LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2006—2011 : MID-TERM PROGRESS REVIEW

Thank you for submitting your authority’s mid-term progress report on implementing the first two years of the Local Transport Plan (LTP). The report has provided Government Office and the Department for Transport with a good opportunity to see how the objectives and targets set out in your second LTP are progressing.

I would like to thank you and your transport team for preparing the report and for sharing the findings with us during the course of its preparation. A key focus for us is the extent to which the mid-term report matches the original aims set out in your LTP, and how its delivery coincides with and complements the priorities set out in your Local Area Agreement and the Department for Transport's 'Towards a Sustainable Transport System' (TaSTS).

As explained at the recent review meeting, the main focus of the review is to assess progress in meeting the objectives and targets during the first two years of the LTP and to consider any opportunities or threats to ongoing delivery. The review was a means of providing support and challenge to help you meet the stated aims of the LTP. Neither the review meeting nor this letter are intended as an assessment and do not therefore carry any implied grading or performance funding.

At the review meeting, there was a discussion on the positive outcomes where delivery is on track or ahead of schedule. There were also some limited areas where you identified that performance might be improved. We welcome inclusion in the review of the ‘Improvement Action Plan’ and the continuous learning and improvement actions that you are putting in place to ensure your LTP is implemented fully by the end of its five-year term in March 2011.
In particular it is evident that momentum is gathering on delivering the ambitious programme of ‘Service Centre Transport Strategies’. The principle that a local town provides many of the necessary services for both its residents and those of the surrounding area is an effective building block. As a means of consulting and engaging more closely with communities at the local level it is good to learn that awareness and support is growing.

In many respects the localised SCTS approach draws some comparisons with that of the more expansive City regions. It is evident that North Yorkshire is engaging, influencing and collaborating with both the Tees Valley and Leeds City Regions. We are interested how you are taking your engagement forward and addressing the governance challenges and opportunities that might best meet the needs of North Yorkshire and the respective city regions.

We welcome the positive news that the majority of the key performance indicators are either already met or are on schedule to deliver and that in certain instances more challenging targets are being set. Your programme of using Comparator Authorities provides rigorous benchmarking information.

As evidenced by the inclusion in your Local Area Agreement we note that delivering improved road safety and access to services remain as high transport priorities. As a member of the ‘95 Alive’ Steering Group we see at first hand the thorough, proactive and predictive approach the partnership applies to bearing down on casualty reduction.

Your authority attended a regional workshop on 11 September, hosted by Department for Transport’s Network Management Team and consultants. DfT emphasised the requirements on the Network Management Duty, and advised that authorities amend their progress reports following the outcome of the workshops and taking into account the Guidance Intervention Criteria. DfT will send its regional summary reports by early January and these should be taken into account for work during the remaining LTP period. DfT and Government Office will continue to liaise, support and challenge on this through attendance at the Yorkshire Traffic Managers Group meetings.

We anticipate that the next progress reviews will be requested at the end of the local transport plan period in 2011. As with this review, we expect that the next progress reports will be approached as a tool for analysing progress and supporting future delivery, rather than as a formal assessment.

Thank you for your authority’s work and meeting with Alison Biddulph to discuss the draft report. I hope you find our comments helpful. We welcome your close liaison with Government Office and if you would like any further advice or support in carrying out your planned schemes or monitoring targets, please do not hesitate to contact Alison or Phil Jones in the Transport Team. Richard Bentley will of course continue working with your Local Transport Plan leads where you will want to focus on delivering the improvement actions you have identified.

As we move into the next phase of ‘Delivering a Sustainable Transport System’ (DaSTS) we will be looking for more opportunities to network and share good practice. I am aware that North Yorkshire has plenty to offer in this respect.
I trust that you will want to publish the mid-term progress report on your authority’s website.

I am copying this letter to John Marsden and to Andrew Bainbridge.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Margaret Jackson
Deputy Regional Director, Economy and Strategy