



Department
for Transport

Barry White
Chief Executive
Transport for the North
2nd Floor
4 Piccadilly Place
Manchester
M1 3BN

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

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: grant.shapps@dft.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

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Dear Barry,

Thank you for your letter of 17 June 2020, enclosing the latest summary of the work being carried out by Transport for the North as you develop your ideas for an Economic Recovery Plan.

As Northern Powerhouse Minister, I am determined to see the North at the forefront of our plans for economic recovery. For that reason, my fellow Minister and I are talking to the Mayors, Leaders and LEP representatives across the North this week to understand their priorities for transport as we move out of the crisis. I am also grateful for the opportunity to see how TfN's Economic Recovery Plan is developing and am pleased to note that the key priorities identified are shared by Government. As you will be aware, the Government has already moved forward on some of the priorities raised in your letter.

For example, we are committed to active travel and have already pledged £5bn of new funding to make improvements for cyclists by, amongst other things, introducing cycle and bus corridors as we announced in February. Alongside the cycling and bus improvements, we are also increasing our green transport option by bringing forward trials of e-scooters rentals. In addition to these measures, we share your understanding of the role EV charging will play both short and long term and have already pledged funds to boost electric vehicle charging points and to incentivise local authorities to install up to 7,200 additional on-street electric vehicle chargepoints. We will be considering further investment opportunities to accelerate the recovery of the North over the coming weeks and months.

I hope this letter reassures you that the Government is committed to restarting the economy and is working hard to identify future funding

and investments to aid the post Covid-19 recovery, your letter will be a useful input to this process.

Yours ever,



Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT

All best wishes.