

Devon Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 – Panel Hearings

Torbay Council – Mike Fox & Peter Brunt Team Leaders Local Transport Plans

Issues / Concerns

- Combined winter population of 130,000 in sub region – Newton Abbot and Totnes. Add another 100,000 in summer up to a max of 300,000.
- Welcome close relationship with Devon – realise that links are vital.
- Dominance of tourism also insures strong links.
- One of Principal Urban Areas within the South West. Recognition in Regional Planning Guidance that suffering economic difficulties
- Has a low wage economy and is in serious need of regeneration.
- Major influence on spatial strategy.
- Route 12 (bus) is one of the most profitable in the country. It serves 25,000 people a day. Gone from a 10 min to a 7min frequency. Opportunity to Showcase corridor shared by the two authorities.
- Routes to Exeter include the X46 and Route 85.
- Cycling and walking links with Devon.
- Currently seeing - Torquay central area regeneration and of inner urban area called Torre.
- Paignton is in the middle of debate over regeneration.
- Torbay categorised as the most improved cycling authority in the south west.
- With Devon have joint car share, Kingskerswell, cross boundary corridor, rail studies, cycling schemes, freight Quality Partnership, new LTP learning disabilities summit, Rail passengers summit, 2 LTP seminars and workshops and Cycle benchmarking.
- A lot of other cross boundary working / consultation – school works, school & student council – focus group.
- Accessibility – ‘unrestrained car use is not an option’.
- Congestion – hot spots identified especially the seasonal factor.
- Safety – Education, health, traffic calming, speeds and alternatives to the car.
- Limited expenditure works – hypothetical situation.
- Exeter is the rail hub for Devon.

Recommendations

- Improvements to Newton Abbot rail station in the SWARMMS study, more capacity, freight loop, higher frequency with Newton Abbot – already got good double track line. There is currently suppressed demand for rail on the link – commuters, students and tourists would all benefit.
- Enable better integration between the Torbay spur and the line to Plymouth.
- Improve quality of bus service infrastructure on Newton Abbot – Torquay corridor – stops, flags.
- Provide real-time public transport information for buses at least from Newton Abbot to Torquay and maybe on to Exeter.
- No.1 A380 South Devon Express Way – which both councils are already committed too.
- Between 8 & 9% tourists to Torbay come by train. We have the signalling and the track capacity to allow 125's to come through Torquay and Paignton. Virgin trains links between Manchester and Newquay were very successful this summer & potential. – Devon Riviera Express. Current main users of the line are 16-30 yrs.
- Public Transport operators support the Kingskerswell bypass as it will create a reliable road space.
- Hope to revamp all the bus shelters.
- Late night buses not as late as they used to be - would be benefits to the night time economy.
- Important to consult and take the community with you.
- Looking to upgrade Torquay Station – gateway to Torbay.