollution that is produced by transport.

The effect of air pollution from Transport and health is a very serious matter. There are up to 24,000 deaths per year as a result of poor air quality in the UK and a similar number of hospitalizations. The largest cause of poor air quality is emissions from road transport.



Disclaimer:

This leaflet is intended to provide only a brief introduction to some common environmental issues affecting business and should not be regarded as fully comprehensive advice.

Pollutants produced from vehicle exhausts include:

- **Volatile Organic Compounds** – these are an irritant to our airways
- **Nitrogen Oxides** – affects respiratory and cardiovascular systems, asthma and can cause deaths. They are also a contributing factor to acid rain which, damages buildings and flora
- **Carbon Monoxide** – poisonous when inhaled. It reduces the amount of oxygen we can carry in our blood leading to impaired concentration, headaches, heart pain, damage to the foetus and sometimes death
- **PM10** – these tiny particles are produced during the combustion of diesel. They affect the respiratory and cardiovascular systems. They are so small, our nasal passages cannot filter these out
- **Photochemical smog** – Smog is an irritant to our airways and passageways. It is produced from the reaction of the sun and the emissions produced from vehicles.

London Borough of Greenwich is concentrating on tackling the levels of PM10 and Nitrogen Oxides within the borough as research has shown that without action, the levels of the above listed pollutants will exceed Government levels by 2005.

