

Cleaner, greener taxis? Time to have your say



THERE'S just two weeks left to have your say on proposed changes to the way taxi and private hire vehicles are licensed ahead of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) planned for 2020.

The consultation focuses on two main proposals:

The first requires all newly licensed taxi and private hire vehicles to be zero emission capable from January 1, 2018. This means vehicles must be either pure electric or a hybrid vehicle capable of running in zero emission (at tailpipe) mode for all or part of the time.

The second proposal suggests keeping the existing 15-year age limit for taxis to encourage retirement of the oldest, most polluting vehicles through a voluntary decommissioning scheme.

A £65million fund will be used to help drivers upgrade to the next generation of environmentally friendly vehicles, helping to make London's taxi fleet the cleanest and greenest in the world.

Fresh air for the future

By 2020, TfL is committed to ensuring all 300 single-decker buses operating in the ULEZ are zero emission and all 3,000 double-decker buses will be hybrid.

Together, these measures are expected to nearly halve emissions of harmful nitrogen oxide (NOx) from vehicle exhausts in central London.

The ULEZ will also lead to a significant fall in the number of people living in areas of poor air quality by 72 per cent in central London and 54 per cent London-wide.

■ The consultation runs until August 11. Find out more about the plans and comment on the proposals at tfl.gov.uk/ultra-low-emission-zone



► Mixing cycles with science – on a Santander bike

SANTANDER Cycles has teamed up with the Science Museum to offer twilight cycling tours through the museum's collections, galleries and exhibitions after hours.

Taking place on August 12, 13 and 14, the cyclists will be able to hear from curators as they take part in a VIP tour on two wheels.

The money-can't-buy experience is just one of many Summer of Cycling events championed by Mayor Boris Johnson and Jenson Button, McLaren Honda Formula 1 driver and Santander ambassador.

The cycling festivals will be happening this summer at some of London's unique locations including ZSL London Zoo, Lambeth Palace and at riverside settings during the Totally Thames festival in early September.

■ To find out more and for a chance to pedal around the Science Museum, enter the prize draw at www.santander.co.uk/cycles before August 4

Santander became the latest sponsor of the capital's cycle hire scheme earlier this year in a seven-year deal set to increase the number of docking points and cycles. Every docking station within the 100km² area of the scheme and 11,500 bikes have now been fully rebranded in the Santander Cycles red-and-white livery.

Your Tube questions answered

TRANSPORT chiefs will be on hand to answer questions about the Metropolitan, Circle and Hammersmith & City lines on Twitter today between 1pm and 2pm.

Tweet your questions to all three lines @Circleline, @Hamandcityline and @Metline using the hashtags #AskMet, #AskCircle and #AskH&C. Questions can also be tweeted to TfL's accessibility feed @TfLAccess.

Manager Mike Smith will answer questions relating to the Circle and Hammersmith & City lines and Nick Dent for the Metropolitan line.

The Twitter chat is the latest in a series of Tweet the Manager sessions TfL is running across its feeds.

■ Follow the feed for your line at tfl.gov.uk/socialmedia

For more articles and to keep up to date with TfL announcements, visit tfl.gov.uk/news

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London Travelwatch

London's transport watchdog
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www.londontravelwatch.org.uk

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Transporting Londoners into the future

Enzo's goal is to expand his pizza restaurant into a new area. The Northern line extension will create a larger community with thousands of new customers.

See a timeline of how we're transforming transport.

Visit tfl.gov.uk/future-london

