KINGSTON CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY ON AIR QUALITY

Preliminary Report

DECEMBER 2019

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF

KINGSTON
UPON THAMES

involve

The RBK Citizens' Assembly

The RBK Citizens' Assembly was a group of 38 citizens broadly reflecting the population from the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames who came together over two weekends to consider how to improve air quality in the borough. They were:

Angela, from South of the Borough

Angela, from Surbiton

Angelo, from Kingston Town

Anthony, from Maldens and Coombe

Barbara, from Maldens and Coombe

Caroline, from Surbiton

Cristina, from Surbiton

Christopher, from Kingston Town

Demetra, from Surbiton

Dennis, from Maldens and Coombe

Dharbi, from Kingston Town

Elle, from South of the Borough

Emma, from Surbiton

Farhan, from Maldens and Coombe

Ian, from Maldens and Coombe

Jade, from Surbiton

James, from Maldens and Coombe

Jean, from South of the Borough

Jeffrey, from Kingston Town

Jixing, from Kingston Town

John, from Kingston Town

John, from Maldens and Coombe

Lisa, from Kingston Town

Luanne, from South of the Borough

Mary, from Kingston Town

Masoumeh, from Surbiton

Mehrdad, from Kingston Town

Nikola, from Maldens and Coombe

Philip G., from Maldens and Coombe

Philip W., from Maldens and Coombe

Philippa, from Kingston Town

Sarah, from Surbiton

Sarfraz, from Maldens and Coombe

Sharada, from Surbiton

Thiago, from Kingston Town

Tom, from South of the Borough

Tony, from South of the Borough

Violet, from Kingston Town

Who was involved

Involve

The Involve Foundation[1] is the UK's leading public participation charity, with a mission to put people at the heart of decision-making. Involve ran the citizens' assembly – facilitating and designing the process by which the assembly members learn, consider and come to recommendations about the topic. They also wrote this report on the outcomes of the citizens' assembly.

Sortition Foundation

The Sortition Foundation[2] promotes the use of sortition (random selection) in decision-making. They were responsible for recruiting people to take part in the citizens' assembly. Their aim was to ensure the citizens' assembly was broadly representative of the Kingston upon Thames community.

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames commissioned the citizens' assembly and will receive its recommendations.

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[1] www.involve.org.uk/
[2] www.sortitionfoundation.org/

Acknowledgements

Thank you to everyone who was involved in making the RBK Citizens' Assembly on Air Quality a success, including assembly members, speakers, facilitators, support team, the advisory group and contributors to the call for evidence.

01. INTRODUCTION

The RBK Citizens' Assembly on Air Quality brought together 38 randomly selected residents from the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames for two weekends during November and December 2019.

The citizens' assembly was set the task to develop recommendations in response to the question:

How do we collectively improve air quality in the borough?

Across the two weekends, the citizens' assembly heard a range of evidence relating to the impact of air pollution and different possible solutions for tackling it. Having considered the issue, the citizens' assembly developed five recommendations for improving air quality in the borough, each with a series of detailed actions that the council, residents & others should take.
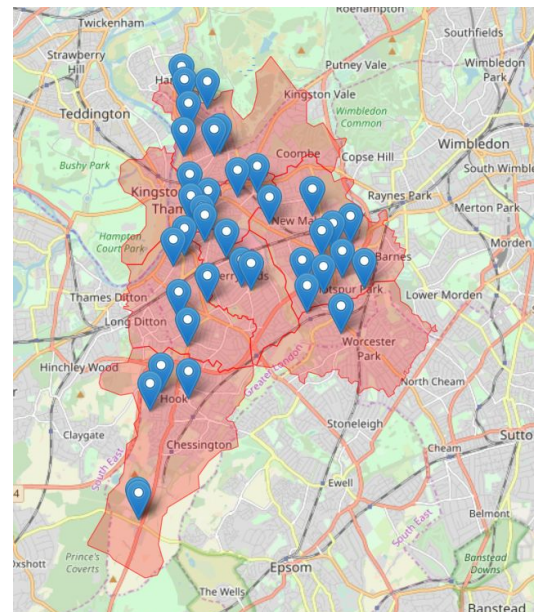
This preliminary report sets out the high level recommendations reached by the citizens' assembly. It has been written by Involve, based on the work and recommendations of the citizens' assembly. We have sought to represent the citizens' assembly as faithfully as possible – reporting its recommendations and conclusions as they were written and agreed by assembly members.

1.1 Assembly Members

The members of the citizens' assembly were recruited by the Sortition Foundation through a civic lottery sent to 7,000 households in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames. Households that received the invitation were able to register their interest in participating.

The Sortition Foundation then randomly selected individuals from this pool to be broadly representative of the RBK population in terms of gender, age, ethnicity, geography, and socio-economic group. Assembly members were given a £300 Thank You Gift (in cash or vouchers) to recognise the commitment and time they gave. They were also paid travel expenses.

The Sortition Foundation recruited 40 assembly members in total and 38 assembly members completed the two weekends. A full comparison of the demographics of the citizens' assembly and the local population will be included in the full report that will be available in January 2020.

Map showing the areas that were sent invitations as well as the locations of the final 38 assembly members.

1.2 Advisory Group

The citizens' assembly was overseen by an independent advisory group, which was tasked with providing advice and oversight to ensure the citizens' assembly's plans, evidence and materials were accurate, balanced and unbiased.

The members of the advisory group were:

- Professor Marta Blangiardo, Professor in Biostatistics at the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Imperial College London (UK);
- Stephen Moorcroft, Director of Air Quality Consultants Ltd;
- Professor Prashant Kumar, Chair in Air Quality and Health, and the Founder Director of Global Centre for Clean Air Research (GCARE), at the University of Surrey (UK);
- William Hicks, PhD research student at King's College London.

The advisory group met on three occasions, as well as commenting on drafts of speaker lists and presentations remotely.

1.3 The Work of the Citizens' Assembly

The citizens' assembly met over two full weekends (28 hours in total) to consider the issue of air pollution and the different possible solutions. A full method statement will follow in the full report that will be made available in January 2020.
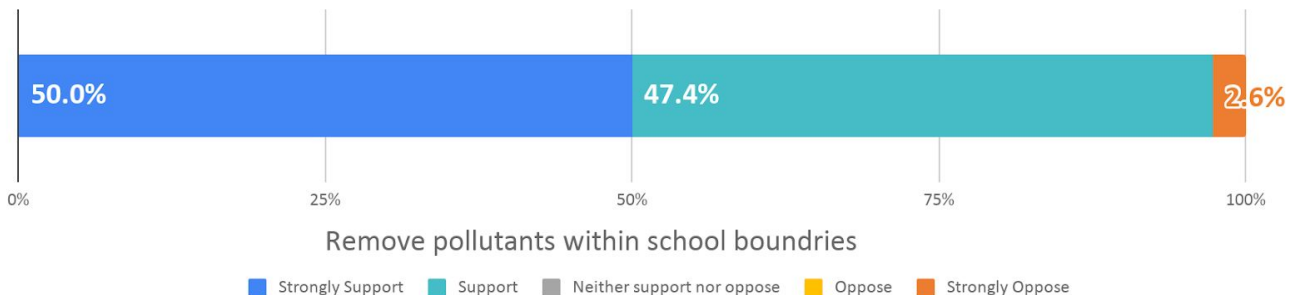
WEEKEND 1		WEEKEND 2	
DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4
Understanding the issue	Learning about solutions	Hearing from community voices	Developing the assembly's recommendations

02. HEADLINE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY

This preliminary report sets out the high-level recommendations of the Kingston Citizens' Assembly on Air Quality. More detail on the recommendations will follow in the full report that will be made available in January 2020. Each recommendation includes a series of actions developed by the citizens' assembly. Following their development, votes were conducted to check the extent to which the assembly members supported or opposed each of the recommendations and actions. Those results are presented alongside the recommendations and actions below.

Recommendation 1: Remove pollutants within school boundaries

50.0%   **47.4%**   **2.6%**

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

Remove pollutants within school boundries

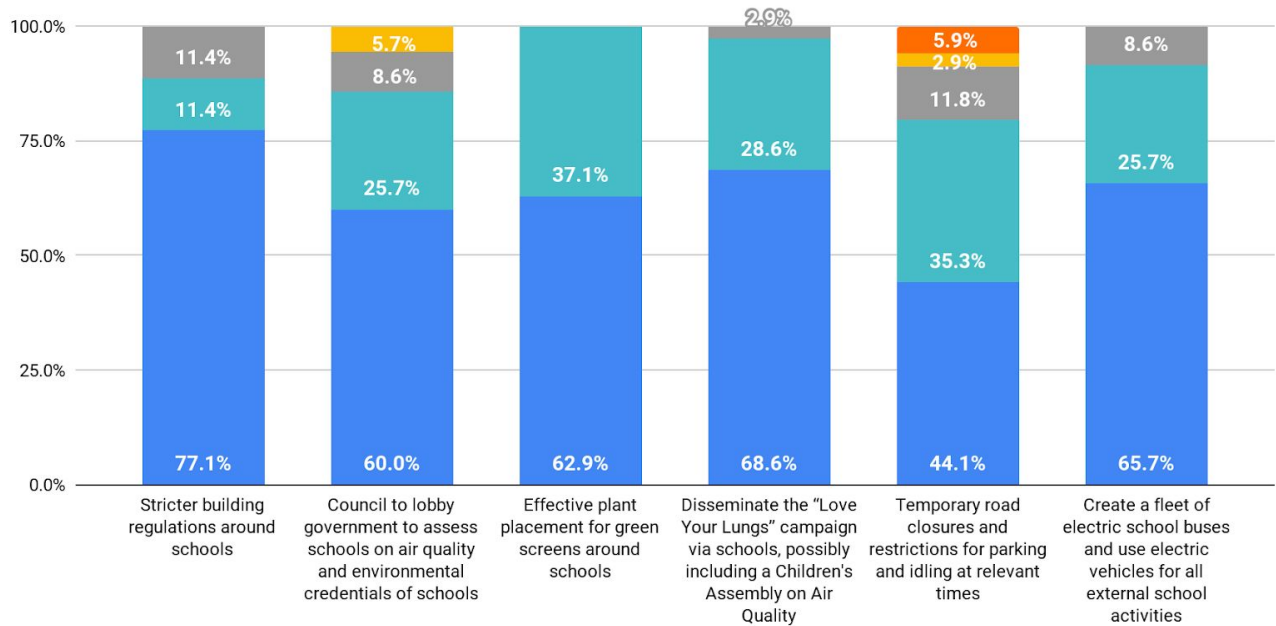■ Strongly Support   ■ Support   ■ Neither support nor oppose   ■ Oppose   ■ Strongly Oppose

Actions

The citizens' assembly developed the following six actions under this recommendation:

1.1. Stricter building regulations around schools;
1.2. Council to lobby government to assess schools on air quality and environmental credentials of schools;
1.3. Effective plant placement for green screens around schools;
1.4. Disseminate the "Love Your Lungs" campaign (see recommendation 4) via schools, possibly including a Childrens' Assembly on Air Quality;
1.5. Temporary road closures and restrictions for parking and idling at relevant times;
1.6. Create a fleet of electric school buses and use electric vehicles for all external school activities.

All actions received a strong majority of support from assembly members, with no actions falling short of 80% support.

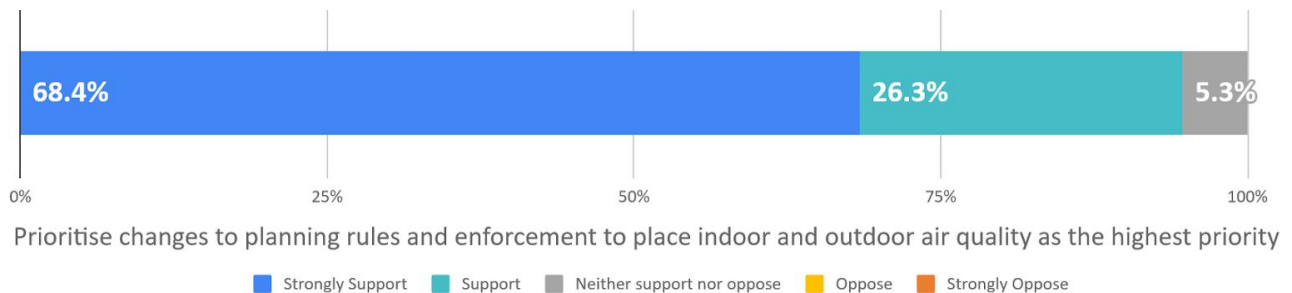|	Stricter building regulations around schools	Council to lobby government to assess schools on air quality and environmental credentials of schools	Effective plant placement for green screens around schools	Disseminate the "Love Your Lungs" campaign via schools, possibly including a Children's Assembly on Air Quality	Temporary road closures and restrictions for parking and idling at relevant times	Create a fleet of electric school buses and use electric vehicles for all external school activities
Strongly Oppose					5.9%	
Oppose		5.7%			2.9%	
Neither support nor oppose	11.4%	8.6%		2.9%	11.8%	8.6%
Support	11.4%	25.7%	37.1%	28.6%	35.3%	25.7%
Strongly Support	77.1%	60.0%	62.9%	68.6%	44.1%	65.7%

■ Strongly Support ■ Support ■ Neither support nor oppose ■ Oppose ■ Strongly Oppose

Recommendation 2: Prioritise changes to planning rules and enforcement to place indoor and outdoor air quality as the highest priority
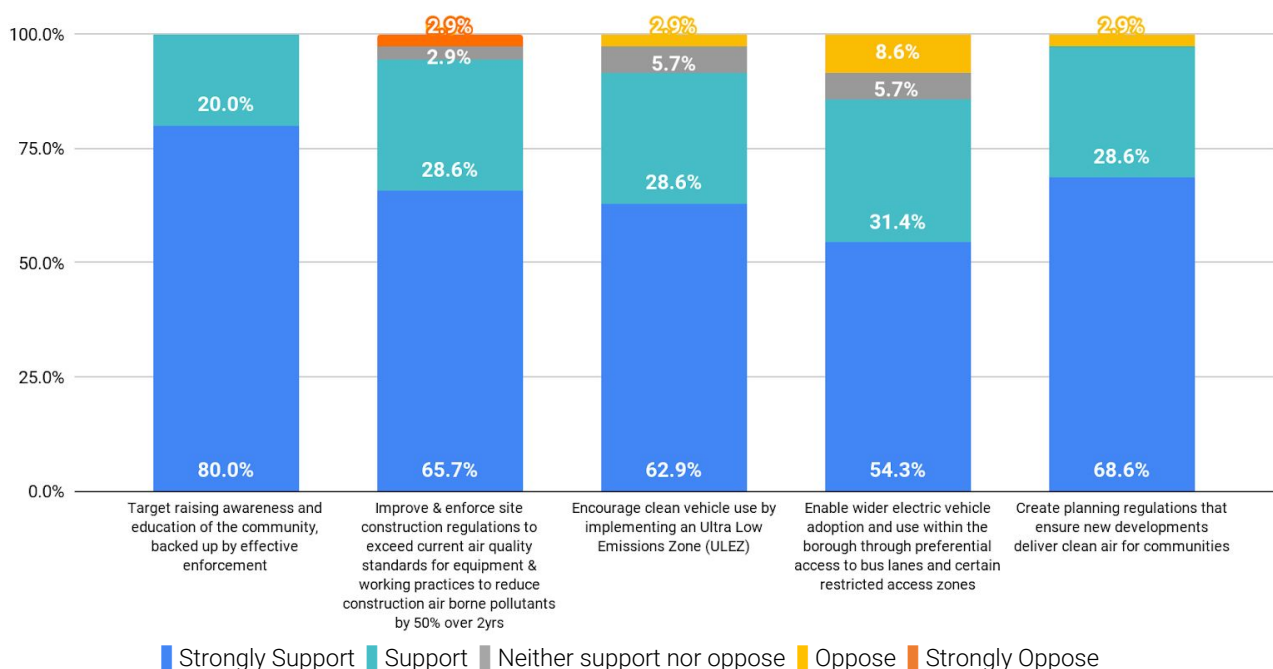

Prioritise changes to planning rules and enforcement to place indoor and outdoor air quality as the highest priority

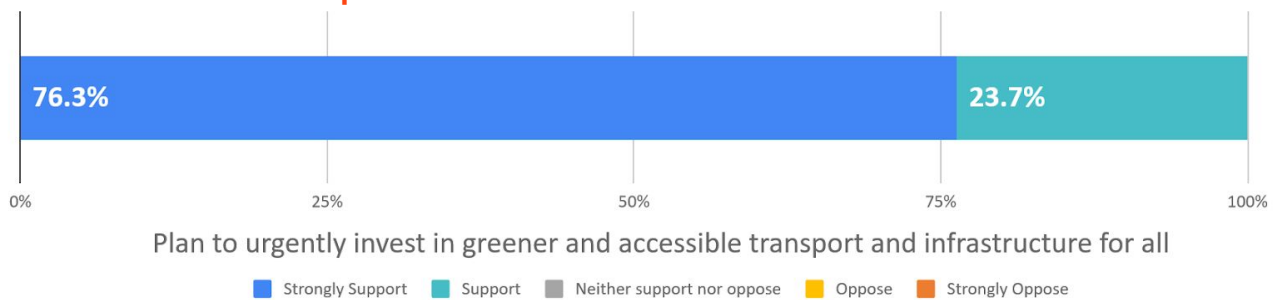Strongly Support ■ Support ■ Neither support nor oppose ■ Oppose ■ Strongly Oppose

Actions

The citizens' assembly developed five actions under this recommendation:

2.1. Target raising awareness and education of the community, backed up by effective enforcement;
2.2. Improve and enforce site construction regulations to exceed current air quality standards for equipment and working practices to reduce construction air borne pollutants by 50% over 2 years;
2.3. Encourage clean vehicle use by implementing an Ultra Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ);
2.4. Enable wider electric vehicle adoption and use within the borough through preferential access to bus lanes and certain restricted access zones;
2.5. Create planning regulations that ensure new developments deliver clean air for communities.

All actions received a strong majority of support from assembly members, with no actions falling short of 80% support.

Strongly Support ■ Support ■ Neither support nor oppose ■ Oppose ■ Strongly Oppose

8

Recommendation 3: Plan to urgently invest in greener and accessible transport and infrastructure for all

| 76.3% | 23.7% |

Plan to urgently invest in greener and accessible transport and infrastructure for all

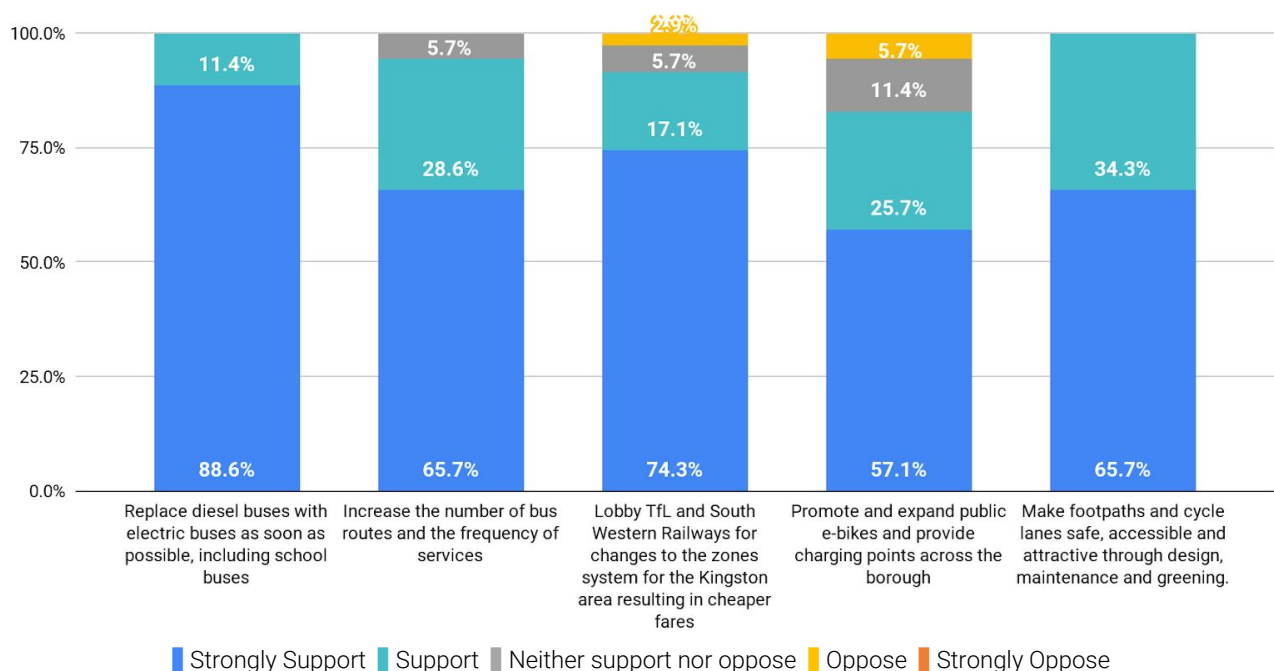■ Strongly Support ■ Support ■ Neither support nor oppose ■ Oppose ■ Strongly Oppose

Actions
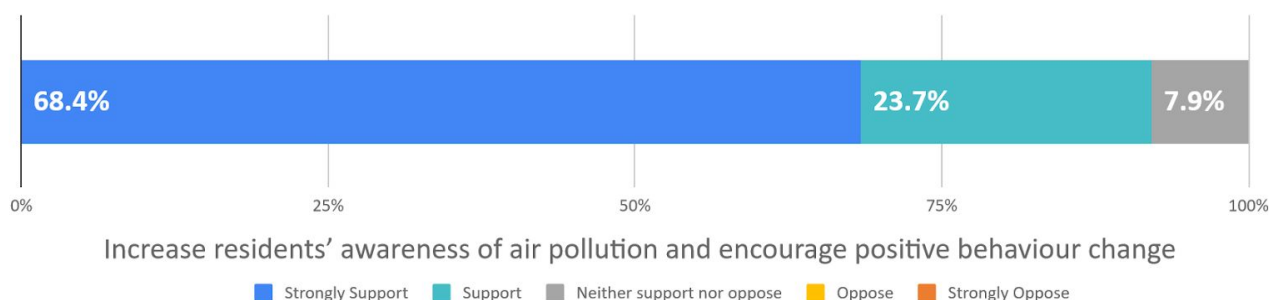
The citizens' assembly developed the following five actions under this recommendation:

3.1. Replace diesel buses with electric buses as soon as possible, including school buses;
3.2. Increase the number of bus routes and the frequency of services;
3.3. Lobby Transport for London and South Western Railways for changes to the zones system for the Kingston area resulting in cheaper fares;
3.4. Promote and expand public e-bikes and provide charging points across the borough;
3.5. Making footpaths and cycle lanes safe, accessible and attractive through design, maintenance and greening.

All actions received a strong majority of support from assembly members, with no actions falling short of 80% support.

■ Strongly Support ■ Support ■ Neither support nor oppose ■ Oppose ■ Strongly Oppose

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Recommendation 4: Increase residents' awareness of air pollution and encourage positive behaviour change

| 68.4% | 23.7% | 7.9% |

Increase residents' awareness of air pollution and encourage positive behaviour change

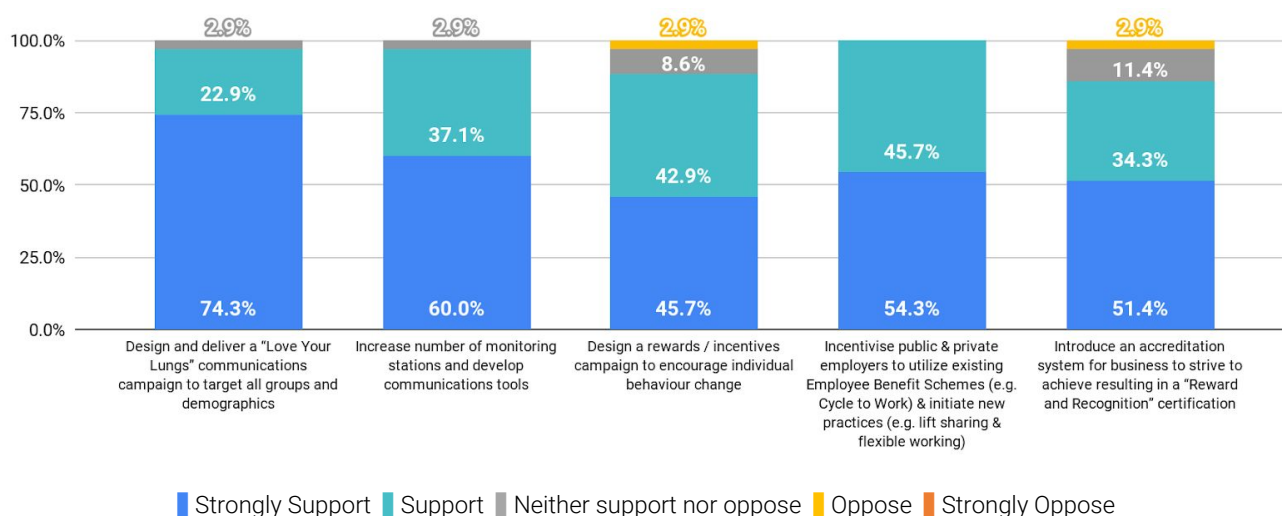■ Strongly Support ■ Support ■ Neither support nor oppose ■ Oppose ■ Strongly Oppose

Actions
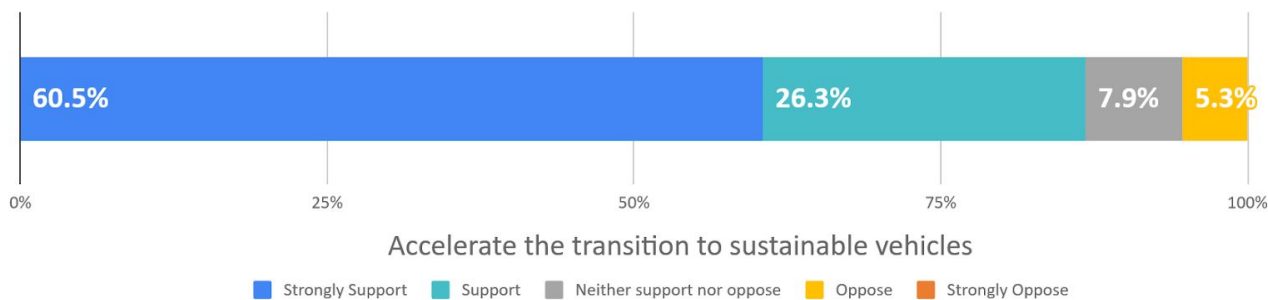
The citizens' assembly developed the following five actions under this recommendation:

4.1. Design and deliver a "Love Your Lungs" communications campaign to target all groups and demographics;

4.2. Increase number of monitoring stations and develop communications tools:

   a. Real time air quality levels (i.e. Red / Amber / Green visuals with percentage) (i.e. mobile app);

   b. Liaise with Dyson to explore opportunity to have mobile monitoring systems (e.g. kids backpack) and use it as a case study and communication opportunity;

   c. Equip schools with visible monitoring systems.

4.3. Design a rewards / incentives campaign to encourage individual behaviour change;

4.4. Incentivise public and private employers to utilize existing Employee Benefit Schemes (e.g. Cycle to Work) and initiate new practices (e.g. lift sharing and flexible working);

4.5. Introduce an accreditation system for business to strive to achieve resulting in a "Reward and Recognition" certification.

All actions received a strong majority of support from assembly members, with no actions falling short of 80% support.

■ Strongly Support ■ Support ■ Neither support nor oppose ■ Oppose ■ Strongly Oppose

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Recommendation 5: Accelerate the transition to sustainable vehicles

| 60.5% | 26.3% | 7.9% | 5.3% |

Accelerate the transition to sustainable vehicles

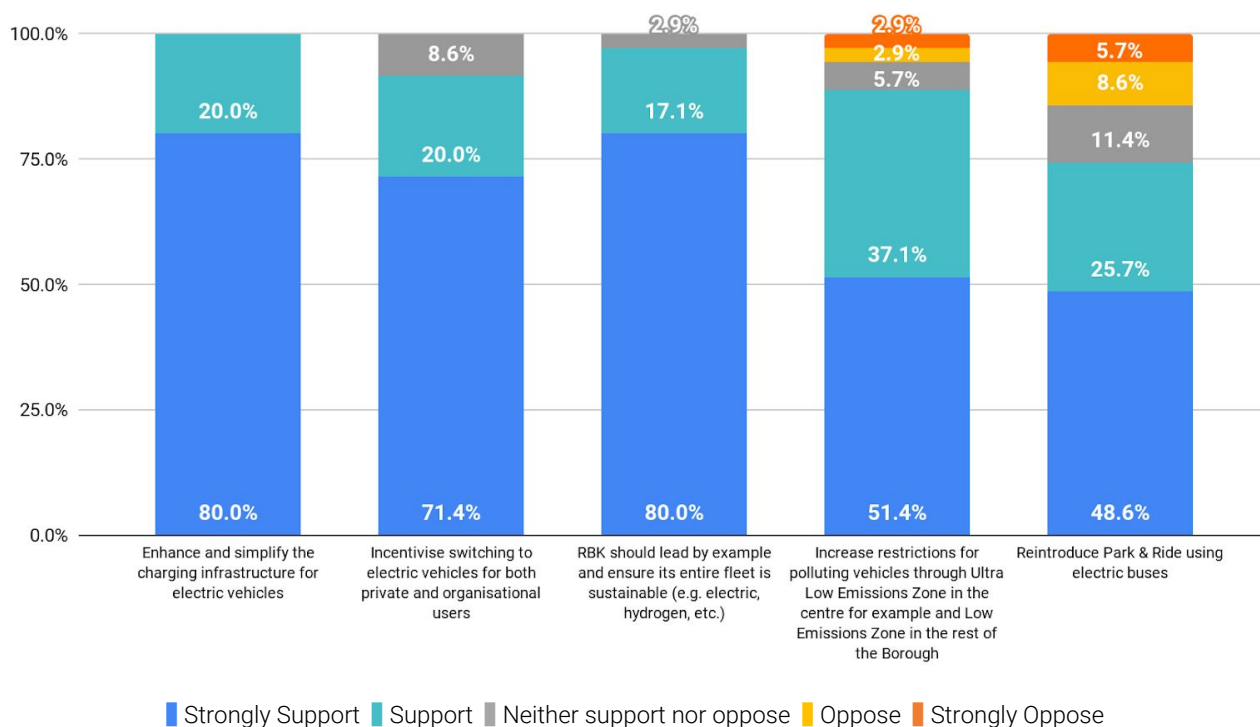■ Strongly Support ■ Support ■ Neither support nor oppose ■ Oppose ■ Strongly Oppose

Actions

The citizens' assembly developed the following five actions under this recommendation:

5.1. Enhance and simplify the charging infrastructure for electric vehicles;

5.2. Incentivise switching to electric vehicles for both private and organisational users;

5.3. RBK should lead by example and ensure its entire fleet is sustainable (e.g. electric, hydrogen, etc.);

5.4. Increase restrictions for polluting vehicles through Ultra Low Emissions Zone in the centre for example and Low Emissions Zone in the rest of the Borough;

5.5. Reintroduce Park & Ride using electric buses.

All actions received a strong majority of support from assembly members, with only action 5.5. falling slightly short of 80% support.

■ Strongly Support ■ Support ■ Neither support nor oppose ■ Oppose ■ Strongly Oppose