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### **Vehicles and Air Pollution:**

For too long, poor air quality has contributed to childhood asthma and dangerous respiratory diseases in adults, particularly in disadvantaged communities. I believe it is essential that we treat air pollution as the serious public health threat it is.

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. I disagree with the Government's decision to push back ending the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by five years to 2035. I want to see action to make electric vehicles affordable and accessible by helping families manage the higher up-front cost, along with real action on the roll-out of charging points in areas currently being left behind.

Active travel, such as walking and cycling, can also be a key tool in improving air quality, helping to lower emissions, reduce congestion and improve people's health. The Government's major cut to its active travel budget in 2023 is a short-sighted decision that will harm public health and hit air quality, as well as costing the taxpayer.

The Government's new targets on air quality are weaker than the current World Health Organization guidelines and, in my opinion, are not ambitious enough. Standards for safe air developed by the World Health Organization should be written into UK law. I have long supported introducing a Clean Air Act to deliver the legal right to breathe clean air and place tough new duties on Ministers to ensure air quality guidelines are met.

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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