

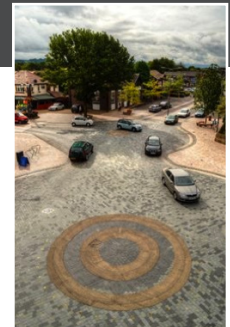
6. TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Transport and connectivity are recognised as important for economic development, but the design and provision of different transport options also affects the health and sustainability of a community and carbon emissions. Local authorities (including district authorities) have a major role in these transport decisions.

Local authorities can access national funding to support more sustainable transport infrastructure through initiatives including the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, Clean Vehicle Technology Fund, Low Emission Bus Scheme, Go Ultra Low and the electric vehicle infrastructure funds.

POYNTON IN CHESHIRE EAST

Poynton in Cheshire East was split by two major roads carrying 26,000 vehicles per day. The junction caused traffic delays, and the town centre was declining with 16 void shops nearby. A radical engineering solution has turned this into “shared space”, removing all traffic signals, road markings and barriers and creating an integrated streetscape, with no separate areas for pedestrians. On completion there was an immediate increase in pedestrian and cyclist use, a surprising reduction in vehicle congestion and 80% of retailers report increased turnover. Carbon savings can also be expected from the reduction in stop-start driving.



www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vzDDMzq7d0

MERSEYTRAVEL AND LIVERPOOL CITY REGION



Authority partners have been awarded over £400,000 from the Clean Vehicle Transport Fund to retro-fit technology to 37 buses that will reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter and CO2. Merseyside has 11 Air Quality Management Areas and occasionally breaches air quality limits. This project will reduce pollution in the region, reduce pollution-related health problems and help avoid the penalties associated with the air quality breaches.

www.merseytravel.gov.uk/about-us/media-centre/news/Pages/improve-air-quality-across-LCR.aspx

LIVERPOOL CITY BIKES

Liverpool City Council was awarded funding of £1.7m from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) to set up a city-wide cycle hire scheme. By March 2015 the scheme comprised 1,000 bikes for hire from over 150 bike stations across the city – making it the biggest of its kind in the UK outside of London. At any point in the city centre people can walk to a bike station within 2 minutes and no more than 10 minutes in the suburbs. The provision of dedicated cycling facilities within the city centre is part of a wider agenda for the city to improve physical activity, reduce congestion and improve air quality, all of which are key priorities for the third Merseyside Local Transport Plan.

The scheme was a finalist in the Best Shared Mobility Provider category of the national 2015 Smarter Travel Awards.

More information: www.citybikeliverpool.co.uk/Info.aspx





FURTHER READING & SUPPORT

Support schemes for improving local transport infrastructure:

www.gov.uk/government/policies/improving-local-transport

Case studies of projects supported through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/224172/project-summaries-consolidated.pdf

COST-EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY THROUGH SUSTAINABILITY

Local authorities across the UK and abroad are proving that taking a sustainable approach to their operations and services delivers multiple benefits, such as improved performance, lower costs and better outcomes for their communities.

Climate change or sustainability themes are embedded in national policy and appear in different guises and services areas. Recent changes have threatened to push climate change, carbon reduction and sustainability off the priority list, as authorities handle the cuts agenda, tackle public sector reform and fight to deliver critical services with fewer resources. But actively addressing sustainability in corporate plans supports cost-effective service delivery – it is not just a “nice to have” that can be discarded when budgets are tight.

This series of briefings demonstrates how many local authorities are benefitting from actively considering sustainability in their operations and services:



1. Save Carbon – Save Money	6. Transport Infrastructure
2. Generating Energy and Income	7. Economic Development
3. Decent Affordable Housing, Health & Fuel Poverty	8. Supporting Communities
4. Improving Public Health	9. Reducing Risks
5. Travel Choices	

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