



**All Party Parliamentary
Light Rail Group**

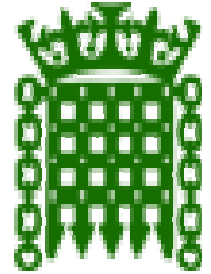
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Light Rail & Trams, Affordable & Sustainable Transport

"The past we inherit, the future we build ourselves"

TramTrain does it Greener and Cheaper on lightly used railway lines and in the streets"

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PRESS RELEASE

APPG Light Rail

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All Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group calls for poor air quality to be an election issue

The All Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group has called for poor air quality to be an election issue. The Group has written to all main political parties asking them to include the issue in their manifesto and highlighting the key role light rail and trams have as a significant solution having no pollution at the point of use and not causing particulate emission.

The Government were supposed to publish its revised policy for tackling pollution on Monday 24th April, but had sought to postpone this.

A High Court judge has ruled that the policy must now be published by 9th May.

The Group hosted a meeting on 26th April, which heard from James Backhouse of Backhouse Jones, Daniel Giblin of TramForward and Joanne Bentley of Nottingham Express Transit.

The meeting concluded that air quality is a major concern which the next government must tackle as a matter of urgency and has backed the campaign by Client Earth for a new Clean Air Act in the next Parliament.

The Group has also called for the next Government to introduce new funding for trials of light rail and trams in the U.K.

These meetings are by invitation only, where MPs, Stakeholders etc., within the Light Rail industry and invited members of the Public will have a chance to discuss debate and raise questions concerning Light Rail

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Secretariat provided by
Light Rail (UK)
Warrington, Cheshire, England,
United Kingdom WA2 8TX
Tel 01925 243500, Fax 01925 243000, 07721378223
Mr Jim Harkins FCILT
Email applrguk@aol.com www.applrguk.co.uk

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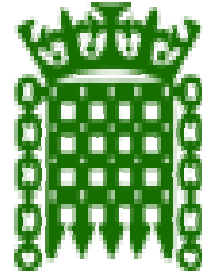
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Commenting Greg Mulholland MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Light Rail Group said:

“The quality of our air should be a political priority as it has a huge impact on the health of the nation. That is why we are calling on every party to have in their manifesto, a commitment to improving air quality.

That is even more important now that we are going to see the Government’s before the election. They will have to defend their policy and parties can have a genuine debate about how to tackle such a large public health issue.”

Daniel Giblin, of TramForward, said:

"TramForward is campaigning for 'Trams for Clean Air' and a new Clean Air Act. Trams are the non-polluting transportation answer for cities, towns and villages to achieve improved air quality.

TramForward is initiating funding trials to investigate with an informed group of experts and prospective global funders new alternative leading edge financial models which will demonstrate how effective management of economic instruments, income generation, land uplift values and cost re-engineering can overcome funding gaps in new tram system business cases and achieve a positive return on investment.

Our aim is to encourage Government, Local Authorities and the Private Sector to rethink how to invest in Trams for economic growth, excellence in public health and community customer service.

We will build on the groundswell of positive opinion towards Trams in the UK through TramForward's participation in public debates, we will lobby for 'Trams for Clean Air' explaining to communities and stakeholders the exceptional good value for taxpayers of Trams, their environmental benefits and also the avoidance of traffic congestion and car gridlock.”

Notes to Editors:

1. For more information, contact Gareth Lloyd-Johnson on gareth.lloydjohnson@parliament.uk

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