

Report on JLTP Forum July 2010

The 6th Annual Joint Transport Forum was designed as the launch of and introduction to the draft Joint Local Transport Plan and the launch of the wider engagement.

The invitation list has developed over the six years of the Forum to include individuals and representatives of transport groups, neighbouring councils and numbers over 350 individuals and groups. This year 100 people attended.

On arrival all attendees were given a copy of the draft Executive Summary of the JLTP3 and a copy of the questionnaire in order to encourage feedback after the Forum. Larger quantities of questionnaires were also available for people to take away and distribute amongst their groups.

Councillor Charles Gerrish (Chair of the Joint Transport Executive Committee) opened the day welcoming everyone and thanking everyone for their attendance. He reminded people of the importance of providing choice in transport modes and the need therefore to invest in public transport (and cycling and walking) to help encourage people out of cars – such as the West of England Partnership was doing with the work on the Greater Bristol Bus Network.

James White of the Joint Local Transport Team introduced the draft document and how it had been shaped by the input of the Joint Transport Commission and government guidelines. He also explained how the individual councils were leading on separate pieces of work and coming together regularly to ensure that the views and comments from other authorities were included.

James explained that discussions during the day were being recorded in note form by officers of the councils and would be fed into the drafting process, but he encouraged everyone present to read the draft JLTP and to reply to the engagement either electronically or via the paper questionnaire.

Every reply to the questionnaire was going to be recorded and any 'free hand' comments would be noted and categorised to be published at a later date with a response from officers as to how it had been considered and how it had influenced or been incorporated into the final JLTP3

During the day six separate discussion groups were held, covering three topics (ie each topic had two workshops) and the attendees selected two workshops to attend.

The workshops were

- A. Carbon Reduction
- B. Active Travel
- C. Sustainable Economic Prosperity

At each workshop two speakers gave a brief presentation and a facilitator and a scribe ran and recorded the sessions to be shared with the teams drafting the JLTP3.

Each workshop was asked to select three main points arising from their discussions; these were then reported back to the Forum for the plenary session.

A. Carbon Reduction workshop

- 1) Consider demand management measures (but what?) once alternatives were in place
- 2) Ensure reducing carbon emissions will not worsen air quality eg clean buses that actually use more fuel
- 3) Need to link transport planning and land use planning more closely
- 4) Measuring targets

B Active travel

- 1) Need a walking target
- 2) Strong, aspirational targets
- 3) Need the planning system and employers to support cycling and walking
- 4) Interface between cyclists and pedestrians
- 5) Balanced strategy (all sustainable modes working together)

C Sustainable Economic Prosperity

- 1) Continue the focus on congestion and pollution
- 2) Peak Oil
- 3) Don't forget freight
- 4) Key links with Health Sector
- 5) Rail and interchange at Temple Meads

Just a Transport Minute allowed attendees to speak uninterrupted for one minute on any transport related topic. This year the speakers and their topic were:

Time Wye – Important to build on Cycling City. Work is needed with employers to increase investment and highlighting benefits of cycling e.g. reduced absenteeism

Cate Mack – 99% of people can either walk, cycle or use a mobility vehicle. 40% of households do not have a car. We have the target to improve equality of opportunity. Improving walking and cycling is the cheapest way of doing this. Pavements are parked and driven on. There is a decline in traffic policing – something needs to be done.

Graham Ellis – Need to integrate with other travel to work areas. Park & Ride from home.

David Redgwell – Opportunity for WoE Partnership to have increased function. Important to prioritise the right transport schemes. We won't be able to do all the schemes on the list. Access and regeneration are priorities.

Ian Crawford – The debt problem has been hyped up. Opportunity for innovation. A levy of £60 per household would fund an ITA. Based on other examples e.g. Manchester, this would halve bus fares. There should be a review of the need for an ITA.

John Chaplain – Bristol/Avonmouth Sea Ports are expanding. Locally, 80% of cargo goes onto the road and rail network. Need to consider the needs of freight.

Patrick Rotheram – Air pollution and congestion should be top priorities. Bath AQMA needs to be addressed urgently. The JLTP needs to be bolder about removing traffic from Bath.

The plenary question and answer session raised the following topics

- Subsidy for the Severn Beach Line;
- The importance of walking targets;
- HGV traffic through Bath and the need to look at restraint measures
- Congestion charging, since the White Paper 'Breaking the Log Jam', GWE Business West has supported congestion charging, why does it not feature more in the JLTP3?
- Request to investigate workplace parking charges as part of an integrated approach which encourages walking and cycling and encouraging rail travel
- Support from a Welsh Council representative for the consultation process and our cross council working, and a reminder of the need cross border working

Councillor Brian Allinson closed the day by thanking everyone for their contribution and reminded them to respond to the questionnaire and to spread the word about the draft JLTP3.