



Department
for Transport

Transport Decarbonisation Plan update

July 2020

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the inaugural Transport Decarbonisation Plan (TDP) newsletter. Over the coming months we will use this newsletter to keep you updated on our ongoing work to develop policy to decarbonise transport and – when the time comes – our plans for publication. Please feel free to share it.

We were pleased to start this by publishing [“Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge”](#) at the end of March, bringing together the work done to date to reduce transport emissions and setting out the scale of additional reductions that will be needed to meet legally binding carbon budgets and deliver net zero by 2050.

We were delighted with the positive, constructive reception “Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge” received. We look forward to working openly with stakeholders and the public in the coming months to produce the Plan needed to put transport on a path to delivering its contributions to carbon budgets and net zero. Details of the engagement workshops in July and August are included in Section 1 below – please do take this opportunity to have your say in drafting the TDP.

If you would like to provide a written submission setting out your views on decarbonising transport, you can do so by emailing tdp@dft.gov.uk, and we would encourage you to provide this at the earliest opportunity to enable it to be considered as the Plan is developed. Submissions provided after August 2020 will not necessarily feed into the drafting of the TDP. Details of a further online feedback opportunity for stakeholders and the public will be circulated shortly.

The online feedback opportunity for Local Authorities is now live - if you work for a local authority and have not received the details, please email tdp@dft.gov.uk with your name, job role and local authority.

I am well aware that the COVID-19 pandemic has placed enormous pressures on companies throughout the country, including those in the transport sector. As with all areas of the economy, transport is adapting rapidly in its response. Further details of the work we are doing in this space are available in Section 2 below.

Stay safe,

Bob Moran, Deputy Director, DfT Environment Strategy

1. Stakeholder engagement workshops

We will host a series of workshops based around six strategic priorities, aimed at engaging with specialists, innovators, businesses and NGOs from across the transport and environmental sectors. We invite you to collaborate with us in identifying bold, ambitious and credible steps to decarbonising transport.

Format of the workshops

In line with the latest government guidance on COVID-19, we will be conducting the first wave of workshops virtually via Microsoft Teams. In order to ensure these workshops run smoothly and that all those in attendance can meaningfully contribute, we will be running multiple sessions in parallel, with an attendance limit on 10-12 people per session.

Each 1.5-hour session will include a series of pre-reading material from a range of experts discussing the strategic priority, covering a range of perspectives. Attendees will then have the opportunity to participate in a facilitated discussion.

How to register

To register your interest in attending a workshop, please follow the links provided for each strategic priority below. Due to capacity constraints and to ensure a range of views are represented, attendance will be confirmed closer to the date. It is likely that only one representative from each organisation will be permitted to attend the sessions on each strategic priority – please consider this when submitting your registration.

Acceleration of modal shift to public and active transport

29 July 2020	Morning	Afternoon
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Decarbonising how we get our goods

31 July 2020	Morning	Afternoon
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UK as a hub for green transport technology and innovation

3 August 2020	Morning	Afternoon
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Decarbonisation of road vehicles

4 August 2020	Morning	Afternoon
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Place-based solutions

6 August 2020	Morning	Afternoon
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Reducing carbon in a global economy

7 August 2020	Morning	Afternoon
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2. COVID-19 and the Green Recovery

While the Government's focus and immediate priority at the moment is rightly on the UK's fight against COVID-19, we recognise that we have an opportunity – given to us through unprecedented, tragic circumstances – to consider where we may make lasting changes, for example to our transport behaviours, in order to capture those environmental benefits we have recently seen in our communities. It is important that we use this opportunity to build back greener so our towns and cities are healthier, cleaner and more resilient.

Recent announcements already show our commitment to take bold action. Just last month, we helped ensure our roads are fit to cater for the huge numbers of people who have discovered, or rediscovered, cycling and walking as their main way of getting around, announcing a £2 billion fund – the largest ever investment to active travel. As part of this, we are giving local authorities £225 million to redesign towns and cities, so that they're safer for cyclists and pedestrians. The money will help create pop-up bike lanes, wider pavements, safer junctions, and cycle and bus-only corridors. We want to support all communities across England who want to change the way they use their streets and new guidance has already been published to tell councils how they can give more road space to cyclists and pedestrians.

To encourage drivers to make the switch to electric vehicles as part of a greener future, we also announced an extra £10 million to incentivise local authorities to install up to 7,200 additional on-street electric vehicle chargepoints, doubling the current funding amount for the second time this year. And we expanded and expedited rental e-scooter trials, helping to provide another green alternative to get from A to B.

Further, we will shortly be introducing the Fix Your Bike Voucher scheme. This funding will provide up to £50 for members of the public to get their old cycles back in working order, and will be delivered alongside plans to increase the provision of cycle fixing facilities across the country. Details on how to apply online will be available soon.

These huge levels of investment will help rapidly transform our transport system in ways that could have otherwise taken years to achieve. In line with our clean air and net zero carbon targets, we are working to ensure that emissions continue to fall over time right across the country, in both urban and rural areas, through a green economic recovery with transport at its heart. This commitment will see us provide long-term sustainability and essential economic stimuli in the places that need it most, bringing new opportunities and skills for a green, levelled-up economy and to build a more prosperous Britain.

As set out by the Prime Minister, we can achieve our goals as a global leader, driving genuine ambition from all countries to unite the world behind a clean, resilient recovery so that we can jointly tackle the climate change emergency. We are looking forward to hosting the COP26 UN climate change conference in Glasgow, which will now take place next year between 1 and 12 November 2021, alongside our Italian partners.

3. Consultation on the transition to zero emission vehicles

The Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) is currently seeking views on bringing forward the end to the sale of new petrol, diesel and hybrid cars and vans from 2040 to 2035, or earlier if a faster transition appears feasible.

The position reflects the independent Committee on Climate Change (CCC) advice that the phase out date should be 2035 or ideally 2030, and that only battery electric or other zero emission vehicles should be permitted to be sold after this point. The CCC has advised that this is an important step in the UK's aim to end our contribution to climate change by 2050.

OLEV is engaging with a wide variety of stakeholders across different sectors, and would encourage responses from environmental groups.

OLEV is seeking views on:

1. the phase out date;
2. the definition of what should be phased out;
3. barriers to achieving the above proposals;
4. the impact of these ambitions on different sectors of industry and society; and
5. what measures are required by government and others to achieve the earlier phase out date.



Further information is available [online](#), and OLEV encourages data-driven written responses to communications@olev.gov.uk. The consultation will close on 31 July 2020.

4. Future of Transport Regulatory Review Update: Closed Call for Evidence on micromobility vehicles, flexible bus services and mobility as a service

The Government's Future of Transport programme aims to secure the UK's position as a world-leading innovator, creating a greener and more inclusive future transport system for us all.

A thriving sector needs an innovative and flexible regulatory framework that ensures safety, promotes active and accessible travel, provides certainty for investment and the space for innovation and trials. That is why we launched the Future of Transport Regulatory Review, the most significant review of transport regulations for many years. The Review is likely to lead to fundamental changes that could include new or amended legislation.

This call for evidence which closed on 3 July 2020 was the first opportunity for us to gather views on the review, following the publication of the [Future of Mobility: Urban Strategy](#) in March 2019. We chose to focus on three of the review's priority areas:

- Micromobility vehicles – this section asked whether certain micromobility vehicles (such as e-scooters and e-cargo bikes) should be legalised for road use and, if so, what vehicle and user requirements would be appropriate to ensure their safe use;
- Flexible Bus Services – this section focused on how existing rules can be updated or improved; and
- Mobility as a Service (MaaS) – this section asked broad questions around the role of central and local government in the development of MaaS platforms and the opportunities and risks of this emerging sector.

We also included questions on three cross-cutting themes:

- Ensuring inclusive future transport;
- Enabling trials of new modes; and
- Local leadership of new mobility services.

This call for evidence is just one element of a series of consultations, workshops and events that will inform our thinking as we progress the review. The consultation closed on **3 July 2020** and we will be publishing a summary of the responses in due course.

Should you have any further queries please email futureoftransport@dft.gov.uk.