

WISE

Delivering the
Merseyside Local Transport Plan

MOVES

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September/October 2010

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Launch of consultation on Merseyside's next Local Transport Plan

The second stage of consultation on Merseyside's next Local Transport Plan (LTP3) is launched this month.

The twelve-week public and stakeholder consultation, which runs until 30 November, will gather views on Merseyside's transport needs.

Earlier this year, Merseyside Transport Partnership (MTP) asked organisations and interested members of the public for their thoughts on the challenges and opportunities facing transport in Merseyside until 2024.

MTP has now prepared its draft strategy and is seeking views on these proposals from organisations across the public and private sectors, as well as members of the public. Amongst the many types of organisations that MTP wants to hear from are the health sector, bus and taxi operators and those working in the freight industry.

More than 100 stakeholders are expected to attend the official launch of the consultation at the Holiday Inn, Liverpool on 8 September. MTP then wants to hear opinions of organisations and people from across Merseyside on its ideas.

Members of the public will be encouraged to get involved by attending community events, visiting www.transportmerseyside.org or calling 0151 330 1294 to request a copy of the consultation document.

The views gathered will be used to finalise

LTP3, which is due to start in April 2011. With the current political and economic uncertainty, LTP3 will need to be as flexible as possible in order to cope with future changes.

Councillor Mark Dowd, Chair of Merseyside's Integrated Transport Authority (ITA), who have responsibility for LTP3, said: "Transport has the potential to help everybody lead greener, healthier lives and will play an essential role in making Merseyside a thriving international city region by 2030.

"Preparations for LTP3 have been ongoing for a number of months and it is crucial that as many people as possible are involved in planning for the future. Together with extensive research and use of advanced forecasting techniques, the consultation will help us plan a transport network for Merseyside that will support the Government's two biggest priorities for transport – helping the city region's economy grow and reducing Merseyside's carbon output – as well as our local priorities to promote health and wellbeing.

"Transport is the lifeblood of Merseyside and we want to hear from as many businesses and people as possible on our proposed approach."

To take part in the consultation, visit www.transportmerseyside.org before 30 November 2010.

A new mobility culture

Creating a 'new mobility culture' for Merseyside is a central element of the new Local Transport Plan (LTP3).

Merseyside has its problems in some areas, with high levels of obesity and unemployment. The area's transport system needs to change to deal with these issues and also help people to move around in ways that will reduce Merseyside's carbon output and promote more active lives.

Merseyside Transport Partnership (MTP) wants to create a new mobility culture for Merseyside, so people can get where they want to, when they need to and have more choices about how to get there.

The results of the first stage of consultation in the Spring found that more than 90% of respondents supported this vision. However, feedback also suggested that MTP needed to expand on the concept to make sure more people understand what it is hoped LTP3 will achieve for Merseyside.

Steve Holcroft, Vice Chair of MTP, explains: "Good access to transport is essential for people to live their lives, helping them to reach employment, education and training, as well as getting to essential services.

"Many people take being able to get from A to B for granted. However almost half of people living in disadvantaged communities find it difficult to access services and opportunities due to transport difficulties. Elsewhere in the region, just 12% of households are in this position.

"The cost of public transport can be a real burden, meaning people cannot get where they need to go and feel increasingly isolated.

"We need to close the gap between those who can travel more freely than others in our communities. This, in turn, will help deal with some of the region's other problems. Four in ten people in Merseyside are overweight and encouraging walking and cycling will help people incorporate exercise into their daily lives.

"A good transport network will help attract employers and additional investment to the region, creating jobs and helping Merseyside to develop."

LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN
M E R S E Y S I D E



Public Transport



Goods



Walking



Cycling



Traffic

Setting our goals

Earlier this year, forty organisations shared their views on the future of transport in Merseyside. Representatives from a number of community groups also attended a consultation event in early March.

The results of this first stage of consultation on the next Local Transport Plan (LTP3) confirmed what Merseyside Transport Partnership (MTP) sees as its key goals for the next two decades:

1. Ensure the transport system supports the priorities of the Liverpool City Region (LCR), the proposed Local Enterprise Partnership and the Local Strategic Partnerships
2. Provide and promote a clean and low carbon transport system
3. Ensure the transport system promotes and enables improved health and wellbeing
4. Ensure the transport system supports equality of travel opportunity by ensuring people can connect easily with employment, services and social activities
5. Ensure the transport network supports the economic success of the LCR by the efficient movement of people and goods
6. Maintain our assets (roads, railways etc.) to a high standard



A time of change

Merseyside's Third Local Transport Plan is being prepared in uncertain times.

The Government is still finalising its policies and budgets, meaning Merseyside Transport Partnership (MTP) does not yet know how much funding it will be allocated.

It is clear, however, that budgets will be cut and some projects, such as Maghull North station will be further delayed. Other proposed schemes, like the improvements to the rail link to Manchester, are being reviewed by Government as part of its Spending Review, which is due to report in October.

The Third Local Transport Plan will be as flexible as possible in order to incorporate any future changes in policy or the economy.

It will include an emphasis on lower cost measures, such as supporting cycling and walking initiatives, to help Merseyside achieve economic growth whilst cutting its carbon footprint.

As numerous European cities demonstrate, economic growth and increased sustainable travel can go hand in hand – people in Hamburg, for example, earn 50% more than people in Liverpool yet make significantly more trips by public transport and bike.

Neil Scales, Chair of MTP, explained: "Over the past decade, we have invested heavily into transport in Merseyside, making improvements to Merseyrail, the key bus network and roads

such as Bidston Moss Viaduct, Edge Lane and Hall Lane.

"This has left us with a lasting legacy which we must continue to ensure is maintained to the highest standards. However, we can no longer afford to tackle congestion by building major new roads and so we must get the most out of what we have, through measures such as new information systems to keep roads flowing freely so that goods and public transport can operate efficiently and support Merseyside's economic regeneration."

MTP will also look to work more closely with other public and private sector organisations under the Third Local Transport Plan, to pool resources and expertise and achieve shared goals.

Neil Scales continued: "Funding has been dramatically reduced under the Government, across all departments. Joint working will help all public sector bodies make the most of the funding that is available, to achieve the best for Merseyside.

"We want to work with the health sector to get more people cycling and walking, with businesses to improve the smooth movement of goods, and with local communities and bus and taxi operators to boost public transport provision in some of Merseyside's more disadvantaged areas. This will make Merseyside a healthier, greener and more pleasant place to live and work and this approach is a core part of LTP3."

Do you agree with the key principles behind MTP's approach to future transport provision? Visit www.transportmerseyside.org to share your views.

Did you know?

- Around 4 million trips start or end in Merseyside every day – this translates to the equivalent of around three trips per resident
- Each year, each Merseyside resident makes on average 110 bus journeys and 29 trips on the local rail network
- Just over one in six vehicles on Merseyside's roads are carrying goods
- Since 2006, there has been a 14% increase in cycling in Merseyside
- Walking plays a critical role in linking all these trips, with a quarter of all journeys made on foot
- More journeys take place around 3pm each afternoon than any other time in the day

Merseyside pedals towards cycling target



The number of trips made by bike increased by 10% over the past year, according to the latest cycle monitoring report for Merseyside.

Liverpool saw a particularly marked increase between April 2009 and March 2010, with Wirral also seeing significantly more people travelling by bike.

The system of monitoring cycling levels in the region was introduced to coincide with the start of Merseyside's Second Local Transport Plan (LTP2) in April 2006. This has seen a network of 40 automatic counters being set up across Merseyside, which is supported by manual audits.

The figures show that cycle usage increased for the second year in a row and has increased overall by 14.3% since monitoring began in 2006.

This means that Merseyside Transport Partnership (MTP) has achieved its target of increasing cycling levels by 10% by April 2011 - a full year ahead of schedule.

Neil Scales, Chair of MTP, said: "We're delighted to announce that we have now exceeded our LTP2 target of increasing the number of trips made by bike by 10% by April 2011.

"Increasing cycling levels in Merseyside will help cut the region's carbon output and also contributes to improving health and wellbeing. As preparations continue for LTP3, we will continue to invest in encouraging people in Merseyside to cycle more often and for a greater variety of trips."

Merseyside's electric vehicle charging point network moves a step closer

The Liverpool City Region (LCR) and Cheshire West & Chester have now been invited to submit a full application for Government funding to set up a network of electric vehicle charging points as part of the Government's Plugged-In Places project. The LCR has already successfully submitted an expression of interest to be part of the second phase of the initiative.

Interested organisations are invited to attend one of three information sessions on 16, 17 and 29 September.

Sarah Jolly, Climate Change Officer at MTP, who is leading the application on behalf of the LCR, said: "This is a pioneering initiative that has the potential to dramatically improve air quality across Merseyside.

"The Plugged-In Places project will be of interest to businesses, leisure and retail sites, commercial property owners and visitor attractions, as the electric vehicle charging points can be used for staff or fleet vehicles and will add value for their customers. The information events are an excellent opportunity for organisations to learn more about the scheme - we will be able to fund half of the installation costs for organisations, which should provide an additional incentive for them.

"Cutting carbon emissions is a key goal for us and, as well as encouraging people to swap their cars for more sustainable forms of transport, such as walking, cycling or using public transport, Merseyside Transport Partnership (MTP) will also be promoting low emissions and electric vehicles through LTP3.

"The need for climate change action overall, and from the transport sector in particular, has been growing in recent years. Work taking place at a local level across the region is helping Merseyside work towards its targets for climate change and carbon reduction and is already playing an important part in shaping national and regional policies."

Thinktank calls for joint working to address funding cuts



The Foresight Group is led by the University of Liverpool, with the support of Merseyside Transport Partnership (MTP), to bring together key people from a range of organisations to discuss transport in Merseyside and the role it plays in helping the area achieve its goals.

Its Chair, Phil Redmond, presented the key findings of the Group to a range of stakeholders at an MTP Breakfast Briefing in July. Recognising the essential role transport plays in supporting Merseyside's economy, he also stressed the need for transport bodies to work closely with other sectors to achieve the best results.

Speaking at the event, he said: "Transport feeds into everything we do. The Foresight Group has taken raw transport data and reinterpreted it in the context of cultural activities, health, education and wellbeing. Out of chaos comes opportunity and we are seeing the current political situation as an opportunity to apply new thinking. Creativity also means collaboration and through the Foresight Group, a range of bodies will work to address the transport issues of the future."

Project keeps pedestrians walking smoothly around St Helens



Over the past eighteen months, St Helens Council has been carrying out an audit of pedestrian routes in the borough.

Leading to the creation of an extensive database of the state of pedestrian routes across St Helens, the information collected will be used to draw up Area Action Plans as part of the Local Development Framework (LDF). The database will also help identify priorities for the Council's maintenance team.

Teams are working with colleagues from Merseytravel to inspect pavements to check that everyone can use them – whatever their physical ability – and to ensure that members of the public are able to get on and off the bus.

Problem spots have been identified and St Helens Council has made improvements where necessary. At a local level, parish

councils have been involved, as have members of the public.

Bob Hepworth, Director of Urban Regeneration & Housing at St Helens Council said: "This project has just reached its halfway point and has already brought numerous benefits to people in St Helens. In Billinge, for example, St Helens Council worked with members of the community to identify where work needed to be done. As a direct result of this inspection, forty new dropped crossing points have been installed and several others upgraded.

"The improvements will make it easier for people to walk around St Helens and to get from A to B. Walking is a hassle-free way to incorporate exercise into people's daily lives and if people can do this more easily, projects such as these will help tackle obesity both in St Helens and across Merseyside."

Travel team helps residents onto public transport in Sefton

Sefton Travel Team is celebrating after helping more than 3,000 people access public transport since April 2007. The travel advice and information service has also supported more than 2,000 Sefton residents starting work.

Managed by Sefton Council as part of Merseytravel's Let's Get Moving initiative, and funded by European Social Fund (ESF), the Sefton Travel Team aims to reduce transport barriers for Sefton residents, making it easier for them to access employment and training, as well as other essential services such as leisure and healthcare.

Support includes free advice and information on transport options, individual journey planning, and reporting on any problems such as gaps in service provision. The team also provide one-to-one coaching

and training sessions for those who need extra support accessing public transport, such as people with disabilities.

Those starting a new job also receive assistance with travel costs, which could be a free travel pass for their first month of employment or a new bicycle.

Councillor John Fairclough, Cabinet Member at Sefton Council, said: "For many people starting a new job, just getting to their new workplace is a major challenge. Through the Travel Team, we are helping these people to meet that challenge, to make them more aware of the options available to them and give them the confidence to travel independently in the future."

Have your say

Merseyside Transport Partnership (MTP) wants transport to help Merseyside achieve its vision of becoming a thriving international city region by 2030.

Keeping the roads and railways in good condition, making sure everybody can get from A to B and tackling overcrowding on peak time Merseyrail trains are just three of the ways which MTP has suggested this can be achieved.

Detailed research and the latest forecasting techniques have been used to draft the consultation document – 'A New Mobility Culture for Merseyside'. This research is available at www.transportmerseyside.org

We want to hear from as wide a cross section of Merseyside as possible – from bus and taxi operators to the health sector, from local businesses to disability groups, and beyond.

Visit www.transportmerseyside.org to share your views or call 0151 330 1294 to receive a paper copy of the consultation document.

MTP can provide copies of consultation documents to distribute at meetings and will be attending events throughout the consultation period. Please contact allan.stevenson@merseytravel.gov.uk for more details.

MTP can also provide copy on the consultation for inclusion in any newsletters, e-bulletins or intranets. Please email jennifer.mason@staniforth.co.uk if you can help make as many people as possible aware of their chance to have their say on the future of transport in Merseyside.

The Merseyside Transport Partnership



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