

Local Transport Plan

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

YEAR FOUR
2003-2004



Environment:

protection & enhancement

Integration:

transport & land use planning

Safety:

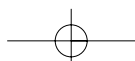
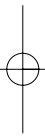
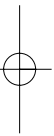
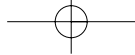
for all travellers

Accessibility:

for all

Economy:

efficient & sustainable growth



Local Transport Plan

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2003/2004

Further copies of this document can be obtained from:

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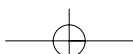
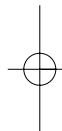
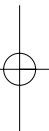
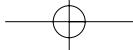
Copies of the Annual Progress Report(s) and full five year Local Transport Plan are available to inspect in the central libraries or Council reception areas.

Further information regarding the Swindon Borough Local Transport Plan can be obtained from the Transport Planning Team at the above address or
Email: transportplanning@swindon.gov.uk
Internet: www.swindon.gov.uk

Celia Carrington
Director of Environment and Property
July 2004

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Executive Summary

Swindon Borough Council's Local Transport Plan 2001-2006 sets out a five-year integrated transport strategy for the area. This fourth Annual Progress Report provides details of the progress and achievements made in 2003/2004. It also sets out the developments to improve the strategy through consultation and best practice. The objectives of the Plan are:

- To protect the **environment** by reducing air pollution, noise and physical impact of roads, car parks and traffic;
- To improve the **safety** and health of transport users and non-users;
- To enable and encourage development of the local **economy** within a more sustainable environment;
- To develop a transport system which is more **accessible** and provides travel choice opportunities for all people; and
- To promote the **integration** of all forms of transport, and ensure that land use planning and transport integration, determines future development decisions in the Borough.

On the whole, good progress has been made with the Local Transport Plan programme. Over 80% of the schemes planned for 2003/04 have been completed, and 75% of the £5.222 million Government funding plus £9.230 million from the Council coffers has been spent successfully. Since the end of the financial year (April 2004) a further £1 million expenditure has been achieved on schemes now completed. Seven of the nine Government-set core targets are on track to be met by the end of the current Local Transport Plan period in 2006, and 19 of the 23 local targets are also on track to be achieved. Where targets have proved challenging, such as increasing the number of cyclists, the Council has put further resources into creating good cycle routes.

2003/04 Delivery of Schemes on the Ground

The Council has successfully completed 18 schemes this year, and continues to progress those schemes not yet complete but programmed for 2003/04 as well as 2004/05 schemes.

Swindon's park and ride strategy continues to go from strength to strength. Patronage is now over 350% of the levels at the start of the Local Transport Plan.

The final batch of old bus shelters were replaced under the Adshel bus shelter contract. A total of 59 bus stops have been upgraded improving the attractiveness of bus travel.

The upgraded pedestrian route between the bus station/town centre and the rail station was completed. This is of particular benefit to both first time visitors and the mobility impaired.

Substantial progress has been made on the cycle strategy during 2003/04, specifically through scheme delivery where an additional 3km of off-road cycletrack has been completed.

The road safety and traffic management strategy has been progressed through the continued work of the Wiltshire and Swindon Safety Camera Partnership.

Progress towards Targets and Objectives

The Council has organised its Local Transport Plan under three key headings. Progress in these areas is described below.

Providing Real Choices puts the emphasis on improving access for all to public transport, cycling and walking whilst seeking to reduce car dependency. In 2003/04, 80% of schemes planned at the start of the year were completed successfully.

Public transport

Swindon buses carried more than 10.4 million passengers in 2003/04, and the numbers are increasing. The final batch of old shelters were replaced under the Adshel bus shelter contract, and 59 bus stops have been up-graded. As a result of this and other improvements carried out to give buses additional priority in Swindon, the overall level of satisfaction with the local bus services has increased from 48% at the start of the Local Transport Plan to 60% this year. As a result of the combined work by the Council and the major bus operators, 93% of bus services are now running on time, and more than 53% of vehicles are suitable for easy access particularly by wheelchair users. The percentage of rural households within 800 metres of an hourly or better bus service remains at 78% above the Government target figure of 75%. The Council continues to push to maintain the current level of service above the Government target.

In addition, park and ride continues to go from strength to strength. The services are now carrying more than 351,000 passengers per year. The Council set itself a target to increase park and ride patronage by 500% over the life of the Local Transport Plan, and has so far achieved 350%. The opening of the planned Commonhead site will help provide even greater opportunities for car drivers to switch to buses before entering Swindon and thus help to reduce the impact of congestion on both the economy and the environment in the future.

Cycling

Substantial progress has been made on the cycling strategy during 2003/4, and a further 3km of off-road cycletrack has been completed. Since the start of the Local Transport Plan 10km of off-road cycletrack have been added and 88 new cycle stands have been installed throughout the Borough at neighbourhood shopping centres. Although numbers of cyclists at the 12 sites originally nominated at the start of the Local Transport Plan as a reflection of cycling appear to be declining, the numbers using the new lengths of off-road track are on the increase.

Walking

Since the start of the Local Transport Plan, the number of people walking in urban areas has remained similar at over 25,500, as has the number of pedestrians killed and seriously injured (23) each year. However, the number of pedestrians suffering slight injuries as a result of a road accidents has declined significantly (by 36%). None-the-less, the Council continues to give additional focus to the Government objective to tackle safety in areas of disadvantage where national statistics suggest that children are three times more likely to be involved in a road accident than children in other areas.

Managing the Network seeks to increase the efficiency of the existing network, to maintain it to a suitable standard, and to improve safety. In 2003/4, 90% of schemes planned at the start of the year were completed successfully.

Efficiency

Over half a million vehicles use Swindon's roads every day. Traffic growth has been kept low with only a 1% increase from 2001/02 to 2003/04, well under the ceiling set at the start of the Local Transport Plan in 2000. Maintenance of the roads and footways has continued, the recent detrunking of the A420 has enabled this road to be brought up to the Borough's acceptable standard.

Maintenance

In total, 99% of repairs to dangerously damaged roads and pavements in the Borough were carried out within 24 hours of being identified.

Safety

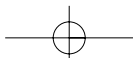
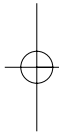
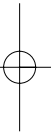
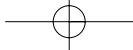
In 2000, 96 people were either killed or seriously injured on roads in the Borough. By 2003, this figure had been reduced to 71. The number of children killed or seriously injured has varied a great deal since the start of the Local Transport Plan, but the Council is now back on track to achieve the Government-set target of 50% reduction by 2010.

Complementary Strategies integrate transport planning with development plans, development control, environmental initiatives and public awareness campaigns. Within the Borough there are now 17 work-place Travel Plans and 22 schools soon to achieve their Government-set standard for the School Travel Plan. In addition, the Council continues its commitment to road safety training. The Road Safety Unit was highly commended for its outstanding contribution to road safety at the Prince Michael International Road Safety Awards in 2003, in particular for: The Swindon New College drink driving campaign: and The Hreod Parkway Secondary School Theatre in Education Video.

Local Transport Plan Spending Programme

As a result of the progress outlined, capital expenditure during 2003/4 from Local Transport Plan resources totalled £3.94 million under the following categories of expenditure:

• Park and Ride	£206,000
• Other Interchange facilities	£27,000
• Public Transport Measures	£302,000
• Travel Information Systems	£26,000
• Cycling and Pedestrian Network	£1,325,000
• Other schemes to enhance travel choice	£11,000
• Local Safety Schemes	£257,000
• Safer Routes to School	£69,000
• Maintenance of Principal Roads	£711,000
• Maintenance of Non-Principal Roads	£897,000
• Bridge Assessment and Improvement	£109,000



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