

VICTORIA BORWICK – LONDON MAYORAL CANDIDATE - TALKS TO THE TAXI TRADE

With a family background in the taxi industry, I understand what London cabbies need. (For those drivers who don't remember, Victoria Borwick is the wife of Jamie Borwick.)

Black cab drivers have suffered under Livingstone - the very people who are so important in keeping London moving. Taxis are not only central to London's transport but are also icons in their own right. They are as much a part of London as Buckingham Palace or Piccadilly Circus. Yet what has Livingstone done to the members of one of London's most well respected and valuable trades? He has constantly treated them with utter contempt.

Livingstone is the Mayor who goes against the advice of the LTDA and supports moves to license rather than ban the rickshaws in the West End which are dangerous and reduce traffic to a crawling pace. He is also the Mayor who decides to ban taxis from certain bus lanes, such as the one outside Kings Cross. He is not the Mayor who understands the needs of London cabbies.

Taxis are an integral part of an efficient London transport service. I would continue to work with the taxi trade to ensure that their views are listened to when improving London's transport system. High handed measures and City Hall decrees of the Livingstone type is not how I would operate. I want to hear what you have to say.

I know there are many issues Cabbies want dealt with. One of the most prominent, which is a concern to many Londoners, are illegal taxi touts. I would press Sir Ian Blair to expand the team dealing with them. More must be done to stop the people who have no background check, vehicles in a bad condition and more often than not, no insurance.

Taxi drivers like other Londoners have had enough of the current Mayor and his exuberant expenditure. Livingstone has put up his share of the council tax to over £300 a year for the average family since he came to

power. That's seven times more than the rise in prices over the same period. We must stop this extravagance.

At the elections voters will have a choice. If we vote Livingstone out then we can really get to grips with crime by having a U.S. style crackdown on rising violent crime with more bobbies back on the beat. We need to tackle crime block by block, street by street.

London has had enough of Livingstone's political posturing. What it wants is a Mayor who will deliver value for money and keep costs under control. A Mayor who will be passionate about tackling crime, boosting public transport and helping Londoners get on with their lives. A Mayor who listens to what Londoners want and works for them. A Mayor who will take a businesslike approach to making London the greatest city on earth. It will take energy, dedication and a relentless focus on the key priorities.

My vision for London is simple – but ambitious. It should be the greatest city on earth. Yet, too often, London falls short of its glittering potential. I want to see London up there among the best. I want to see a city with first class public transport, schools and hospitals. I want to see a city with green streets, traffic that is on the move and a thriving business community. Above all, I want to see muggers and burglars going in fear of the law. But first some things have got to change. Ken Livingstone has to go.

Please let Victoria know what you think London Cabbies need. E-mail her at vboriwck@mayor-for-london-.co.uk



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