

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### Parking charges

the transport secretary, was urged yesterday to intervene to block plans by other councils to introduce a similar charge unless they could prove that it would have an impact on congestion.

By law, profits from the levies must be ringfenced for transport and each one has to be signed off by Mr Grayling.

Nottingham city council said that the levy had "constrained congestion". Between 2014 and 2015 it was the only big city in England to have a reduction in traffic on A-roads during the morning peak, it said.

Edmund King, AA president, said: "We need more incentives to switch to electric vehicles rather than a tax on

work to drive businesses out of town or out of business. If it spreads to other cities, workplace parking levies could become the new 'poll tax on wheels'."

A Populus survey of almost 9,000 AA members who worked in big towns and cities found that 57 per cent drove and had free parking at work.

Of those, 17 per cent said that they would "probably have to change their job" if a workplace parking levy was introduced. Only 15 per cent said that they would use public transport for some or all of the journey.

Dave Liversidge, Nottingham city council's portfolio holder for transport, said: "By investing in expanding our tram network, electric bus network and railway station improvements, we have been successful in constraining traffic

growth, improving air quality through falling nitrogen dioxide emissions and having one of the highest levels of bus and tram usage outside London.

"There is lots of interest across the country from authorities looking to introduce their own levies, including Oxford, Cambridge, Reading and London, and we'll be interested to see who follows our lead."

A spokeswoman from the Department for Transport said: "Measures to tackle congestion in local areas are a matter for individual councils and we have been clear that councils must properly and effectively consult local businesses and address any proper concerns raised if they wish to seek to implement such a scheme."

**Leading article, page 31**