

Local Government Association (LGA) briefing Automated and Electric Vehicles Bill House of Commons, Committee Stage Thursday 2 November 2017



Key messages

- We support New Clause 3 on the strategy for encouraging the uptake of electric vehicles and New Clause 4 on air pollution and vehicle technology, tabled by Karl Turner MP (Labour, Kingston upon Hull East).
- New Clause 3, on the strategy for encouraging the uptake of electric vehicles, would require the Secretary of State to bring forward a broader Government strategy to address the issue of encouraging the uptake of electric vehicles in the United Kingdom.
- The Government's intention to encourage the use of electric vehicles will go some way to helping to tackle the UK's problem with air quality. We are calling on the Government to produce clear guidance on how to reach the target of almost every car and van to be zero-emission by 2050, as the target is not outlined in the proposed legislation.
- New Clause 4, on air pollution and vehicle technology, would require the Secretary of State to bring forward a strategy for using vehicle technology to address the issue of air pollution in the UK.
- Whilst we welcome the Government's attention to the 2040 target to ending the sale of conventionally fueled vehicles, we do need further clarity on how the Government intends to enable this transition or enforce the deadline. With traffic forecasted to rise by up to 55 per cent by 2040, we are also calling on the Government to outline a comprehensive congestion strategy to tackle the issue.¹

Improving air quality

Good air quality is vital for our health and quality of life as well as the environment. Councils are playing a pivotal role in tackling air pollution. These measures include encouraging the use of electric vehicles with recharging points, promoting cycling, managing borough-wide air pollution monitoring networks, pioneering the concept of low-emission zones, planning for new places in ways that improve air quality, and engaging with businesses to increase awareness and reduce their environmental impact.

Councils are doing their best to devise solutions to tackling poor air quality as well as monitoring emissions. They need to be supported by government policy at a national level.

Our recent [report on tackling congestion](#) shows the innovative approaches that councils are taking, for example through promoting alternative modes of travel,

¹ <https://www.local.gov.uk/tackling-congestion>

smart use of data, managing demand and through smarter and pooled investment. With traffic forecasted to rise by up to 55 per cent by 2040, we are calling on the Government to outline a comprehensive congestion strategy to tackle the issue.

Funding for local transport

Since 2000, there are nearly eight-and-a-half million more vehicles now on the road, adding to congestion and road maintenance issues, such as potholes, wear-down of road markings, and increasing general wear and tear.

Local authorities need to have the same long term funding certainty for their transport budgets that Highways England and Network Rail are given by the Government. Both have five year funding programmes which allow them to make long term commitments to strategic projects. Longer term certainty has allowed Greater Manchester to deliver a programme of improvements to its public transport system. All local authorities need the same level of commitment in order to plan the same kind of strategic projects to improve congestion on local road networks.

This is why we are calling on the Government to develop a fully funded plan to help councils deliver the desperately-needed local road improvements we need. This should include matching the extra growth in tax take with the funding it provides councils. This would see councils having up to an additional £418 million a year to spend on filling potholes, easing congestion and protect vital bus routes.² Only with long-term funding can councils deliver roads truly fit for the 21st Century.

LGA report's and media releases

LGA report: [A country in a jam: tackling congestion in our towns and cities](#)

LGA media release: [Spend rising fuel and motoring tax income on improving local roads - councils urge government](#)

LGA media release: [LGA responds to Government announcement on lane rental for utility companies](#)

² <https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/spend-rising-fuel-and-motoring-tax-income-improving-local-roads-councils-urge-government>