

## **Workshop Briefing: Delivering a Sustainable Transport System**

The West of England is the gateway to the south west and its economic powerhouse, accounting for 26% of the region's economy. With a million people and half a million jobs, the per capita GDP is 23% above the national average, the second highest in England and 34<sup>th</sup> highest in Europe.

It is a sub-region of great diversity and attraction from the expansive beaches of Weston-super-Mare to the Georgian splendour and UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bath to the high technology of the North Fringe, and from the old market towns of Thornbury, Radstock, Chipping Sodbury and Midsummer Norton to the vibrant and cosmopolitan Core City and regional capital of Bristol itself. In Cabot Circus in Bristol and Southgate in Bath the West of England has two of the most modern and exciting shopping centres in the country.

This success comes with a price. We suffer from congestion. By 2016 this will cost £600m a year. Vehicle speeds are slow. We have in parts of Bristol and Weston-super-Mare some of the top 10% of deprived areas in the country as well as air quality issues in Bath and Bristol. We have the draft Regional Spatial Strategy challenge of delivering thousands of homes and jobs by 2026.

The challenge we face is to:

- Minimise the impact of transport on the environment; reduce carbon emissions
- Support economic growth, tackle congestion and improve journey times
- Promote use of alternatives to the car and encourage sustainable travel behaviour
- Improve health and access to employment and local services
- Improve safety for all road users.

### **Replacement Joint Local Transport Plan 2011 to 2026**

We will seek to meet these challenges through our replacement Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP3) and the programme of major transport schemes.

The JLTP3 will be in three parts:

- a Strategy taking the long term policy view to 2026, to coincide with the challenges of delivering the Regional Spatial Strategy;
- a Delivery Plan setting out transport proposals over the shorter term; and
- Supplementary Documents covering walking, parking, public transport, traffic management and freight, smarter choices, road safety, cycling and rural transport in more detail.

The JLTP3 will be shaped by:

- West of England Partnership Vision
- Joint Local Transport Plan 2006-2011
- Regional Funding Allocation 2 major schemes for the West of England

- Department for Transport's 'Delivering a Sustainable Transport System' five key goals (see below)
- Department for Transport Guidance on Local Transport Plans
- Likely levels of future funding.

The five key goals from the Department for Transport's "Delivering a Sustainable Transport System" are:

- Reduce carbon emissions
- Support economic growth
- Promote equality of opportunity
- Contribute to better safety, security and health
- Improve quality of life and a healthy natural environment.

### **Major Transport Schemes**

The JLTP3 will carry forward and build upon the list of Regional Funding Allocation 2 major transport schemes. In February 2009 the 'South West Regional Funding Advice 2009 to 2019' list of major transport schemes was submitted to the Department for Transport. In July 2009 the Department endorsed the advice. Totalling more than £450m the West of England schemes include:

- Bath Package
- Ashton Vale to Bristol Temple Meads and Bristol City Centre rapid transit
- Weston Package
- North Fringe to Hengrove Package rapid transit
- South Bristol Link Phases 1 and 2
- Portishead rail corridor
- Callington Road Link/Bath Road improvements
- Emerson's Green to Bristol Temple Meads Rapid Transit
- Greater Bristol Metro Rail Project
- M5 Junction 21 bypass.

The focus of the JLTP3 will be on value for money, deliverable schemes. Bus-based options, building on the success of the £70m Greater Bristol Bus Network, will remain the most practical option for achieving this serving the greatest number of people and places.

### **Engagement**

Engagement will be a key part of the JLTP3 process. Stakeholders will be engaged at every stage with the main consultation on the final draft Strategy, Delivery Plan and Supplementary Documents from July to September 2010. Innovative ways to broaden the engagement base will be investigated. The new travel+ website <http://www.travelplus.org.uk> will be used to share information. A Transport Plan Commission set up with key stakeholders is helping to shape the emerging JLTP3.

The final JLTP3 must be in place no later than 31 March 2011.