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### **Air Pollution:**

People in this country should not have to breathe dirty air. I share concerns about the impact of illegal levels of air pollution on the health of millions across the country, including the most vulnerable people in our communities.

When it comes to local traffic schemes, the Government needs to give local authorities real support to tackle toxic air. I believe we must look at a range of options to achieve clean air in a way that does not unfairly impact on people in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, and that the public should be involved in shaping key services at a local level.

In addition, motorists should be supported in the shift to cheaper electric vehicles, making them affordable and accessible to all with charging facilities everywhere. As we move to cleaner, cheaper alternatives to fossil fuels, people cannot be left to bear the transition costs on their own. We need to look at options such as offering interest-free loans for new and used electric vehicles to those on low to middle incomes and trialling a national scrappage scheme.

Active travel, such as walking and cycling, can also be a key tool in improving air quality, helping lower emissions, reducing congestion and improve people's health. The Government's recent major cut to the active travel budget is a short-sighted decision that will harm public health and hit air quality, as well as costing the taxpayer.

Last December, the Government announced its targets on air quality. However, these are weaker than the current World Health Organization guidelines and, in my opinion, are not ambitious enough. I believe we must adopt the targets set by the World Health Organization to bring air pollution down below harmful levels and I have long supported introducing a Clean Air Act to deliver the legal right to breathe clean air.

I remain concerned that inaction has allowed catastrophic levels of air pollution to build up nationwide and I assure constituents that I will continue to call for urgent action to clean up our air.

**Marie Rimmer CBE, MP**

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