



## LowCVP's Andy Eastlake New Government but same strong ULEV support

The news earlier this month that there are now two million electric vehicles registered around the world – with around a quarter of those in the EU – came as a welcome fillip to all of us involved in the drive to low carbon and low emission vehicles. While EVs are only one of a number of routes to cutting emissions, they do now represent a significant share of new vehicle registrations and most projections point to rapid further growth all over.

Of course following the seismic reverberations following the UK's vote for 'Brexit' in the early summer, everyone involved has been on the look-out for signals of the new government's intentions in this – as well as many other – areas. There were positive early signs after the vote with the Government quickly re-stating its commitment to the Fifth Carbon Budget, representing as it does a staging post on the route to near complete decarbonisation by 2050, as the UK has committed to in the 2008 Climate Act. The creation of the new Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy signalled the arrival of a new long-term and strategy-led approach to the challenges posed by energy and climate change.

Understandably but unfortunately, there have been delays in the progression of a number of specific programmes to support the adoption and uptake of ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEVs) and low carbon fuels as new ministers, and the new government as a whole, gets to grips with the revised outlook and new challenges we all face. We expect a number of announcements soon and will be listening attentively to the autumn statement next month.

So it was great news and reassurance this week when the Office for Low Emission Vehicles announced a £35m funding package of measures that will see thousands more electric vehicle chargepoints installed on streets and importantly at workplaces across the UK. The money will go towards a £20m competition to help councils roll-out chargepoints for ultra-low emission taxis and a £10m funding scheme for charge points outside workplaces and homes where there is no off-street parking. We also saw the launch of a £3.75m scheme to encourage the uptake of zero-emission motorcycles and scooters, further broadening the range of vehicles getting specific support; plus £2m backing for public and private sector organisations to begin deploying hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.

The new minister responsible for this area, John Hayes, commented that the number of ULEVs on our roads are at record levels and new registrations have risen by 250 per cent in just over two years.

The funding represents a further tranche of the Government's earlier commitment to invest £600m in ULEVs by 2020 and provides further confidence – if any were needed – that the government sees the low emission automotive sector both from a manufacturing and a market view, as critical to both the UK's industrial future and to the achievement of long-standing emissions targets.

The LowCVP and its members will of course continue to drive and support this historic transition in the UK's automotive arena.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership, visit: [www.lowcvp.org.uk](http://www.lowcvp.org.uk)