

Foreword

With the economic and environmental challenges we face, the need for effective transport planning at local level is as important as ever. This Local Transport Plan is a significant part of delivering the new localism agenda, as local transport services are at the heart of all other public services, and our daily lives.

Transport goals and challenges

The most important transport goals for Derbyshire people are supporting a resilient local economy, better safety, security and health, improving the quality of life and promoting a healthy natural environment. We must also endeavour to work towards better energy security, and promote equality of opportunity. Through local surveys, we have jointly identified a whole range of challenges we face in aiming to achieve these goals. It is these challenges that have guided what is in the plan.



Environmental issues

Environmental issues are important with, for example, the Peak District National Park and Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site within Derbyshire. In developing the plan, we have carried out environmental assessments based on different ways of achieving our transport goals, looked at their environmental implications, identified a preferred option, and incorporated the environmental measures we need to adopt within the plan.

No big story

There is no big story - the plan is made up of a great many planned activities covering well maintained roads and rights of way, efficient transport network management, improving local accessibility and achieving healthier travel habits (such as walking and cycling), and the importance of taking a considered approach to new infrastructure. The methods include transport schemes and services, influencing travel behaviour, and land use planning. By using all these methods, we will get the best value for money overall.

Local support for the plan

Local consultation has shaped the plan, and many local organisations have expressed support for it. Based on the plan, we are developing an investment protocol to clarify where resources need to be put over the plan period. Importantly, we will be placing a bid through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund to support economic growth whilst also cutting carbon emissions, an approach which also helps air quality, health and the environment.

Ongoing process

The plan is not just a written document which marks the end of the process - it is part of an ongoing process. Having defined our policies for the promotion and encouragement of safe, integrated, efficient and economic transport, and made it clear what we need to achieve, we will continue to work with local organisations and people to work out the best things to do, based on local evidence. We will also monitor the plan and keep it under review.

Transport choices

As the recent Local Transport White Paper (January 2011) emphasised, "investment on its own is not enough - we also need to help people to make transport choices that are good for society as a whole."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Lewer', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Andrew Lewer, Leader of the Council