

existing flood protection measures on their land.

- ♦ Increase the uptake of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems to maximise value for money for the taxpayer. We will consult on the best ways to finance this.
- ♦ Update construction and planning standards to futureproof buildings against higher summer temperatures.

6.5 Air quality and greener transport

Poor air quality is a significant health problem. After smoking, estimates suggest it is Britain's second biggest public health challenge, responsible for the equivalent of 29,000 deaths every year. We will pass a Green Transport Act, including a National Plan to improve dramatically Britain's air quality by 2020.

Our National Air Quality Plan for consultation will include:

- ♦ A legal requirement targeted at the most polluted towns and cities, to create Low Emission Zones.
- ♦ New incentives for local schemes that cut transport-related pollution, and encourage walking and cycling.
- ♦ A review of the MOT process, to see whether changes could be introduced to cut emissions from existing vehicles.
- ♦ Support for new EU proposals on air quality targets and updated plans to more quickly meet existing EU air quality standards for concentrations of nitrogen dioxide.

To promote innovation and greener transport choices we will:

- ♦ Support ambitious EU vehicle emission standards, and reform Vehicle Excise Duty to drive continuous reductions in greenhouse gas and other pollutants from the UK car fleet and return revenues to levels projected in 2010. This will include introducing separate banding for new diesel cars.
- ♦ Encourage the market for electric vehicles, including with targeted support for buses, taxis and light freight, and early requirements to use low emission vehicles in the public sector. We will set a target of 2040 for the date after which only Ultra-Low Emission vehicles will be permitted on UK roads for non-freight purposes.
- ♦ Work with industry to accelerate the commercial introduction of zero emission fuel cell electric vehicles, and facilitate the UK-wide introduction of hydrogen fuelling infrastructure.
- ♦ Review the best way to keep our regulatory framework updated to permit use of driverless and personal electric vehicles.
- ♦ Support options for an intercity cycleway along the HS2 route, within the overall budget for the project.