

Foreword



Travel and the way in which we travel will become increasingly important over the next five, ten and twenty year period.

The Island is at a cross roads in its development and the production of the Island Plan and this Local Transport Plan offer us an ideal opportunity to put in place the building blocks for the future. Transport is key to achieving our goals and there can be no doubt that getting our transport policies and investment programmes agreed and in place, will help us build and maintain what must be an environmentally sound, and economically vibrant and inclusive place in which to live.

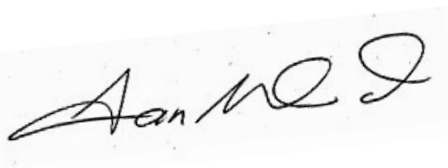
This second Local Transport Plan has built on the good foundations laid in the first Plan and developed through the provisional document submitted to Government in July 2005.

The Council recognises that we cannot improve the situation without the necessary investment and are pleased that we can now deliver free and unrestricted travel, by bus and rail for Island residents aged 60 and over. We are also confident that the "Student Rider Ticket" will be of benefit to Island scholars and are looking to deliver other plans and travel initiatives during the Plan period.

We are trying to improve the local transport infrastructure and this Plan gives details of our PFI bid and explains how, if successful, this initiative will help us bring our highway infrastructure up to an acceptable standard and support local regeneration. We were therefore understandably disappointed by the results of a change in the method of calculating the amount of money this Council will get to spend on road safety, public transport, walking and cycling.

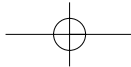
We are working with our partners to deliver our Local Accessibility Action Plans and recognise that it is only by working together that we will be able to improve transport for all and create a modern, fully integrated transport system that will help the regeneration of the Island and ensure the vibrancy and vitality of our town and villages.

There is much to do. Everybody has a part to play in helping to raise our standards and I look forward to working with you in helping to deliver a first class transport system for the Isle of Wight.



Councillor Ian Ward

Isle of Wight Council's Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport & Planning Policy



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