

# Sub-National Transport Hubs

## Merseyside Transport Partnership Briefing

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# Introduction

- Sub-National landscape is changing.
- Government Offices will cease to exist from 31st March 2011.
- A number of Departments, including DfT, have decided to have some form of continued sub-national presence.
- DfT is committed to continue engagement outside London. To continue our work with Local Authorities and sub-national strategic interests.

# What there will be

- There will be 3 DfT Sub-National Transport Hubs:
- **Northern Hub** (5 Staff based in Leeds & covering YH/NE/NW)
- **Midlands and South West Hub** (4 Staff based in Birmingham & covering WM/EM/SW)
- **South East and East Hub** (3 Staff based in London & covering SE/E)

# What we are not

- We are not the Government Offices.
- Abolition of the GO Network was part of Government's Localism agenda.
- A drive to devolve more power to communities, recognising that those at a local level are best placed to understand their own needs and how to address them.
- Also part of rebalancing the public finances.

# What we are and what we can do

- We are a DfT central team and part of John Dowie's Local Transport Directorate.
- Engagement will change and the relationship will be necessarily light touch.
- We are your first point of contact with the Department.
- We are a **critical friend** who can;
  - **Translate** and explain Government policy
  - **Navigate** you through the structures and processes within DfT (including its funding mechanisms)
  - Help **Facilitate** solutions

# What we are and what we can do

- For the Sub-National hubs to work we will need to have close relationships with Local Transport Authorities, Sub-National Groups and the emerging LEPs.
- Still need to understand the issues at the local level to help develop National Policy.
- DfT wants to ensure ongoing sub-national engagement and that engagement will be via the Hubs.

# What will be our focus (1)?

- Transport White Paper “Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon” places localism at the heart of the transport agenda in order to create local growth and cut carbon emissions
- Continuing Transport Investment: Thornton to Switch Island; Mersey Gateway, Knowsley Streetlighting, Liverpool to Manchester and Liverpool to Wigan Electrification;
- Regional Growth Fund: £1.4 billion over 3 years to support job growth – transport key to this;
- Local Enterprise Partnerships, covering functional economic areas. Key role in taking a view on strategic transport priorities to support economic growth and further devolution of transport decisions to local areas

# What will be our focus (2) ?

- Local Sustainable Transport Fund
  - £560m over 4 years
  - Mixture of revenue and capital
  - To support initiatives which address growth and carbon at a local level, influence choice and promote sustainable travel
  - Targeted modest investments
- Understanding delivery and informing policy

# Contacts in the Northern Hub

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