

Devon Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 – Panel Hearings

Met Office – Alan Douglas - Director

Issues / Concerns

- Part of Met Office policy is to support Green initiatives and a reduction in pollution and environmental harm.
- Travel to Met Office is 365 days a year, 24 hrs a day so a complex system to organise.
- 1100 staff at site on an average working day, 40 visitors a day using their own vehicles.
- Have been some improvements at Pinhoe Station.
- How fit for purpose is our current infrastructure in terms of climate change;
 - Minimise the amount of individual journeys taken
 - Encourage move to alternative energy – currently far more available for cars than rail or air
 - Encourage things like video conferencing
 - Support rail operators who provide more environmentally friendly means of propulsion
- We are an example of good practice in our green travel plan;
 - 10% cycling
 - 5% walking
 - 25% Car share
 - Less than 50% single occupancy
- Monitor both winter and summer cycling – when those who didn't cycle in Winter were questioned 1/3 said they would if the routes were adequately lit (20 individuals).
- Education to GTP success – Met Office showing master class to show how easy. Are continuing to work with community and county to encourage a wider uptake.

Recommendations

- When moved to Exeter thought four issues would be resolved very quickly
 - Improved air connectivity as a lot of visitors are from Europe, the rest of the world and the wider UK. Supportive of Paris Links
 - Improve rail link to Europe and the rest of the UK as well. Still no direct rapid link to Heathrow
 - Junction 29 – no progress so far, major issue, particularly with all the new development. Dualling of the A30, A303 give us a major alternative trunk road.
 - Integration of bus and rail ticketing and timetables – some aspects of pricing
- Support the Monkerton link road.
- Cycle routes – lighting isn't currently on all pedestrian and cycle routes.
- Vision for smart cards allowing through ticketing. Buy one card and it doesn't matter that we have to interchange.
- Sowton / Marsh Barton – Radial Bus routes – currently have to go into town and back out again – develop routes using experience from the European model.
- Should charge for parking at the park and ride site and get free travel by bus – otherwise people use parking at park and ride for free.

- Support the dualling of the A30, A303. It benefits the environmental agenda – CO2 reductions.
- Establish Exeter as a regional airport for the south west – therefore support any airport expansion.
- Support any rail improvements between Exeter and Plymouth. Support rail improvements on routes to Heathrow.
- Need to look at problems with sea level changes and climate change - Not sure how easy to find alternative rail routes.
- Not enough on site cycle facilities.