



Strategic Transport Forum

Friday 5th February 2021

Agenda Item 6: Zero Emission Vehicles and Road Pricing

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the meeting consider and agree, subject to amendments agreed by the meeting, the response set out in Annex 1

1. Overview

- 1.1. In December 2020 the Transport Select Committee opened an inquiry on zero-emission vehicles and road pricing.
- 1.2. The inquiry will consider the implications of accelerating the shift to zero emission vehicles and the potential for introducing road pricing, or pay-as-you-drive, schemes. To support the transition to electric vehicles, the Government has committed up to £1 billion to support the electrification of UK vehicles and their supply chains.
- 1.3. It has also committed to investing in £1.3 billion to accelerate the roll out of charging infrastructure, targeting support on rapid charge points on motorways and major roads, and installing more on-street charge points near homes and workplaces.
- 1.4. The Government has said that the tax system will need to encourage the uptake of electric vehicles and that revenue from motoring taxes must keep pace with this change. One consequence is that the £40 billion annual income from Fuel Duty and Vehicle Excise Duty is likely to decline sharply in future.
- 1.5. A new system of road pricing—which can come in different forms—has been proposed as a potential solution, although in the past such schemes have been perceived to lack strong public support.
- 1.6. Forum members are invited to review and approve the EEH response to the Select Committee's call for evidence. Comments and revisions will be incorporated prior to submission on the 17th February 2021.

2. Response

- 2.1. A proposed response from England's Economic Heartland is set out in Annex 1.
- 2.2. The response highlights EEH's Pathways to Decarbonisation work, which sets out the fundamental requirement for demand management / demand reduction policy and programmes to achieve net-zero carbon from surface transport by 2050.
- 2.3. Our response makes clear the benefit of demand management policies being led by central Government, in order to ensure a consistent and equitable approach across the UK and its regions.

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Project Lead

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