

**West Wiltshire District Council**

**Cabinet**

**May 2005**

**Development Related Travel Plans in Wiltshire Good Practice Guide**

**1. Purpose**

To inform the Cabinet of the content of the Good Practice Guide and to seek approval for adoption as a development control good practice guide.

**2. Background**

Travel Plans are an integral part of the Government's policies on sustainable transport. Planning Policy Guidance Note 13 requires submission of Travel Plans alongside planning applications for developments that will have significant transport implications. To supplement this requirement the Government published best practice guidance on using the planning process to secure Travel Plans. Members will be aware that the West Wiltshire District Plan makes reference to the use of travel plans for improving accessibility to new developments and achieving wider sustainable transport objectives.

Following consultation with the other Wiltshire District Councils, the County Council agreed that planning and transport policy could be strengthened through the production of a guidance note on travel plans.

The Good Practice Guide reflects current national policy guidelines and proposes a consistent approach for the development of travel plans throughout Wiltshire. The guide was prepared following consultation between the County Council and District Councils through a Working Group consisting of transport planning, development control, enforcement and legal officers. A copy of the Good Practice Guide is enclosed at Appendix A.

The Good Practice Guide is consistent with best practice throughout the Country and is the result of research in the domain of travel planning over the last four years. The guide establishes that a Travel Plan is a strategy for managing multi-modal access to a site or development, focusing on promoting access by sustainable modes of travel. Effective Travel Plans can bring benefits both to existing communities and to new or expanding developments. They can also assist in reducing traffic congestion, widening accessibility and reducing air pollution. Travel Plans play an

increasingly important role within the planning process. Consequently, the Good Practice Guide aims to identify the circumstances when a Travel Plan will need to be submitted as part of a development proposal and provides guidance to developers on the production, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and enforcement of Travel Plans.

### **3. Key Issues**

The implementation of Travel Plans throughout Wiltshire will help to achieve national and local targets to reduce traffic, improve air quality and promote healthier travel. The importance of using 'soft measures' such as Travel Plans is emphasised in the guidance on preparing Second LTPs. School and workplace travel planning is a key part of demand management measures, which are central to the Government's transport strategy. Recently published research suggests that there is considerable potential for travel plans to address localised congestion problems. Consequently, the County Council will be seeking increased use of travel plans as a mechanism to tackle localised congestion problems.

Wiltshire County Council formally adopted the Good Practice Guide at the end of 2004. The other Wiltshire District Councils have also commenced adoption of the document as good practise for development control purposes. It is proposed that the document be reviewed after its first year as a working document. As a method for consultation on the practical aspects of the guide, an evaluation form is included within the document. The comments received will contribute to improving the document further and will form part of the cumulative evidence regarding the practical use of the guide. It is intended that this evidence will be used to progress the development of the good practice towards the status of supplementary planning document.

### **4. Options**

The Working Group considered the approach of embodying the advice in a Supplementary Planning Document. However, due to the new planning process and the need for each local authority to implement Local Development Frameworks, the Group decided that a Good Practice Guide, approved by County and District Members, would provide the necessary guidance. Nonetheless, it is anticipated that, in time, the guide will become a SPD within each local authority LDF.

## **5. List of Background Papers**

File Ref: Travel Plans

File Location: Planning Policy and Conservation Section

## **6. Recommendation**

That the Cabinet adopts the document as a good practice guide for development control purposes.

That the Cabinet agrees that the good practice guide is reviewed in May 2006.

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