3. Transport

Transport accounts for around a quarter of energy use. All levels of councils can take important actions. The lowest can work to encourage greater bicycle, walking and public transport initiatives, by lobbying higher levels if they don’t have resources. Whilst larger Local Authorities such as Metropolitan or County councils have much more influence over transport strategy. For all, the connecting between most radical transport initiatives on health benefits and the improvement in quality of life as well as carbon reductions, makes this an area of crucial importance to target.

Where a local authority does not have existing powers to take control of infrastructure, traffic restrictions or public transport systems they should still be encouraged to lobby those higher authorities that do have the power to take action.

Measures to reduce transport emissions:

Local Authorities should take steps to actively discourage personal car use and in particular that of high CO2 emitting diesel and petrol cars and goods transport.

This could include:-

· Congestion charging: I.e. a charge on all vehicles except public transport and EV’s that enter the specified area

· Introduction of a work-place parking levy

· The declaration of Ultra Low Emission Zones where higher polluting vehicles pay higher rates to enter the zone (this is in place in central London).

· Introduction of differential charges for parking permits with higher emission vehicles and second and third cars at the same address being charged more.

· Review all projected road and transport strategies to ensure they are aligned with a low carbon future

Measures to encourage low CO2 transport systems:

Just as importantly local authorities need to put in place attractive and efficient alternatives to personal car use and in particular petrol & diesel cars. Therefore all income raised by the new charges would be used to fund measures to improve public transport and to encourage a switch to low CO2 vehicles and cycles.

These measures could include:

· Ensuring that Public Transport is efficient, quick, low cost and safe and (as soon as possible) is low carbon (electric or fuel cell powered).

· Providing convenient, secure and efficient Park & Ride schemes located to complement rail & peripheral city transport hubs with intelligent design and timetabling to provide journey times and costs that are competitive with personal car use

· Provisions for Electric Vehicles (EV’s) such as adequate charging infrastructure (powered by renewable electricity) and preferential parking.

· Use of differential taxi licensing to encourage the uptake of electric vehicles and eliminate the worst polluting diesel vehicles

· Reprioritising road systems to encourage cycling and the use of electric bikes and cargo bikes through the provision of cycle lanes, secure bike parking and charging infrastructure.

· Development of goods transport hubs to allow the use of cargo bikes for inner city deliveries.