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Abolish the Congestion Charge

Chris Prior for the London Assembly

"Use your vote, have your say"

ACTION NOT TAXES

23 April 2008

Immediate Release

"Londoners want to make a real contribution to tackling global warming. They don't want half baked schemes that do not work," says Chris Prior, the Abolish the Congestion Charge candidate in the London wide Assembly elections.

"Seeing global warming as an opportunity to try to make money through new taxes devalues the challenge and demeans politicians. Using taxes to punish people is old thinking. Instead we need bold initiatives that help people respond positively; we need to use the power of government to lever dramatic change.

For the sake of our environment and our security, we must make very significant cuts in emissions and radically reduce our dependence on oil.

I believe that carrots work far better rather than sticks. We must encourage people out of their cars by transforming public transport. We must make it affordable, flexible, responsive and environmentally friendly.

At the same time we must recognise that people will still want cars and do all we can to limit their impact on the environment. Apart from abolishing taxes on the purchase of low emission vehicles, we must go much further.

We must look ahead and start work now to install electric charging points on every street in London that has parking spaces. We must anticipate the development of and the demand for a new generation of electric and plug-in hybrid cars. We must make sure that London has the infrastructure to support them."

ENDS

Notes for Editors

1. The congestion charge is an unfair tax, costs over £5.50 of every £8 to administer and it simply doesn't work.
2. Londoners already pay £15bn more in tax every year than they receive back in public services. Some of this money must be invested to transform public transport.
3. Chris Prior is founder of [Plug in Britain](#), which promotes the adoption of electric and plug-in hybrid cars.
4. London currently has 12 on street charging points.

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