

Wirral JSNA: Transport

What are we doing and why? (May 2016)

The Merseyside Local Transport Plan

In 2011 the third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) for Merseyside was published. It sets out the Region's longer term (to 2024) ambition for improving transport across Merseyside. Its vision is to create;

“A city region committed to a low carbon future, which has a transport network and mobility culture that positively contributes to a thriving economy and the health and wellbeing of its citizens and where sustainable travel is the option of choice”.

The plan establishes a strategic approach to dealing with key transport issues in the region and broad areas of intervention are focused via the plan's six goals.

The current plan covers the period 2011 to 2024 and promotes a new mobility culture that recognises the need to find new and smarter ways of travelling in order to support economic growth, reduce carbon emissions and promote health and wellbeing.

A new Mobility Culture means developing a transport system which supports the objectives and aspirations of all communities and stakeholders across Merseyside. It is about developing a transport system that provides real sustainable options and which supports the continuing regeneration and economic development of the city region.

However, the new transport plan for growth goes further than that; it is also about equality. It is about delivering a transport system which ensures that people have more equal access to employment opportunities, education and health facilities and to leisure, cultural and sporting resources. In this sense it goes beyond traditional transport planning and must be integrated with and support, health, environmental, education, housing and planning policies.

The full document and supporting annexes can be found at http://www.letstravelwise.org/content206_Local-Transport-Plan-3.html

The Liverpool City Region and a Transport Plan for Growth

In 2014 the five Merseyside districts and Halton came together to establish the Liverpool City Region Partnership and as a result there was a need to align the existing Merseyside and Halton Local Transport Plans.

A Transport Plan for Growth is The Liverpool City Region's single strategic investment framework and delivery plan for transport across the region, supporting the long term Local Transport Plans (LTP's).

Much has changed since the current Local Transport Plans were written; therefore A Transport Plan for Growth is more closely aligned with the Government's high-level economic policy drivers of localism, devolution of power and growth.

The Transport Plan aims to create a resilient city region that will support a strong and vigorous internationally competitive economy.

Create a city region of opportunity where all sections of the community can make contact with as many goods and services as possible including jobs, training, education and social, leisure and recreational activities that increase quality of life.

Contribute to a low carbon city region that recognises the responsibilities of all cities to play a leadership role in carbon reduction and celebrates the opportunities this provides to create competitive and sustainable jobs in green technology industries and activities. Create a healthy city region where all transport options, including walking and cycling facilities link to spatial planning and send strong signals in support of high levels of physical activity.

Create a high quality liveable city region that improves air quality, reduces noise levels and creates highly attractive public spaces and cultural offerings

A full version of the Transport Plan for Growth is available to view [here](#).

To support these policies a number of projects have been set up and are currently running in Wirral or across the City Region.

Wirral Travel Solutions

The Wirral Travel Solutions Team provides advice and information on travel to work and employment related training. Travel Solutions offers include;

- *Personalized Journey Planning*
Journey planning provides people with a detailed plan of their journey from home to work or training using public transport. This free solution is available to anybody over the age of 16 starting employment or training.
- *Help with travel costs*
When starting a new job we can offer up to a month's free travel to work or training using public transport. This solution is only available to individuals starting a new job, working at least 16 hours per week and for 12 weeks or more; or a training opportunity of 16 hours per week for 4 weeks or more.
- *Bike to Work Scheme*
People starting a new job, working at least 16 hours a week, for a minimum of 12 weeks may be offered a free bike. All safety equipment will be provided and cycle training is available. We can also give advice on the best route to take.
- *Travel Training*
This is a free solution for people who need extra help and support to use public transport independently. One to one training is provided to teach skills and knowledge to help build the confidence needed to travel independently.

More details and how to apply are available by following the link below.

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/jobs-training/help-travel-work-and-training> or www.wirral.gov.uk/travelsolutions

Business Travel Support

Wirral Council's Business Travel Support team is able to offer free support to businesses within East Wirral to develop sustainable travel within their workplaces. The team will work on a one to one basis with businesses to develop sustainable transport measures. For more information follow the link below.

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/business/business-travel-support> or
www.wirral.gov.uk/bts

Investment in Active Travel Infrastructure

Wirral Council is committed to investing in improving infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists with the aim of increasing the numbers of people that walk and cycle to work, school or other local journeys, for all or part of their trip. And also in encouraging travel by other sustainable means for all or part of their journey. Suggestions for schemes are welcomed via the online form on the Council Website and through the Wirral Active Travel Forum.

Cycle Training and Community Cycle Hubs

In understanding that perceptions of safety can be a barrier to people walking and cycling for short local journeys, Wirral Council, in partnership with Merseytravel, Bike Right and Sustrans, offers free on road cycle training for adults and in schools for children aged nine and over. This is supported by local community cycle hubs where residents can go along and try cycling. Bikes are provided, along with advice and informal training, with the aim of giving the local community more confidence to get out and about on their bikes.

Monitoring

As part of the LTP and City Region Transport Plan for Growth, the numbers of cyclists are monitored across Merseyside. Since the introduction of the LTP and the baseline year of 2006, cycling levels have increased by 46% in Merseyside.

Community and Stakeholder Views

The development of the Local Transport Plan and Transport Plan for Growth, both involved consultation with members of the public and other stakeholder groups. Furthermore, Wirral Council hosts a regular Active Travel Forum (previously the Wirral Pedestrian Forum and Wirral Cycling Forum) where residents and stakeholders are invited to attend and input to quarterly meetings so as to contribute to the process

For more information on the work to develop Transport and its associated aspects please contact Amanda Keenan (Traffic & Transportation Division, Forward Planning/Travelwise) on 0151 606 2000