

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

- 1.1 : This is the first 5-Year South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan. It has been prepared
: jointly by a Partnership of the South Yorkshire Metropolitan District Councils of
: Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham, Sheffield City Council and the South Yorkshire
: Passenger Transport Authority (the Partners).
- 1.2 : The South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan (LTP) has been prepared within the
: national policy framework for integrated transport set out in the White Paper
: "A New Deal for Transport: Better for Everyone". The overriding objectives of national
: policy are to contribute to sustainable development by:
- protecting and enhancing the built and natural environment
 - improving safety for all travellers
 - contributing to an efficient economy and supporting sustainable economic growth
in appropriate locations
 - promoting accessibility to everyday facilities for all, especially those without a car
 - promoting the integration of all forms of transport and land use planning, leading
to a better, more efficient transport system.
- 1.3 : The Government recognises that delivery of the policy depends very much on action
: at the local level and that LTPs are a core part of delivery. As set out in the
: "Guidance on Full Local Transport Plans", this LTP has been prepared as a 5-Year
: Strategy and Programme for 2001-2006. In preparing the LTP the Partners have
: drawn on the previous South Yorkshire Joint Package and the four Local Authorities'
: Transport Policies and Programmes (TPPs) as well as last year's Provisional Plan. We
: have developed the Strategy and Programme further in the light of feedback in the
: Government's decision letter for 2000/01 and comment arising from extensive
: consultation with the public and key stakeholders.
- 1.4 : A key influence on the LTP has been the emerging Objective 1 Single Programme
: Document and complement, which seeks to achieve a step change in the South
: Yorkshire economy. As a result, regeneration is a key theme running through the LTP
: and the major challenge is to achieve this within a sustainable transport strategy.
: Because the Objective 1 Programme is not yet approved it is important to highlight
: that further review of the LTP will be necessary in 2001.

- 1.5 : The LTP covers all forms of transport, with the aim of co-ordinating and improving local transport policy and provision. It sets out a long-term strategy for transport provision in South Yorkshire and is intended to influence the provision of transport by all providers including private operators and a wide range of central and local Government agencies responsible for public services. It also sets out the policy and investment programmes of the Partners.
- 1.6 : It also forms the submission to the Secretary of State for Environment, Transport and the Regions for the allocation of resources for local transport capital expenditure. This LTP will form the basis for the allocation of resources for 2001/2002 and for indicative allocations for the following 4 years.

PREPARING THE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

- 1.7 : In preparing this LTP we have sought to build upon the successful Joint Package for South Yorkshire, first prepared in 1996/7 and continued through to 1999/2000 and the Provisional Plan for 2000/01.
- 1.8 : Over that period we were extremely pleased that our commitment to joint working to improve local transport throughout the County was recognised through the approval by the Government of the Package objectives and strategy, and the allocation of Supplementary Credit Approvals of £5.5m in 1996/97 and 1997/98 respectively, £6.125m in 1998/99, £8.5m in 1999/2000, and £10.9m in 2000/01.
- 1.9 : The common purpose and close co-operation which made possible the preparation of the initial Joint Bid has been developed and strengthened in preparing the LTP. An inclusive approach with all stakeholders, including transport operators is intended. Our aim has been to maximise involvement, bring all modes together and integrate those elements previously included in the individual Local Authorities' TPPs. The LTP gives details of the progress which has been made in a number of areas.
- 1.10 : The Joint Package and individual TPPs were very successful in beginning to develop integrated transport policy and programmes for South Yorkshire. However, we recognise that the introduction of Local Transport Plans, as part of a new integrated national transport policy, presents an exciting opportunity to develop further the transport vision for South Yorkshire. This will be undertaken in accordance with guidelines set out in PPG 12 on the integration of transport and land use policies, and reflects the general approach emerging within draft Regional Planning Guidance (RPG) which incorporates the draft Regional Transport Strategy (RTS). Both draft RPG and RTS, which are the subject of a Public Examination in July 2000, begin to provide a framework for the review of the present round of Unitary Development Plans (UDPs) as well as informing this first LTP for South Yorkshire.

- 1.11 : This process of developing an integrated transport strategy has already started. In
: Autumn 1998, following the launch of the White Paper, the Deputy Prime Minister
: invited the Partners to prepare a **Centre of Excellence** proposal for South
: Yorkshire. This challenge was taken up with enthusiasm and *“Changing the Face of
: Transport in South Yorkshire; a partnership approach to the creation of a Centre of
: Excellence for Integrated Transport”* was presented to Dr John Reid, Minister of
: Transport in January 1999, and subsequently endorsed by the Deputy Prime Minister.
- 1.12 : That document set out key objectives for promoting choice and integration in local
: transport, and a series of demonstration projects intending to show how those
: objectives might be achieved. The objectives are to:
- attract more users to public transport
 - reduce the use of private car by offering genuine alternatives
 - provide cost effective travel choices, particularly to the socially and physically disadvantaged
 - improve transport services to areas with poor access
 - foster economic regeneration without increasing the level of car traffic
 - improve and protect the environment.



- 1.13 : In producing this LTP, the Partners have gone beyond the mere assimilation of the policy and programmes set out in the Joint Package, TPPs and **Centre of Excellence**. We have carried out a fundamental review of our transport strategy to assess its consistency with the Government's integrated transport policies, and to achieve continuous improvement in the choice, cost and quality of local transport services.
- 1.14 : In carrying out this review in 1999, the Partners were assisted by consultants Steer Davies Gleave. They helped to ensure that the overall strategy provides a clear and measurable approach to the provision of integrated local transport services, and improvements which will support the sustainable economic development of South Yorkshire. Particular emphasis has been placed upon developing a clear link between strategy, measurable objectives, targets and performance indicators.
- 1.15 : Last year's Provisional Plan was used as a basis for extensive public consultation to amend or endorse the Strategy. This is set out more fully in Chapter 3 and Annex 5.

Partnership

- 1.16 : The Partners are fully committed to an inclusive approach to local transport. In preparing this LTP, we have continued to develop close working with a wide range of public and private sector organisations. This includes BOSSY (which represents local bus, tram and train operators), as well as national rail operators such as Midland Main Line, GNER, Virgin Rail and Railtrack. Others involved include representatives of Health, NHS Trusts, Education and other service providers, as well as the Emergency Services, Highways Agency, Regional Development Agency and the Regional Assemblies.
- 1.17 : The four South Yorkshire air quality management specialists engage in a regional advisory council for environmental issues where common approaches, strategies and tools are trialed and benchmarked. Each Local Authority now operates compatible systems for air quality monitoring, modelling and assessment. A sub-group of these specialists have been responsible for co-ordinating the air quality input into the preparation of the LTP. This group will continue their work by ensuring that the LTP is aligned with the Air Quality Management Plans of the Local Authorities and can therefore act as the implementation tool for the transport-related aspects of those plans.

Public Involvement

- 1.18 : The Partners have been keen to develop an inclusive approach to LTP preparation.
 : This has been based upon the Provisional Plan which has been subjected to
 : extensive consultation. The consultation has included during the past six months a
 : series of Local Transport Days, public meetings, presentations to local communities
 : via the Local Authorities' Area Panels, and meetings with
 : stakeholder and interest groups. These have been
 : used to help review the LTP
 : Strategy and Priorities as set
 : out in Chapter 3.



Structure of the Document

- 1.19 : **Volume One:** sets out the overall vision and strategy for the LTP together with the
 : analysis of needs and opportunities and the programme for action. Chapter 2 sets
 : out the way in which the LTP integrates with other policies and provides an
 : overview of needs and opportunities in South Yorkshire. Chapter 3 sets out the
 : vision for South Yorkshire, the role of transport, LTP Objectives and Strategy.
 : Chapter 4 sets out the sub-strategies and programmes, and Chapter 5 sets out the
 : proposed Programme and bid for resources.
- : **Volume Two:** contains the Monitoring Report for the last year and Annexes
 : covering Traffic Reduction; development plans; supplementary information on the
 : strategies; public involvement; Strategic Quality Partnership; Transport Authority/
 : Executive Revenue and Capital Expenditure Programme; Objective 1; and the
 : Sheffield Airport surface access strategy.
- : **Volume Three:** (for DETR use only): sets out Finance Forms; Year 1 Major
 : Schemes; Appraisal Summary Tables (ASTs); and the full NATA scheme appraisals.

