

**“Devon on the Move”, Devon Local Transport Plan (DLTP)
Proposed Programme for 2006/2007**

Report of the Local Service Officer (Barnstaple)

Please note these recommendations are subject to confirmation by the North Devon Highways and Traffic Orders Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Committee:

- (a) notes the funding provisions which have been approved by the Executive Committee – report ED/06/33/HQ (“Devon on the Move” Devon Local Transport Plan - Proposed Programme for 2006/07), as described in sections 1 to 7 of this report;**
- (b) Approves the local allocations for the North Devon HATOC area, as listed in the table in section 8 of this report;**

1. Summary

The financial year 2006/2007 is the first year of “Devon on the Move”: the second, statutory Devon Local Transport Plan which covers the period 2006 – 2011.

Following the Government announcement of the local transport capital settlement for Devon on 14 December 2005, the Executive has approved programmes for highway and transport improvements for 2006/2007 (Report ED/06/33/HQ). This approval includes funding of £770,000 from the Towns, Villages and Rural Communities Programme, to be equally distributed between Highways and Traffic Orders Committees (excluding Exeter which is covered within the Exeter Sub Region Programme). This report sets out the approved programme for this Committee’s areas of interest, and also seeks the Committee’s approval of schemes to be delivered through the Towns, Villages and Rural Communities Programme including projects related to school travel plans; public transport facilities; and local access improvements.

2. Background

The Government supports “Capital” transport infrastructure needs following submission of a Local Transport Plan which sets out the transport strategies, plans and programmes. The level of funding received is partly dependent on quantifiable transport statistics and partly on the quality of the Plan. The provisional Devon Local Transport Plan 2006/2011 was submitted to Government in July 2005, and included a bid for capital expenditure for the five years between 2006/07 and 2011/12. A “final” Plan is to be submitted to Government in March 2006.

The local transport capital settlement for Devon for 2006/07 was announced by the Government in December 2005. The provisional local transport plan for Devon County Council has been assessed as “promising”, and a borrowing approval (supported capital expenditure) totalling £30.698 million has been allocated to be spent on highway maintenance, bridge assessment/strengthening and integrated transport in 2006/07.

The table below shows the Government’s allocation for the first year and indicative allocations of the integrated transport block for the remaining 4 years of the Devon Local Transport Plan 2006-2011.

Government's Allocations for the Devon Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 (£000s)

	06/07 Allocation £000's	07/08 Allocation £000's	08/09 Allocation £000's	09/10 Allocation £000's	10/11 Allocation £000's
Integrated Transport	8,020	7,222	7,356	7,485	7,608
Maintenance	22,678	21,031	22,082	23,186	24,346
TOTAL	30,698	28,253	29,438	30,671	31,954

The LTP Guidance indicated that up to 25% of an authority's integrated transport block allocation might be varied, based on assessment of delivery performance in 2004/05 and the quality of provisional plans for 2006-2011. The Devon Local Transport Plan Annual Progress Report for 2006-2011 was assessed as "good" and the Provisional Devon Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 was assessed as "promising". As a result, the integrated transport block allocation for 2006/07 has been increased by 5% to £8.020m.

The County Council's Executive considered the allocation of the Government's local transport settlement for the DLTP in 2006/07 on 28 February 2006, (Report No. ED/06/33/HQ).

The Executive resolved that:

- (a) the "Devon on the Move" programme for 2006/07, as set out in the Appendices to this report approved;
- (b) £770,000 from the Towns, Villages and Rural Communities Programme be equally distributed between Highways and Traffic Orders Committees (excluding Exeter which is covered within the Exeter Sub Region Programme) to determine local priorities for school travel plans, public transport facilities and local access improvements in accordance with the criteria detailed in section 5 of this report;
- (c) the County Environment Director be given delegated authority to vary the programmes as necessary, in line with Devon Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 objectives, in order to maximise delivery.

3. Progress with the Implementation of the Previous 5 Year Plan

The first Devon Local Transport Plan (DLTP), "Devon on the Move" had nine objectives:

- Integrated Transport.
- Safety.
- Accessibility.
- Economy.
- Environment.
- Health.
- Lifelong Learning.
- Social Inclusion.
- Tourism.

Detailed information on progress with "Devon on the Move" during 2004/05 was included in the July 2005 Annual Progress Report, copies of which were distributed to members at the time of publication.

Achievements in 2004/05, as reported in the Annual Progress Report included:

- All of the planned Devon on the Move schemes for 2004/05 were delivered.
- 519 schemes were successfully implemented.
- Assessment against national targets demonstrates that progress is on track against the core national indicators for bus passenger journeys, cycle trips, road safety and rural

households within 13 minutes of an hourly bus service or better.

- An extra 16 cycling schemes delivered above target.
- An extra 48 highway maintenance schemes above target.

4. Devon Local Transport Plan 2006-2011

Devon County Council's Provisional Devon Local Transport Plan for 2006-2011 has been drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Transport Act 2000 and in the light of guidance issued by the Department of Transport in December 2004.

The Plan programmes are based upon an assessment of meeting four central/local shared priorities:

- Tackling traffic congestion.
- Delivering accessibility.
- Making roads safer.
- Improving air quality.

And also three objectives identified as a result of consultation:

- Improving recreation, leisure and tourism.
- Promoting health and well-being.
- Improving public space.

5. Programmes for Year 2006/07

The programme for 2006/07 comprises the following elements:

Highway Structural Maintenance and Bridge Assessment/Strengthening.

Casualty Reduction.

Sub-Regional Programmes and Area Programmes - including the Barnstaple Area Programme.

Towns, Villages and Rural Communities.

Sustainable Tourism, Recreation and Leisure.

The allocations for Devon are set out in the following table:

Devon Local Transport Plan Allocation 2006/07

Programme/Scheme	Allocation £,000s
Highway Structural Maintenance and Bridge Assessment/ Strengthening Programme	
Sub-total	22,678
Casualty Reduction and Route Management Programme	
Sub-total	640
Regional/Area Programmes	
Exeter Sub-Region	3,530
Plymouth Sub-Region (part in Devon)	225
Barnstaple Area	605
Newton Abbot Area	785
Towns, Villages and Rural Communities	1,220
Sustainable Tourism, Recreation and Leisure	460
Sub-total	6,825

Travel Awareness, Traveline Commitments, Monitoring and Programme Management	
Travel Awareness	115
Traveline	90
Commitments	150
Monitoring	20
Programme Management	180
Sub-total	555
Total	30,698

6. The Overall Programme for the HATOC Area

The planned expenditure for the North Devon HATOC's area arising out of the above county-wide allocation totals £3,943,000. Details are set out in the table below.

North Devon HATOC Local Transport Plan Programme Elements 2006/07

Programme/Scheme		£,000s
Highway Structural Maintenance and Bridge Assessment/Strengthening Programme		3,078
Casualty Reduction and Route Management Programme		
A39 Barnstaple	Enhanced signing, Portmore Roundabout	1
A399 Bratton Fleming	Verge safety marker posts, Stowford	1
A361 Ilfracombe	Enhanced signing, Mullacott cross	5
A3123/A399 Ilfracombe to South Molton	Route study Enhanced lining and road markings, Mullacott cross to Aller Cross	15
A3125 Fremington	HSR surfacing/lining, Cedars Roundabout	9
B3230 Marwood	Interactive signs/ road marking , Milltown	13
A361 Heanton Punchardon	HSR Surfacing, o/s Chivenor Ind Estate	6
Sub Total		50
Regional/Area Programmes		
Barnstaple Area		
Square Barnstaple	Major improvement to townscape, traffic management ,walking and cycling facilities, bus priority measures	100
Town Centre cycle parking	Provision of Cycle facilities	10
Pilton College cycle route	Provision of improved walking and cycle link in Pilton area	140
Pilton Bridge Junction	Traffic management walking and cycle access improvement	50
Sticklepath Terrace	Improved cycle and walking route in conjunction with revised on street parking provision	30
Sticklepath Hill	Improved bus waiting facilities and on street parking provision	10
Employer travel Plans	To enable employers to reduce their travel impacts	20
School Travel Plans	To support schools to increase the number of	20

	staff and pupils travelling sustainably	
ANPR	Installation of Automatic Number Plate Recognition system to monitor journey times on targeted sections of road	75
Bus waiting facilities	Upgrade shelters and waiting areas	20
Bus real time information	Provide high quality back office real time information to improve punctuality and bus journey reliability	70
Strategic Variable Message Signs (VMS)	Efficient management of highway Network by providing travel information to drivers	50
Car Park VMS	Extend town centre scheme to western bypass	30
Forward Design	Preparation of schemes for future years	40
Monitoring	Impact of congestion and safety measures	10
A399/A3123 Route Management Study	Develop role of route as serve the tourist areas of North Devon	10
Commitments	Provision for schemes being currently implemented	20
Sub Total		705*
Towns, Villages and Rural Communities		
School Travel Plans		65
Public Transport facilities		15
Local Priority Links and Access Improvements		30
Sub Total		110
Overall Total for North Devon HATOC area		3,943

* Note: the allocations from the Barnstaple Area Programme include an element of over programming to allow for slippage in the programme as well as forward design on schemes to be delivered in future years.

In addition to the above allocations, additional funding will also be available to the HATOC's area when the budgets for Travel Awareness; Traveline; Wheels to Work; Shop Mobility; Ring and Ride; Priority Area Action Schemes; Safety Camera Partnerships; Forward Design and Monitoring; Highway Structural maintenance and Bridge Assessment and Strengthening have been disaggregated.

7. Explanation of Main Programme Objectives

The following section of this report describes the main programme elements of the new LTP as set out in the above table.

The Barnstaple Area programme forms a crucial part of the Barnstaple Western Bypass package that will deliver major long term benefits to the town. It complements the anticipated development of a number of key brownfield housing and retail development sites identified in the North Devon Local Plan which are central to the long term prosperity of the town.

The 2006/07 programme sees the start or progression of a number of key schemes in the town, including that in the Square, designed to make best use of the road capacity released by the Western Bypass. This scheme brings together a number of the key elements so the overall programme including bus priority, traffic management and significant improvements to the walking and cycle networks and public space. The programme is phased to match the completion of the Western Bypass as closely as possible.

The programme also includes essential complementary investment in travel behaviour management to maximise the benefits of improvements to infrastructure and services. For example the Pilton College cycle route has been derived from, and will be fully supported by, the college's travel plan, upon which its success will depend.

Towns, Villages and Rural Communities

This programme provides for LTP schemes outside the conurbations covered by the Sub Regional and Area Programmes. It comprises a package of schemes to improve road safety, improve air quality, improve the quality of public spaces and tackle congestion.

The improvements to road safety are targeted at delivering priority school travel plan schemes. These schemes have an important part to play in promoting healthy travel by changing attitudes to travel in favour of sustainable modes and in tackling local congestion.

There is also a focus on improving accessibility – a flexible approach to addressing the accessibility needs of the disabled and those in remote areas with poor access to conventional transport provision.

This part of the programme also includes provision for schemes designed to improve the quality of public spaces, improve the street scene and help promote economic activity.

Travel Awareness, Traveline, Commitments and Programme Management

Travel awareness campaigns and initiatives will be promoted across the County, focusing mainly on the urban areas. This programme also includes funding for commitments for outstanding land settlements, notably the Haldon Chalets scheme.

8. Detailed Programmes for School Travel Plans; Public Transport Facilities; and Local Priority Links and Access Improvements

As explained in the introduction to this report, the Highways and Traffic Orders Committee's are being asked to allocate funding for projects to be determined locally and funded from the Towns, Villages and Rural Communities Programme. Each HATOC has been allocated £65,000 to be spent on works related to the implementation of School Travel Plans; £15,000 to be spent on Public Transport facilities; and £30,000 to be spent on local access improvements.

The following table sets out a proposed programme for these elements of the LTP to be delivered locally in within the North Devon HATOC's area in 2006/07.

Towns, Villages and Rural Communities Programme: Proposed Allocations for 2006/07

Programme	Scheme Details	Cost (£,000s)
School Travel Plans		
North Molton Primary	Variable Message Sign Contribution	3
Combe Martin Primary	PROW footpath upgrade	3
Braunton Community College	Chivenor Roundabout pedestrian barrier and road crossing enhancement.	3
Braunton Community College	Bus pick up pedestrian waiting area	6
South Molton Infants	Shelter for pedestrian pick up area.	3.5
Kingsacre Primary Braunton	Saunton Park Safety Campaign	1
Kingsacre Primary Braunton	Saunton Road Pedestrian Crossing	8
Witheridge Primary	Footpath link Apple Tree close to the school	2.5
Witheridge Primary	Footpath improvements Fore Street/Village	20

	Centre	
Contingencies	General sum to fund new SCP priorities identified during 2006/07	10
Ilfracombe College	Rugby Club pick up area improvements. (RESERVE)	10
Braunton Community College	Williams Arms Pedestrian Crossing Improvements (RESERVE)	10
	Total	80
Public Transport Facilities		
Croyde Village Centre	New Bus Shelter (stone)	6
Croyde Down End Unison Site	New Bus Shelter	4
Braunton Homer Road	Refurbish or replace existing shelter	3.5
South Molton Raleigh Park	New Base for shelter relocation	1.5
All Areas Bus Facilities	Bus Boarders & Clearways (RESERVE)	2
Ilfracombe Wilder Road	New Shelter (RESERVE)	8
	Total	25
Local Priority Links and Access Improvements		
Caen Street Braunton	Footway Improvement Phase 2	15
Tews Lane Bickington	Cycle Link – Land Purchase	5
Disabled Access Groups	Mobility Improvements	10
Croyde Moor Lane	Footpath Enhancement (RESERVE)	10
Yelland to Yelland Quay	New Cycle Link(RESERVE)	15
	Total	55
TOTAL		155*

* Note: the allocations from the Towns Villages & Rural Communities Programme include an element of over programming to allow for any slippage in the programme.

9. Sustainability Considerations

The objectives and strategies of the Devon Local Transport Plan aim to improve travel choices and reduce unnecessary use of the private car, as a contribution to improving Devon's environmental, social and economic well being.

10. Reasons for Reaching the Recommendation

The recommendations promoted in this report have followed the principles and objectives set out in "Devon on the Move". The DfT have assessed the 2005 "Devon on the Move" Annual Progress report as "promising". The programmes proposed in section 7 of this report continues the implementation of the agreed objectives throughout the North Devon area as part of the Devon Local Transport Plan 2006-2011.

11. Alternative Options Considered

The programmes set out in this report have been developed to maximise the efficiency of transport across all modes, whilst following the principles of the strategies set out in the Plan. The programmes are under continuous review to reflect transport need and changing circumstances.

Joe Deasy

County Electoral Divisions: All in North Devon Area

Borough Council Wards: All in North Devon Area

Local Government Act 1972

List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Ref
1. Devon Local Transport Plan	2006 - 2011	
2. Annual Appraisal Report	July 2005	

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