Campaign for Better Transport

Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

25 July 2024

Dear Angela Rayner,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you, on behalf of Campaign for Better Transport, to your position as Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Your appointment is most welcome news, and we look forward to working with you and your officials to help support the provision and expansion of public transport. We are the UK's largest sustainable transport charity. We develop evidence-based policy solutions and work closely with the Department for Transport, HM Treasury and others to advance sustainable transport across our nation.

We too welcome the proposed legislation, and the government's commitment, to the building of new housing and commercial developments across the UK. However, in the past, many of the developments have been built in places with no existing or little planned provision for public transport services and walking and cycling infrastructure. If this is not in place at the start, car dependency – and the associated negative impacts on congestion, health and the environment – are built in for the long-term.

If we are to build for the future, sustainable transport must be at the heart of all the developments that are so needed in our country. In our manifesto, published in the lead up to the General Election, we outlined the need for all major developments – residential, commercial or mixed-use – to include frequent public transport services and safe walking and cycling networks from the start of their operation. We also call for bus and other local transport operators to be made statutory consultees for new housing developments.

The work that has been undertaken, particularly by Create Streets and Transport for New Homes in this space provides a framework for the developments of the future — accessible by public transport and designed around people, rather than vehicles. The National Planning Policy Framework needs to be updated to reflect this and we hope that your team will have time over the next few months to review these reports and update the guidance accordingly.

The team and I look forward to supporting you, your junior ministers and your officials in the brief — and remain available should you want to discuss any of these matters further.

Kind Regards,

Paul Tuohy, Chief Executive

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