

Marie Ward
Chief Executive



Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

13 April 2021

**Ms Michelle McIlveen MLA,
Chairperson
Committee for Infrastructure**

Dear Michelle

Further to your letter of 25 March 2021 seeking the Council's views on the decarbonisation of road transport in Northern Ireland, please see detailed below a response to your specific questions.

- **What are the main challenges to the uptake of ULEV?**

There are no clear targets, strategy or policies on sustainable mobility or electric vehicles in Northern Ireland, making developing a coherent approach to increasing the number of ULEV's and required charging infrastructure challenging.

The main barriers for uptake of ULEV for the public include purchase price, reliability, vehicle range from one charge and lack of an adequate public charging infrastructure network.

- **What are the main benefits to the uptake of ULEV?**

There are financial, environmental and social benefits to ULEVs. The main benefits are low running costs, availability of purchase grants, zero tailpipe emissions and reduced overall lifecycle co2 emissions than petrol and diesel equivalents.

- **What support to assist a move to ULEV would you like to see from the NI Executive?**

There is a general desire among councils for cohesion in the development of the EV charging network, in partnership with other councils, the Department for Infrastructure and the private sector. Issues such as charge point interoperability, pricing and procurement will require careful consideration and ideally would be centrally coordinated and procured through a consortium mechanism.

Charge point operation and charging should be consistent on both sides of the Irish border, if possible.

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**Ag freastal ar an Dún
agus Ard Mhacha Theas
Serving Down
and South Armagh**



In relation to the Decarbonisation of our own fleet the following issues are noted;

- There is a significant lack of Infrastructure for vehicles over 3.5 Tonnes
- The pace of development of alternatives to our larger vehicles either EV or Hydrogen has been very slow to this time
- The cost of such vehicles is prohibitive when considering the updating of our fleet

We would be very keen to get involved should any pilot projects in relation to our larger vehicles be proposed.

On a more general theme I would also like to highlight the following questions that need to be considered

- What is the National Strategy that supports & incentivises the public and Council to make changes
- What is the legislative framework to allow Council's & other Stakeholder organisations to set up a local & national EV charging network to be used by the public, either on-street, or on Council property?
- What is the Strategy to integrate living, commercial, retail hubs to reduce need for transport?
- And what is the strategy for developing a national Transport Strategy to encourage the public out of their cars and onto public transport

This response is submitted by the requested date of 14 April 2021 however I would advise that it will not be ratified by Council until the beginning of next month and I will advise should any changes be needed.

Please feel free to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Marie Ward
Chief Executive