

# Local Development Framework Briefing Paper Transport Assessments



## Devon County Council's advice to Local Planning Authorities.

*This is one of a series of briefing papers prepared by Devon County Council to assist the preparation of Local Development Documents.*

*To view this, and other briefing papers, see <http://www.devon.gov.uk/ldf-briefing-papers>*

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### Transport Assessments

***Local Planning Authorities are requested to take the following matters into account in preparing their Local Development Frameworks and other documents:***

- 1. Transportation impacts of alternative strategies - To assess, in consultation with Local Highway Authority, the transport impacts of alternative land use strategies emerging from the Core Strategy and alternative sites to determine the most sustainable locations for development. (see Section 3a)***
- 2. Transport Assessments - To include policies in the Core Strategy and other Development Plan Documents to require that applications for development/redevelopment proposals to be accompanied by a Transport Assessment. (see Section 3b)***

### Partnership Working

***Devon County Council wishes to work in partnership with District Councils, in further developing the above policy areas with colleagues and other organisations and would wish to be involved in any discussion relating to them.***

## 1. Introduction

Local authorities in Devon have a key role in the transport assessment process in their functions relating to land-use planning, highways and transport through:

- a) **Identifying strategic locations for development** – by setting out preferred locations and sites for future development, based on accessibility appraisal, prioritising those sites which enable good accessibility by walking, cycling and public transport, and identifying residual traffic impacts and proposals for mitigation;
- b) **Establishing Transport Strategy** – by working towards the preparation of a Regional Transport Strategy and preparing a Local Transport Strategy;
- c) **Encouraging pre-application discussions with developers** - to cover Transport Assessment issues, sources of information, good practice advice, and clear guidance on what developers may be expected to provide in accord with transport strategy; and
- d) **Using Transport Assessments (TAs)** - to assess the suitability of the planning application in liaison with bodies such as the Local Highway Authorities, and public transport operators.

A **Transport Assessment** (TA) is a comprehensive and systematic process that sets out transport issues relating to a proposed development and identifies what measures will be taken to deal with the anticipated transport impacts of the scheme and improve accessibility and safety for all modes of travel, particularly for alternatives to the car such as walking, cycling and public transport.<sup>1</sup>

## 2. Vision and key issues

The main transport considerations and vision relevant to the preparation of Transport Assessments and Transport Statements in Devon are to:

- a) Develop an integrated and sustainable transport system
- b) Guide new development to locations that can be served by a choice of transport modes
- c) Meet the environmental, economic, and social needs of Devon
- d) Reduce the need to travel, especially by private vehicles
- e) Promote the use of alternatives to car travel such as public transport, walking and cycling
- f) Increase accessibility for those not having access to private transport
- g) Manage the Existing Network
- h) Mitigation of impacts, through sustainable transport, improvements and management of the network

## 3. Matters to be taken into account in preparing the Local Development Documents

- a) Transportation impacts of alternative spatial development strategies

It is important that the transport impacts of alternative spatial development patterns, including cumulative and cross boundary impacts of travel, are properly addressed at an early stage in the preparation of Local Development Documents.

Some transport studies have already been prepared in connection local strategies in Devon, however, where additional transport assessments need to be undertaken in connection with the preparation of Local Development Framework documents, District Councils are requested to consult the Highway Authorities at an early stage to determine the most appropriate way forward and the programme for that work.

***District Councils are requested to consult Local Highway Authorities and other key stakeholders, at an early stage in the preparation of Local Development Documents, to***

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<sup>1</sup> Draft Guidance on Transport Assessment (published 7 August 2006) – paragraph 1.2

**assist in the assessment of transport impacts of the alternative land use strategies emerging from the Core Strategy and alternative sites to determine the sustainable locations for development.**

b) Transport Assessments

The requirement for all significant development proposals to be accompanied by a Transport Assessment is set out in Devon Structure Plan Policies <sup>[3]</sup>. With the imminent replacement of Structure Plans and Local Plans with the Regional Spatial Strategy and Local Development Documents the requirement for Travel Assessments will need to be covered include as policy in an appropriate Local Development Document.

***District Councils are requested to include policies in the Core Strategy and other Development Plan Documents to require that applications for development/ redevelopment proposals should be accompanied by a Transport Assessment (TA) to meet the requirements of the vision and key issues above.***

4. Partnership Working

Devon County Council wishes to work in partnership with District Councils, in further developing the above policy areas with colleagues and other organisations and would wish to be involved in any discussion relating to them.

LDF Briefing Paper - Transport Assessment