



## LowCVP News Release

12 April 2018

### **Andy Burnham opens ‘Moving North’ Conference, focusing on the business opportunities from the shift to greener transport**

The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, together with leading speakers from the Northern Powerhouse, the automotive industry and related sectors, came together today, Thursday 12 April 2018, to discuss the future of greener transport in the North and the resulting business opportunities.

Following on from Manchester’s recent Green Summit, the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership’s (LowCVP) 2018 ‘Moving North’ Conference focused on the challenge of cutting carbon emissions and air pollution from transport, and seizing the business opportunities - across the automotive and fuel supply chains, and through to transport companies and innovators in the Northern Powerhouse.

The event opened with a keynote address by the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, whose key question was “Can devolution of power to the English regions accelerate the change to greener transport?”. Andy added: “At our Green Summit in March, over 700 people came together to help us set a pathway for making Greater Manchester one of the greenest city-regions in Europe.

“Low carbon transport is clearly a vital component of that ambition. Proposals on the table include establishing a new public sector-led commercial model for the Greater Manchester electric vehicle (GMEV) charging network this year and doubling the size of the network.

“If we are to tackle the challenges involved in reducing transport emissions in the region, and support growing demand for greener travel, it is vital that we bring all sectors together and move as one.

“We must be bold in our ambitions and keep our eyes on the significant long-term benefits, not just the short-term challenges. Greater Manchester wants to move to an emissions-free bus fleet and we will look at whether new bus powers for Mayors of combined authorities can help us to achieve this faster.

“Being among the first to fully embrace new green technologies has the potential to bring huge economic advantages, and Greater Manchester is primed and ready to take that step. The automotive industry is hugely important for jobs in the UK, and the next generation of ultra-low emission vehicles will provide huge opportunities for our digital and manufacturing sectors.”

The Moving North Conference was held in association with the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the Northern Automotive Alliance (NAA) and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM). It was supported by Manchester Metropolitan University – the host for the event - and sponsored by GEFCO and Uber.

The conference featured a range of high profile speakers including:

- Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester
- Henri Murison, Director, Northern Powerhouse Partnership
- Bob Moran, Deputy Head, Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV)
- Mike Hawes, Chief Executive, Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT)
- Ian Constance, Chief Executive, Advanced Propulsion Centre (APC)
- Lawrence Davies MBE, Chief Executive, Automotive Investment Organisation (AIO)
- Jon Lamonte, Chief Executive, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM)
- Peter Molyneux, Major Roads Director, Transport for the North (TfN)
- Andy Eastlake, Managing Director, Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership (LowCVP)
- Carol Holden OBE, Chief Executive, Northern Automotive Alliance (NAA)
- Dave Roberts, Director, Smart Interventions, EA Technology.

Andy Eastlake, Managing Director, Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership (LowCVP), commented: “I’m delighted that the LowCVP has been able to bring together a number of different sectors, including the automotive and energy industries, governmental/public sector organisations, ‘new mobility’ companies and other stakeholders, to look at the future of transport in the Northern Powerhouse region - and beyond.

“This future will be driven by ever-tighter regulation of carbon dioxide and pollutant emissions, coupled with growing demand from users for cleaner and more efficient vehicles and the energy to power them. This transition offers huge opportunities for businesses in the automotive, fuels and related sectors.”

Carol Holden OBE, Chief Executive, Northern Automotive Alliance (NAA), added: “I hope this event will play a key role in moving us towards a local, joined-up approach for a Northern low carbon vehicle industry vision and strategy, as well as raising the profile of our regional assets and research, and starting the debate about funding and support mechanisms that make sense for a diverse, geographically spread community.”

Ends

**Picture Caption**

The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, at the LowCVP Moving North Conference with the LEVC Electric Taxi

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

The LowCVP ([www.lowcvp.org.uk](http://www.lowcvp.org.uk)), which was established in 2003, is a public-private partnership that exists to accelerate a sustainable shift to lower carbon vehicles and fuels and create opportunities for UK businesses. Nearly 200 organisations are engaged in driving these policies, from diverse backgrounds, including automotive and fuel supply chains, government, vehicle users, academics, environment groups and others. Follow the LowCVP on Twitter: @theLowCVP

### **The LowCVP's Moving North Conference was sponsored by GEFCO and Uber**

#### **About GEFCO**

From supply to distribution, GEFCO provides global and integrated management and optimisation of the logistics chain for its industrial customers. GEFCO has applied an acquired expertise in automotive logistics - one of the most demanding sectors - in order to respond to the globalisation of industrial flows and the needs of its international customers that face global and complex challenges. GEFCO has a leading private land transport network, with 80 hubs and 65 logistics platforms worldwide. This global coverage allows it to design optimised transport plans that create added-value for its industrial customers.

#### **About Uber**

Uber is a technology company - and a smartphone app - that allows people to tap a button and book a safe, affordable and reliable journey with a licensed private hire driver in over 40 UK towns and cities. Globally, the Uber app is available in 600 cities across 75 countries. Uber believes in a future where every car journey is a shared journey, made in a highly efficient vehicle - reducing congestion and improving air quality. To move towards this goal - and help tackle poor air quality in UK cities - Uber recently announced a Clean Air Plan which includes a commitment to having exclusively hybrid and electric vehicles available on the app by 2022.

**For further information about the LowCVP Moving North event, please contact:**

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