

BIM AFOLAMI MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Grant Schapps MP
Secretary of State for Transport
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Rd
London
SW1P 4DR

6th October 2020

Dear Grant,

RE: The Rapid Charging Fund (2020)

I trust this letter is well received.

I greatly welcomed the Government's £500 million commitment in March towards The Rapid Charging Fund on top of our current commitment to ensure that our country is at the forefront in transitioning to Electric Vehicles (EVs). I have been working closely with Centrica, Field Dynamics & North Hertfordshire District Council on a scheme to identify what type of infrastructure Hitchin would require to support EV usage in the future. Recently, we finalised our report which included several types of schemes including charging points and hubs throughout the town.

A major hurdle is securing funding for such a project. The Rapid Charging Fund offers a portion of costs at strategic sites across the road network where upgrading connections to meet future demand for high powered charge points is prohibitively expensive and uncommercial. My question to the Department for Transport and the Office of Low Emission Vehicles is whether this fund could also look at developing our town centres as well. I would greatly welcome the opportunity to meet with the relevant officials to discuss my plan with North Hertfordshire District Council, Centrica & Field Dynamics and see whether this scheme could assist in providing support to towns like Hitchin across the country.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing back from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bim Afolami', with a long, sweeping underline.

Bim Afolami MP

Member of Parliament for Hitchin and Harpenden

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