

Foreword

Welcome to the Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan 2006-11. This Plan is essential and integral to the County Council's aim to improve the quality of life in Oxfordshire. The Plan is one part of how the whole Council, working with the community it serves, will be taking practical action to achieve this aim. We will do this by:

- > Tackling congestion and improving accessibility to sustain Oxfordshire's prosperity and help its citizens to fulfill their potential;
- > Making roads safer to help safeguard our communities;
- > Improving air quality and the streetscape to help protect our environment.

This Local Transport Plan is an important step in our 20 year strategy to deliver the transport services and infrastructure needed to meet these objectives and plan effectively for the pressures Oxfordshire will face, in particular because of the increased numbers of houses to be provided and the continued growth in employment opportunities in the county. Achieving this will involve working closely with our partners (District Councils, neighbouring transport authorities and other transport providers, including the Highways Agency).

The schemes and measures contained in this Plan, and proposed for the remainder of the 20 year period, will do this by:

- > Investing in measures to reduce congestion at key points on the network, for car and bus passengers - for example by improving key junctions on the Oxford Ring Road at Wolvercote, Cutteslowe and Headington and planning a programme of longer term highway measures;
- > Offering real choice by providing high quality, welcoming public transport as a genuine alternative - for example through delivering the Premium Bus Routes programme, through real-time information systems for buses and our car parks, and working with the bus companies to make bus journeys safe, simple and reliable;

- > Through better education and highway measures, reducing the number and severity of casualties on Oxfordshire's roads;
- > Working with key partners to deliver improvements in air quality, in particular where transport can make a real difference; and
- > Enhancing the highway network through carefully planned road maintenance, traffic management and street environment improvements, for example the Abingdon Town Centre scheme which brings together all of these things.

Delivering the Local Transport Plan will be a whole Council activity, integrating the objectives and plans of Transport with the wide range of other services provided by the Council. In doing this, we will continue to target our resources at the highest priority areas - as set out in this Plan - so that the Council delivers best value for money, for example through the authority-wide Review of Funded Transport Services.

This is a provisional version of the Plan, which sets out our objectives and policies, with an overview of our transport programme and the indicators and targets against which our progress and performance will be judged. Our programme and targets will be developed further. We will be consulting on an updated version of this Plan in Autumn 2005, to listen to and take account of the views of Oxfordshire's stakeholders and public, before submitting a final Plan to the Government in March 2006.

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Leader of the Council*

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Overview

Chapter 1 – Oxfordshire: Ambitions and Objectives

This chapter introduces Oxfordshire and outlines Oxfordshire County Council's ambitions and objectives. It also outlines the Council's longer-term Local Transport Strategy and introduces the objectives of this Local Transport Plan.

Chapter 2 - Wider Context

A good transport system is essential to support a wide range of economic, social and environmental objectives. This chapter explains how Oxfordshire County Council's Local Transport Plan influences, and has been influenced by, other plans and initiatives within and outside the County Council, and how the delivery of the LTP will contribute towards achieving their objectives.

Chapter 3 - Local Transport Objectives

This chapter sets out the County Council's general approaches to delivering the Local Transport Plan objectives. For each of the five objectives the current level of problem in the county is discussed and then a series of Actions which the Council could take to resolve these problems is set out. The impact of the Actions on the Government's other Quality of Life objectives is discussed.

Chapter 4 - Supporting Strategies

This chapter sets out the Council's specific strategies for improving conditions for particular types of journey or tackling particular transport problems. These expand on the broad actions outlined in Chapter 3 and form the basis for the programmes of schemes that will be set out in the following chapters.

Chapter 5 - Identifying Priorities for Action

This chapter sets out how the County Council has prioritised the implementation of the strategies outlined in Chapter 4. The Council's priorities for action are underpinned by a systematic and thorough analysis of transport problems and challenges in Oxfordshire.

This analysis and the priorities that have emerged from it, together with the strategies identified in Chapter 3, form the basis of Chapters 6 to 11, with the details of schemes and how they are to be managed and monitored comprising Chapters 12 and 13.

Chapter 6 – Central Oxfordshire Transport Area

Recognising the importance of the Central Oxfordshire sub-region and the particular contribution that addressing transport problems in this part of the county will make to achieving the LTP Objectives, this chapter outlines a coherent approach for the Central Oxfordshire Transport Area.

Chapters 7 to 11 - District Chapters

Drawing on the problem analysis outlined in Chapter 5, these chapters outline the transport problems facing each of Oxfordshire's districts and identify how the Actions and Strategies identified in Chapters 3 and 4 will be implemented in each district in response to the most severe problems.

Chapter 12 – Highway Maintenance

This chapter explains how the County Council will manage its transport assets effectively to maximise the value of past and future investment.

Chapter 13 - Programme & Targets

In this chapter, a five-year implementation programme designed to contribute towards achieving the Local Transport Plan Objectives is outlined. Specific performance targets are set based on careful analysis of the county's transport problems and current travel patterns, and in line with the resources likely to be available to the council for delivering transport improvements. Indicators which will enable the County Council to monitor the effectiveness of its investment in transport in achieving the LTP Objectives are also set out.