

**West of England Partnership
Joint Scrutiny Committee
10 October 2008**

Joint Local Transport Plan – 2008 Progress Review

Purpose of report

1. To present a working draft of the Joint Local Transport Plan 2008 Progress Review, for agreement with the Government Office for the South West (GOSW) in November 2008, and to seek Scrutiny's views.

Background

2. The Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP) was submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) in March 2006. The JLTP was well received by the DfT and received a 'good' rating, with a consequent additional 3% reward funding level for the sub-region's integrated transport allocation over the 5 year period up to 2011.
3. In 2007, although an update was not required, an informal joint progress report was submitted to the DfT to summarise progress over the first year of the JLTP. In 2008, the DfT require the submission of a Progress Review. The Review is intended to outline progress over the first two years of the JLTP and look forward to the next 3 years. The DfT guidance suggests that the reviews are also an opportunity to highlight areas where progress may have been challenging and identify solutions to bring targets back on track where necessary.
4. Officers from the four councils have jointly progressed the Progress Review in consultation with the Government Office for the South West. It is important to emphasise that the review does not represent a change in policy as set out in the JLTP but merely informs on progress and identifies JLTP strategy actions to bring any targets back on track. In addition, transport funding for the sub-region for the remaining three years of the JLTP has already been identified by the DfT and no reward funding will be provided, above that already identified (with the exception of the DfT's Congestion Performance Fund), on the basis of our performance so far.

Current Position

5. Progress over the first two years of the JLTP overall has been very encouraging. 18 out of our 21 indicators are on or above trajectory, and highlights include the following:
 - Bus patronage has increased by 3.7% since our base line year of 2003/04, representing a welcome upward trend overall, although a significant proportion of this increase is likely to be

attributable to the introduction of concessionary fares and patronage did fall back slightly in 2007. Three of our four bus punctuality indicators are also above trajectory.

- Park and ride patronage has also increased significantly, although the growth in rail patronage, whilst above our target trajectory, has slowed in 2007.
- Road safety continues to improve, with a 22% reduction in Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) casualties compared to the 2001-04 average.
- Road traffic growth has slowed, with area-wide traffic growth increasing by 4% between 2004 and 2007, compared to a forecast trajectory of 6% for this period. In addition, progress associated with the Congestion Delivery Plan has resulted in the allocation of a further £0.5 million reward funding since endorsement by the DfT in Summer 2007.
- Cycling trips have grown by 27% since 2003/04, significantly above the JLTP trajectory.
- The change in condition of our principal road network has been subject to alterations in national monitoring methods, although it is unlikely to be significantly different to the target trajectory (no deterioration in network condition). The condition of non-principal and unclassified roads has improved although footway condition has deteriorated.
- However, air quality (as measured by Nitrogen Dioxide concentrations) in our two Air Quality Management Areas (Bath and Bristol city centres) remains off target, and the review summarises additional action to be taken to bring this indicator back towards the JLTP trajectory.

Programme

6. The Progress Review is required to be submitted by the end of the year, and is currently scheduled for consideration by GOSW by the end of November. This timescale is similar to that being followed by neighbouring authorities in the South West.
7. The working draft review is attached as Appendix One. A future amended version will be subject to a future meeting with GOSW, scheduled for late November, for formal sign-off. The Department for Transport is also considering the review and will provide comments by the end of October.

Recommendation

8. That the members note the draft Progress Review and provide comment.

Appendix One

Joint Local Transport Plan 2008 Progress Review – Working Draft