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**Reply to** Marvin Rees  
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**Date** February 2022

Dear Rupert,

**RE: Zero Emission Transport City (ZETC) Expression of Interest**

Thank you for the invitation to apply for Zero Emission Transport City status. This letter sets out the expression of interest (EoI) for Bristol.

We welcome the opportunity of this EoI to boost our sustainable transport networks. We know that providing efficient, affordable, and accessible city centre transport options is a vital component to improving productivity and delivering ambitious carbon neutral goals. The proposals set out below will help meet national ambitions to level up by supporting a globally competitive city like Bristol to improve local connectivity and transport services whilst continuing to build on our region's long-standing commitments to sustainability and decarbonisation.

Bristol's goal is to be carbon neutral and climate resilient by 2030. We were the first Local Authority to make this commitment. In 2015, Bristol was European Green Capital, and our current climate strategy aims to lead the way again, moving faster than the national average, sharing learnings with others on our journey.

We are a city where actions speak louder than words. We are about to launch a pioneering City Leap Energy Partnership, which will harness private sector expertise and funding of £1 billion to drive down carbon emissions. The city region is also developing plans for a Mass Transit system that will compliment several of the proposals.

We are also a city that leads in transport innovation, with a strong track record of delivery and a pathway to reducing motor traffic and reaching net zero. Nominated the UK's first 'Cycling City' in 2008, the area now has four times the level of commuter cycling than our peers, as well as an 18% share of commuting trips

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**Mayor Marvin Rees**  
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**BRISTOL**  
**ONE CITY**



walked compared to a 12% average among core cities.<sup>1</sup> In 2016 Bristol won funding to be one of four 'Go Ultra Low Cities' delivering £7m of improvements to accelerate uptake of ULEV's across the area, placing us in the top 20% of local authorities for provision of rapid charge points.

Our response to the consequences of the pandemic was decisive, restricting through movements across the city centre to safeguard bus services, pedestrianising local high streets to support hospitality and delivering miles of segregated cycle lanes that we are seeking to make permanent through the Active Travel Fund (ATF). Later this year, we will be implementing our Class D Clean Air Zone (CAZ) charging the most polluting vehicles to enter the city centre and delivering an ambitious support package to provide alternatives for those who need them.

Our City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRTS) funding will also begin delivery this year, rolling out improvements to public transport corridors, delivering on our Local cycling and walking infrastructure plans (LCWIP) commitments and commencing the work for our first Liveable Neighbourhood pilot in East Bristol.

Local government can't achieve net zero alone and we are working with WECA to actively engage the private sector in finding solutions to our transport challenges through our £28m Future Transport Zones programme (FTZ). The timing couldn't be better with our FTZ already testing innovative approaches in the city (such as e-scooters, e-cargo freight trials and mobility hubs). These can be further explored through the business case process and scaled up accordingly to put us on an accelerated trajectory to carbon neutrality.

The pandemic has forced us all to reevaluate how transport networks operate but this has not altered our commitment to reaching net zero. To reach these targets will require fundamental transformation of the ways citizens move around our city region. The proposals set out below demonstrate our vision to achieve this with government support and a partnership approach.

## Proposals

We will work across five key areas: demand management, electrification, freight consolidation, communities, and strategic corridors. Actions in these areas have been informed by the evidence base for our One City Climate Strategy and Regional Joint Local Transport Plan and would be explored in greater detail through the ZETC business case process with support from the DfT.

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### Mayor Marvin Rees

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Our ZETC programme focusses on where we can add value to existing plans, trial and innovate new approaches and ramp up current initiatives, demonstrating practical and effective ways to decarbonise transport networks that can be replicated across the UK.

Details of the proposals and associated development activities can be found in the appendix programme plan and supporting information. Some of our headline measures that we would like to explore with the DfT are:

- Create a **Zero Emission Zone in the city centre** (Old City, Broadmead, Cabot, Queens Square) with all servicing, deliveries, public transport access made by zero-emission transport by 2027.
- Work in partnership with operators to leverage funding for the **electrification of the bus fleet** and **provide opportunity charging infrastructure**. Bring forward this commitment from 2035 to 2027, with funding for 250 electric buses
- Install **1,000 residential cycle hangars** by 2027.
- Rapid **expansion of freight consolidation hubs** and seed funding of last mile solutions to serve both the central area and neighbourhood proposals.

Bristol City Council will not be able to deliver on these proposals alone. We need the support and partnership of government and other stakeholders to decarbonise our transport network. We are committed to the aims of the ZETC. With this investment and support we will deliver a carbon neutral and climate resilient city.

In line with the criteria set out in the invitation to apply, we will deliver extensive cycle lanes through our CRSTS programme, bring forward plans to decarbonise our local bus fleet, introduce our CAZ and promote freight consolidation hubs and 'last mile' solutions. We are also committed to running a fully funded e-cargo bike pilot and putting in place an effective monitoring and evaluation plan for our entire programme to track benefits and maximise opportunities for sharing learning.

We look forward to working with you to make Bristol a Zero Emission Transport City.

Sincerely

**Marvin Rees**  
Mayor of Bristol