

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR



All Party Parliamentary Group on  
**Hydrogen**

14 May 2020

Dear Secretary of State,

### **All Hydrogen Bus Town**

We welcome the Government's ambitious targets set out in the Decarbonising Transport: Setting the Challenge policy document and your intention to "work with industry" to devise a plan that is practical, supported by the public and delivers value for money.

Whilst we support the intentions of your department's All Electric Bus Town project, we believe the deliberate exclusion of hydrogen electric buses misses a vital opportunity to trial clean, green, UK-made technology at a significant scale.

There are only two zero emission options for decarbonising the public transport sector: battery electric vehicles and hydrogen electric vehicles. Running a £50m trial of one option, whilst excluding the other seems misjudged. It also does not maximise opportunities to create and sustain high-quality jobs in all parts of the UK.

Whilst your Department considers entries to this project, we call on you to develop a similar, additional scheme to create the country's first All Hydrogen Bus Town.

Ministers have stated that the All Electric Bus Town project is designed to deliver significant learning on the use of battery electric vehicles at scale. We believe there is an equal need to create similar learning and experience with hydrogen electric, as concerns about costs and practicalities for this technology are from small scale trials in the distant past:

- Modern hydrogen electric vehicles can equal or better the total cost of ownership of an electric vehicle
- Refuelling a hydrogen electric vehicle takes the same amount of time as fuelling a diesel one
- Hydrogen electric vehicles emit only water vapour, significantly supporting steps to increase air quality
- We can produce hydrogen in the UK in a clean, green sustainable manner, which in turn creates jobs and economic growth
- Most importantly, hydrogen electric vehicles can have significantly greater range than battery electric and need no on-street infrastructure.

The All Hydrogen Bus Town should be given the same level of funding as the All Electric Bus Town. At £50m, this would be just 1% of the funding allocated to the Government's planned National Bus Strategy.



Crucially, creating the world's first All Hydrogen Bus Town will unlock the UK's hydrogen economy. Hydrogen is not just the only practical option for decarbonising heavy transport, but also for energy intensive industries such as steel, and heating the 23m UK homes that are connected to the gas grid.

A UK-wide hydrogen economy will create and sustain hundreds of thousands of skilled jobs in all areas of the country, meaning it can play a leading role in building our economic recovery.

Collectively, our organisations cover a wide range of interests. We are united in our belief that hydrogen must play a key role in the UK's immediate and long-term future. Creating this scheme would be a logical step forward and provide a high-impact indication to businesses across the world that the UK is a smart place to invest, research and manufacture hydrogen technologies.

An All Hydrogen Bus Town scheme will bring significant benefits to the environment, air quality and the economy and its creation will help to strengthen the UK's position as a global leader in hydrogen technologies.

Signed

Jacob Young MP  
Chair, APPG on Hydrogen

**Also signed by:**

Dr Michaela Kendall, Chief Executive Officer, Adelan  
Jan Klawitter, Head of International Policy, Anglo American  
Tracey Fuller, UK Head of CSR, Arval  
Jesper Thomsen, CEO & President, Ballard Power Systems Europe  
Jeff House, Head of External Affairs, Baxi  
Stephen Jones, VP for Europe, BayoTech  
Ellen Daniels, Chief Executive, BCGA  
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Vidal Bharath, COO, Bramble  
Steve Fraser, Chief Executive, Cadent  
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Amy M. Adams, Vice President, Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Technologies, Cummins  
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Professor Tony Roskilly, Director, Durham Energy Institute  
Claire Haigh, Chief Executive, Greener Journeys  
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Neil Atkinson, Chief Executive Officer, IGEM  
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Dr Lee Juby, Chief Sales Officer, Intelligent Energy  
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Jon André Løkke, CEO, Nel ASA  
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Angus McIntosh, Director of Energy Futures, SGN  
Mike Copson, Hydrogen Commercial Manager, Shell  
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Maurice Dixon, Director of Sustainable Energy Solutions, Sustainable Working And Living Environments Ltd  
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