

**West of England Partnership
Joint Transport Executive Members Meeting
22 January 2009**

**Response from Government Office for the South West on the Joint
Local Transport Plan Progress Review**

Purpose of report

1. To consider the response of the Government Office for the South West (GOSW) to the submission of the Progress Review and its implications.

Background

2. The Joint Local Transport Plan (JLTP) covers the period 2006 to 2011. In 2008 a review of progress over the first two years of the JLTP was required to be submitted for consideration by the Government Office and the DfT.
3. A draft of the Progress Review was considered by Executive Members on 20 October 2008 and Joint Scrutiny members on the 10 October 2008. Progress over the first two years of the JLTP has been encouraging, with 18 out of the 21 transport performance indicators being on or ahead of trajectory, including increases in bus patronage and cycling, reductions in casualties on the highway network and a lower than expected rate of growth in traffic and congestion.
4. Representatives of the Government Office have been closely involved throughout the production of the progress review, and the completed review was submitted to GOSW on 4 December 2008. Following a meeting between officers of the four councils, the West of England Partnership, and Hilary Neal and Nigel Hammond of GOSW on 12 December 2008, their formal response to the review has now been received.

Key Elements of the Letter

5. Overall, the letter is very positive, and GOSW is encouraged by the good progress made over the first two years of the JLTP towards the performance indicators. Specific points include:
 - Acknowledgement of the progress being made towards the establishment of a Joint Transport Committee and encouragement for the progression of a Joint Delivery Vehicle and Multi-Area Agreement;
 - Satisfaction regarding the considerable progress made in relation to three of the four 'shared priorities' (accessibility, congestion and road safety);
 - Particular commendation over the increase in cycling in the sub-region, contrary to trends elsewhere in the South West, and praise for the successful 'Cycling City' bid;
 - Support for progress towards minimising car dependency for travel to school;

- Continued support for the progression of the potential TIF bid;
 - Acknowledgement of the progress made towards reducing road casualties across the sub-region and the role of the West of England Road Safety Partnership;
 - Concern over the need to extend the Air Quality Management Areas and an expectation of improvements in air quality over the remaining years of the JLTP, and acknowledgement of the difficulties faced in meeting air quality targets due to development pressures; and
 - Support for the progress made in the full approval of GBBN and programme entry status for the Bath Transportation Package, and a need to realise sufficient capacity to progress the major scheme programme.
6. Overall this position is very encouraging and close liaison with GOSW will continue throughout the remaining JLTP period and towards the formulation of the JLTP2 (LTP3).

Recommendation

That Executive Members note the contents of the letter.

Appendix 1: Letter of 31 December 2008 from Hilary Neal, GOSW to Terry Wagstaff re Dec 2008 JLTP 2 Mid-term progress review

Officer presenting report: James White, West of England Partnership