

# *Postcard from the Future*

## Travel & Transport



Source: CAT (2017). Zero Carbon Britain - Making it Happen.



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**T**owns and cities have become more human-centred and vibrant, with attractive public spaces where people can meet, stroll and shop in traffic-free streets. Cars no longer dominate and vast areas of the land that were once used for car parking have been made into green areas, or converted to low-cost and social housing.

Public transport is now quicker, more affordable and more convenient than travelling by car. Combined with safer and more pleasant options for cycling and walking, these have become the norm for all sorts of journeys, including to work and to the shops.

All cars, light vans and buses are electric or hydrogen-fuelled, meaning they're not only cleaner but quieter too. This has been helped by the reduction of traffic speeds in urban areas to 20mph, making residential areas much safer and enabling children to play outdoors in their streets.

In addition to being less stressed by their commute, people use technology to work more flexibly, all of which make for a more productive working day. The school run is a thing of the past as children walk, cycle or catch the bus. The efficient public transport infrastructure extends to rural areas, where regular bus services connect with rail networks.

Holidaying in the UK is popular again, regenerating the economies of many British seaside resorts and rural areas. Although some people still take occasional flights for family holidays, health or religious reasons, travelling by high-speed train to continental Europe is favoured by many. Rather like the slow food movement, slow travel for leisure has become popular – with the focus as much on the journey as the destination.

People, especially children, are much healthier and less stressed as a result of the cleaner air and from walking and cycling more. This, together with better diets, has averted an obesity epidemic in the UK, saving money on healthcare and increasing overall levels of well-being.