Planning Ahead Together

In this newsletter is the latest information on the West of England Partnership’s travel projects. The four councils of Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire have been working together since 2006 to plan and deliver an integrated transport policy for the area as outlined in their first Joint Local Transport Plan. This has been very successful with £450 million set aside for investment in major transport schemes over the next 10 years (see inside for updates).

This funding was allocated to the whole partnership area as together the councils share a strong vision to tackle congestion, improve air quality, accessibility, road safety and improve our quality of life generally. The Joint Local Transport Plan now needs updating to meet changing government requirements, tightening of budgets and must look further ahead up to 2026.

It has to set out the transport-related goals and objectives that the West of England sub-region aims to meet during the lifetime of the Plan, with the overall objective being to improve the transport system and quality of life in the area. It will be based around the five key goals from the Department for Transport’s “Delivering a Sustainable Transport System” of:

- Reducing carbon emissions
- Supporting economic growth
- Promoting equality of opportunity
- Contributing to better safety, security and health
- Improving quality of life and a healthy natural environment

There will be plenty of opportunities for you to make your views known - keep an eye on the local press and the www.travelplus.org.uk website for updates.

Late News - £50 million of spending approved

In March 2010 the Government gave next stage approval to the Weston Package and the Ashton Vale to Bristol City centre rapid transit route so detailed planning can now go ahead. Two more travel funding bids for the North Fringe to Hengrove Package and the South Bristol link were also made to Government.

Joint Local Transport Plan 3 Timetable

- March - June 2010 engagement with key stakeholders
- Summer 2010 Joint Transport Forum
- July - Sept 2010 Draft Strategy, Delivery Plan and Supporting Documents main engagement
- October - December 2010 Strategy, Supporting Documents and Delivery Plan revised
- January 2011 JLTP 3 endorsed by Joint Transport Executive Committee and individually approved by the four councils
- March 2011 Final Plan published
- April 2011 JLTP 3 comes into force

West of England Partnership

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Bristol City Council
North Somerset Council
South Gloucestershire Council
Building the jigsaw - the integrated vision for transport across the four West of England authorities

The Bath Package of transport improvements will see Park and Ride spaces increase from 1,900 to nearly 4,500, easing congestion and helping to reduce the number of cars entering the City of Bath by more than 1.5 million a year. Changes to the city centre will create a more pedestrian and cycle friendly environment.

**travel**

A package of measures in Weston-super-Mare will see improvements at M5 junction 21, widening of Marchfields Way on the A370 Gateway, plus 320 new parking spaces at Worle railway station with a bus interchange and cycle parking, all helping to reduce congestion.

The rapid transit network will develop a series of routes that will allow rapid, reliable, frequent and punctual public transport across the city and outer areas of Bristol connecting housing to jobs, schools and leisure facilities. The Ashton Vale - Temple Meads via Bristol City Centre route has first stage approval from the Department for Transport and further routes stretching between the North West and North East fringes of Bristol, via the city centre, south to Hengrove Park are being developed. The vision includes a rapid transit service linking Emersons Green and Temple Meads and an east-west link across Bath.

Any planned works or new transport schemes include enhanced facilities for cyclists and pedestrians to encourage more people to exercise daily as part of their normal routine and also help to reduce congestion and carbon emissions. The Cycling City programme has a series of schemes and projects over and above any of these plans.

**travel**

The Bath Package of transport improvements will see Park and Ride spaces increase from 1,900 to nearly 4,500, easing congestion and helping to reduce the number of cars entering the City of Bath by more than 1.5 million a year. Changes to the city centre will create a more pedestrian and cycle friendly environment.

A package of measures in Weston-super-Mare will see improvements at M5 junction 21, widening of Marchfields Way on the A370 Gateway, plus 320 new parking spaces at Worle railway station with a bus interchange and cycle parking, all helping to reduce congestion.

The rapid transit network will develop a series of routes that will allow rapid, reliable, frequent and punctual public transport across the city and outer areas of Bristol connecting housing to jobs, schools and leisure facilities. The Ashton Vale - Temple Meads via Bristol City Centre route has first stage approval from the Department for Transport and further routes stretching between the North West and North East fringes of Bristol, via the city centre, south to Hengrove Park are being developed. The vision includes a rapid transit service linking Emersons Green and Temple Meads and an east-west link across Bath.

**travel**

The integrated vision includes plans for rail links to Portishead, plus the development of a regular half hourly West of England rail service - the Greater Bristol Metro, as well as a bypass at M5 Junction 21, improvements on the A4 Bath Road and a new Callington Road link.

**travel**

The Bath Package of transport improvements will see Park and Ride spaces increase from 1,900 to nearly 4,500, easing congestion and helping to reduce the number of cars entering the City of Bath by more than 1.5 million a year. Changes to the city centre will create a more pedestrian and cycle friendly environment.

A package of measures in Weston-super-Mare will see improvements at M5 junction 21, widening of Marchfields Way on the A370 Gateway, plus 320 new parking spaces at Worle railway station with a bus interchange and cycle parking, all helping to reduce congestion.

The rapid transit network will develop a series of routes that will allow rapid, reliable, frequent and punctual public transport across the city and outer areas of Bristol connecting housing to jobs, schools and leisure facilities. The Ashton Vale - Temple Meads via Bristol City Centre route has first stage approval from the Department for Transport and further routes stretching between the North West and North East fringes of Bristol, via the city centre, south to Hengrove Park are being developed. The vision includes a rapid transit service linking Emersons Green and Temple Meads and an east-west link across Bath.

**travel**

Any planned works or new transport schemes include enhanced facilities for cyclists and pedestrians to encourage more people to exercise daily as part of their normal routine and also help to reduce congestion and carbon emissions. The Cycling City programme has a series of schemes and projects over and above any of these plans.
The modal split shows the dominance of the car, as both driver and passenger. There is also a large amount of walking, bus use and cycling. Figures are from the 2001 census as this contains the most accurate comparable data for travelling to work.

The shows the percentage rise of various modes of transport over the past 5 years. Cycling and rail use have shown the greatest increase. Initiatives such as Cycling City and improvements to the Severn Beach Line services allowing better connectivity between other rail services continue to encourage growth.

The West of England Partnership combines the four local authorities, seven social, economic and environmental partners drawn from the business, higher education, health, voluntary and community, environmental and social sectors.

The Partnership is committed to improving the quality of life for all in the sub-region, ensuring that jobs are available with training for the necessary skills; that everyone can have a home to live in, with sustainable transport between places.

What is the West of England Partnership?

Key Facts

- Congestion costs about £350 million a year locally - expected to increase up to £600 million by 2016.
- Air Quality Management Areas in Bath and Bristol are still showing significant levels of nitrogen dioxide emissions.
- More than half of all car trips are 5 miles or less, accounting for approximately a fifth of household car CO₂ emissions.
- Nationally if every bus took just one more car driver we could save up to 1.2 million tonnes CO₂ per annum.
- Older people are heavily dependent on public transport - nationally 91% of single pensioners and 53% of pensioner couples do not own a car.

Contact:

West of England Partnership Office
Wilder House, Wilder Street, Bristol, BS2 8PH
Telephone: 0117 903 6868
Fax: 0117 903 6859
Email: transport@westofengland.org
Website: www.travelplus.org.uk

Further information:

Bristol City Council
www.bristol.gov.uk
Bath and North East Somerset Council
www.bathnes.gov.uk
North Somerset Council
www.n-somerset.gov.uk
South Gloucestershire Council
www.southglos.gov.uk

If you would like this information in a different format, for example Braille, audio tape, large print or computer disc, or community languages please contact the West of England Partnership Office on 0117 903 6868