



RECEIVED 17 MAR 2010

Department for
Transport

From the Minister of State

Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DR

The Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Tel: 020 7944 3082
Fax: 020 7944 4492
E-Mail: sadiq.khan@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Web site: www.dft.gov.uk

Our Ref: SK/006904/10
Your Ref: 01100703

16 MAR 2010

Dear Tessa,

Thank you for your letter of 19 February to Ed Miliband, enclosing a sample email text from your constituents. The issues are about 'Smarter Travel Choices' and EDM 794. I am replying as Minister responsible for this issue.

The Department for Transport (DfT) supports a range of measures called 'smarter choices' aimed at enabling people to choose sustainable travel options like public transport, car sharing, flexible working, better school travel, cycling and walking and careful travel planning. This is part of DfT's plan for reducing transport-related carbon emissions, as set out in July 2009 in '*Low Carbon Transport: A Greener Future*'.

As your constituents note, in 2004 DfT launched a five year, £10 million, sustainable travel demonstration town initiative to promote safe and pleasant walking, cycling and bus use across 3 towns. The sustainable travel demonstration towns focused mainly on local journeys by people in geographical proximity. The results have recently been published on the Department's website. They are positive, indicating for the three towns taken together, the following (in 2004-2009):

- A reduction in car trips of 9 per cent (there was an estimated fall of about 1 per cent in other medium-sized towns over the same period).
- Bus trips per person increased by 10-22 per cent (there was an estimated national fall of 0.5 per cent in medium sized towns).
- Cycle trips per person increased by 26-30 per cent (comparable towns saw estimated cycling trips fall by 9 per cent).

- Walking trips per person increased by 10-13 per cent (there was an estimated national decline in trips in similar towns of 9 per cent).

With these strong results, I want to see sustainable travel initiatives made integral to all local authority Local Transport Plans (LTPs). The third iteration of LTPs is currently being prepared by local authorities for 2011 – 16. An LTP should set the authority's local transport strategies and policies, and an implementation programme. To help local authorities do this, my Department published *'Delivering Sustainable Low Carbon Travel: An Essential Guide to Local Authorities'* in November 2009. Your constituents may therefore wish to ask their local transport authority what plans they have to include Smarter Choices in their next Local Transport Plan.

Thank you to you and your constituents for writing in support of the work, and for allowing me to explain the position further. Do please pass on this information to the constituents who wrote to you.

Best wishes



SADIQ KHAN