

2 February 2012

‘Clean Air in London’ calls on all the Mayoral candidates to promise in their manifestos to end the biggest public health crisis for decades

We need a Mayor who will: Lead the fight to improve London’s air; Clean up London’s transport; Build a low emission city; Protect the most vulnerable; and Ensure a legacy from the Olympic Games

Clean Air in London intends to rank Mayoral candidates on their commitment to measures in this manifesto before the Mayoral election

London should lead the world in tackling air pollution as it did after the Great Smog of 1952

Clean Air in London, which runs the cross-party campaign of the same name, has published its manifesto for the Mayoral and London Assembly elections on 3 May 2012.

Simon Birkett, Founder and Director of Clean Air in London, said:

“London is back where we thought it was during the Great Smog of 1952.

“Boris Johnson says there were 4,267 early deaths in London in 2008 attributable to long-term exposure to ‘invisible’ air pollution (at an average of 11.5 years each). This compares to 4,075 due to short-term exposure during the ‘visible’ Great Smog of 1952 when we knew nothing of the health impact of long-term exposure to air pollution. Only smoking causes more early deaths now.

“The Mayor must protect the health of Londoners and ensure full compliance with UK and European air quality laws throughout London. We need a Mayor who will:

- **Lead the fight to improve London’s air** by championing the tightening of health and legal protections, ensuring good governance and improving public understanding of poor air quality
- **Clean up London’s transport** by reducing traffic emissions, cleaning up the public transport system, reducing emissions from non-road mobile machinery and supporting active travel
- **Build a low emission city** by using planning powers and other opportunities to reduce emissions from buildings and improve indoor air quality
- **Protect the most vulnerable** through a focus on children, the elderly, the poor and ethnic minorities
- **Ensure a legacy from the Olympic Games** by delivering a low emission Olympics and more

“Clean Air in London is therefore calling on all the Mayoral candidates to promise in their manifestos to end the biggest public health crisis for decades. After four years of backward steps on air quality measures, Boris is well behind on this issue.

“We need a Mayor who will show the world, starting with the Olympics, that London is leading the way in tackling air pollution as it did after the Great Smog of 1952.”

Notes:

1. Titled 'Manifesto for 'clean air in London'', the manifesto lists five themes, 12 key policy areas and 45 measures needing to taken by the Mayor and London Assembly over the next four years.
2. Kulveer Ranger, the Mayor's Director of Environment and Digital London, is due to give evidence on 2 February 2012 to the London Assembly Environment Committee about key environmental priorities for London over the coming years:

http://www.london.gov.uk/media/press_releases_london_assembly/week-ahead-london-assembly-74

3. Defra forecasts for air pollution in London

http://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/latest/?zone_id=15&Submit=View&type=forecast