



Department
for Transport

From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps

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To: All MPs in England

30 March 2021

Dear Colleague,

£120 MILLION FUND FOR ZERO EMISSION BUSES

Two weeks ago we launched our long-term National Bus Strategy, setting out how we will revolutionise bus travel in England, with more frequent, more reliable and cheaper services for passengers. Another significant part of that strategy was to decarbonise the bus fleet across the country.

To that end, I am today delighted to announce that we will be providing up to £120 million to support the delivery of 4,000 zero emission buses, and the infrastructure needed to support them, as part of the Zero Emission Buses Regional Areas (ZEBRA) Scheme.

The ZEBRA package comes alongside the green pledges outlined in our National Bus Strategy; the funding will boost the number of zero emission buses on our roads and will help us build back greener from COVID-19 as part of our mission to decarbonise the entire transport network by 2050.

Zero Emission Buses Regional Areas (ZEBRA) Scheme

Today's competition launch of up to £120 million for the ZEBRA scheme will drive forward our ambitions for more zero-emission buses; it will help local authorities and businesses to purchase zero emission buses for our roads, will keep communities connected and will keep improving air quality in our towns and cities.

This scheme is an important step in realising the Prime Minister's ambition set out in February 2020 to get 4,000 zero emission buses on the road. I would encourage you to share the news of the ZEBRA competition with your relevant local authorities and ask them to consider applying.

Further details, such as how to apply, can be found from the link below:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/multi-million-pound-scheme-for-zero-emission-buses-across-england-launched>

Ending the sale of new diesel buses consultation

While the ZEBRA scheme will help provide new zero emission buses and infrastructure, our consultation on ending the sale of new diesel buses in England will be looking at other ways to assist with the decarbonisation of our transport system. We are currently consulting on what measures are to be used by us and others to support phase out, as well as what dates to end the sale of new diesel buses in England. This initial consultation closes on 11 April 2021.

The ZEBRA competition and our other recent announcements are just the beginning of our ambitious roadmap to a nationwide zero emission bus fleet, to ensure that local communities across the UK will benefit from our move to a zero-carbon emission future.

I will continue to work closely with local authorities and bus operators in the months ahead so that we can all benefit from this green bus revolution.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grant Shapps', written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT