

Local Transport Plan and Regional Governance

The West Midlands Strategic Transport Planning Context

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Introduction

Structure of presentation

- The West Midlands
- UK ITA's and Local Transport Plans
- The West Midlands LTP
- Challenges
- Conclusions



The West Midlands

- UK's largest urban conurbation outside London (2.6 m popn)
- Distinct sub-regions:
 - Birmingham/Solihull,
 - “The Black Country”,
 - Coventry
- Industrial Heritage:
“The workshop of the world”
- Cross-roads of the UK: “the heart of England”



UK ITA's and Local Transport Plans

- 2008 Passenger Transport Authorities (PTA's) in large UK metropolitan areas became “**Integrated Transport Authorities**” (ITA's)
- Responsible for comprehensive Local Transport Plans (LTP's) for their area
- ITAs are not a highway authority or land use planning authority
- 1st set of these new LTPs valid from April 2011

UK ITA's and Local Transport Plans

- National transport agencies with assets in the West Midlands:
 - rail infrastructure – owned by Network Rail
 - motorways – owned by Highways Agency
- Private sector bus and rail service operators

West Midlands LTP structure

- 15 Year Strategy: Public transport, highways, cycling, walking, car parking
- 5 Year Implementation Plan

2 Main Objectives

- **Economic growth**
- **Tackling Climate Change**

3 Supporting Objectives

- Health, personal security and safety
- Equality of opportunity
- Quality of life and local environment

10 “Long Term Themes”

- LTT1 Regeneration, thriving centres and gateways
- LTT2 Making Best Use of the Highway Network
- LTT3 Modal Transfer and the Creation of Sustainable Travel Patterns
- LTT4 Transport Asset Management – a foundation for growth
- LTT5 A rail and rapid transit network “backbone for development”

10 “Long Term Themes”

- LTT6 Improved local accessibility and connectivity
- LTT7 Sustainable and efficient freight transport
- LTT8 Effective and reliable transport integration
- LTT9 Improved safety and security
- LTT10 Reduced carbon through new technologies

LTP 5 Year Implementation Plan (2011/12 – 2015/16)

- Period of limited UK public sector capital funding
- All avenues of funding explored (eg land value increase “Tax Incremental Financing”)
- “Better, safer use of existing assets and limited number of high impact - smart investment - major schemes”



Challenges

- Securing agreement of 7 urban local authorities and the ITA
- Vision and Pragmatism – getting the right blend – long term strategy, short term implementation plan (“the big projects” AND “the many small improvements ”)
- Effective partnership working
- The value of other supporting strategies

Conclusions

- Creating one vision – many stakeholders
- Delivery pace – culmination of many national and local decisions
- UK “**partnership working**” (very important phrase!)
- Assembling funding packages with funding sources available
- Blend of vision and pragmatism: www.westmidlandsltp.gov.uk

