# Logistics UK proposal to Transport Committee for an 'Our Future Transport' inquiry, in response to call for ideas

I am writing on behalf of Logistics UK, to propose an 'Our Future Transport' inquiry on **the development of logistics transport as an integrated system**. This means moving beyond logistics as a set of competing freight transport modes, exploring the benefits this would bring and the challenges to overcome.

We see logistics as a system that underpins economic growth, decarbonisation and skilled roles. Our members want to move goods in the most efficient and green way, and want policies to support that. This includes wanting long-term plans for low carbon fuels and infrastructure.

The logistics sector is worth £148bn to the economy every year, and employs 8% of the UK workforce, more than twice that employed in financial services or the NHS. Transport is also the UK's largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. By becoming an increasingly efficient system, logistics can help grow the UK economy, decarbonise and create the jobs of the future. As a whole economy sector, efficient logistics supports UK productivity.

**Why now?**

The government published its Future Freight Plan in June 2022, including several bold ambitions that would benefit from ongoing scrutiny.

- The Future Freight Plan called for the delivery of a "National Freight Network", with government and industry collaborating on "system-level approach to the freight network, supporting end-to-end freight journeys that are more efficient, reliable and resilient".

- To deliver this, the government called for "full consideration of the role of freight in strategic infrastructure investment and planning," and "maximising opportunities for modal shift to make use of capacity in the freight system." It committed to a new "Freight Energy Forum" and the appointment of a "strong, independent co-chair" to the government-industry Freight Council (of which Logistics UK is a member) to push the agenda forward.

- Elsewhere in the report, the government called for "a cleaner, greener freight system," which also requires system-wide thinking.

An inquiry on this vision and how it can be delivered should look at:

- Infrastructure, systems and technologies that support integration, from software, green technologies, multi-modal interchange, warehousing and road, rail, sea and air capacity.

- The role of planning, regulatory reform, investment and innovation in maximising these opportunities. This includes the benefits that long-term infrastructure, energy and fuel strategies would deliver, and the challenges of the current patchworks of approaches and rules across our policy landscape, including innovation funding and city-region transport and planning.

- The opportunities for increased productivity, decarbonisation and skilled roles that come from logistics working as a system.

An inquiry into this issue would:

- Expose the benefits, opportunities and challenges of developing a National Freight Network and a system-wide approach to logistics policy.

- Hold the government and industry to account for its progress delivering the Future Freight Plan.

- Scrutinise whether current government policies and processes for: infrastructure planning support multi-modal logistics transport; energy and fuel aid the logistics sector to invest in a greener future; innovation support is accessible to the sector; and planning, regulations and charges at a national and local level support or inhibit the system.

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