

TramForward

Campaigning for Light Rail

PRESS RELEASE FROM *TramForward*

5 May 2017

TramForward supports All Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group campaign on air quality

TramForward is supporting a call by the All Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group (APPLRG) for poor urban air quality to be an election issue and for all the main political parties to include their plans to improve it in their manifestos.

This came following an APPLRG meeting at the House of Commons on 26 April, which heard from James Backhouse of Backhouse Jones, Daniel Giblin of TramForward and Joanne Bentley of Nottingham Express Transit, and the announcement on the next day of the High Court ruling that the Government must publish its revised policy for tackling pollution, which it has done today (5 May).

TramForward welcomes the increased media and public concern with this serious health problem but emphasises that vehicle exhausts are not the only source of harmful pollutants, and that wear of tyres, road surfaces and brake linings are an increasing source of potentially toxic particulates. Even if all pollution from exhausts could be removed there would still be a serious pollution problem, especially as electric rubber-tyred vehicles are substantially heavier than their internal combustion-engined counterparts and would thus produce even more tyre/road surface pollution. The Government's new draft clean air plan does not address this aspect of the problem.

TramForward argues that greater use of trams, which produce very little pollution of any sort on the street, would be a partial solution to this problem in busy urban corridors. It calls upon central and local government to promote trams as a significant part of the urban transport fabric, as is the case in France, the United States and many other countries.

Andrew Braddock, Chairman of the LRTA, said that the Government now had to take the lead in encouraging city regions and other urban authorities to implement plans for replacement of the busiest bus services with tramways, in order to significantly reduce particulate emissions from diesel-fuelled vehicles.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. **TramForward** is the campaigning arm of the Light Rail Transit Association (LRTA).
2. The LRTA is the world's leading organisation campaigning for better public transport in urban areas through light rail, tramway and metro systems and has been in existence for more than 75 years. It also supports the revitalisation of suburban and rural transport through the application of light rail and TramTrain technology.
3. The LRTA acts through its network of local branches, which campaign for better transport in their areas.
4. Membership of the LRTA costs less than 14p a day. To join, visit www.lrta.org or write to the Membership Secretary, LRTA, 38 Wolseley Road, Sale, Greater Manchester, M33 7AU. Members receive the monthly magazine *Tramways & Urban Transit* - written and read by experts in the field - and gain other benefits including discounts on videos and books, tours of transport systems and cut-price admission to selected transport museums.

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