

More die 'from bad air than on roads'

By **Fred Attewill**

MORE than 4,000 Londoners die each year from polluted air – more than are killed on Britain's roads, mayor Boris Johnson is warning.

Up to 500,000 people in the capital also suffer asthma because of the poor air quality, supporters claimed.

'This is truly shocking news when compared to 2,600 deaths nationally due to road traffic accidents,' said Simon Birkett, of pressure group Campaign for Clean Air in London.

The mayor's estimate of 4,300 premature deaths due to long-term exposure to dangerous airborne particles



Green pledge: Boris Johnson

was far higher than the campaign groups's own unofficial estimates produced late last year, he added.

He said government ministers should 'apologise for not warning the public, as it should have done, about

the full extent of the health risks of poor air quality'.

And he described Labour's failure to publish nationwide estimates for pollution-related deaths as 'one of the biggest health cop-outs in history'.

Mr Johnson revealed plans to tackle pollution hotspots and ensure the capital meets legal targets for reducing pollution by 2011.

The existing Low Emission Zone covering London is set to include the most polluting larger vans and minibuses from 2012, while other proposals include planting more trees to absorb particulates and using cleaner buses on the most polluted roads.