

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY 2006-2009 – ANNUAL  
MONITORING REPORT 2007**  
**Meeting: ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE COMMITTEE**  
**Date: 18 SEPTEMBER 2007**  
**Author: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Following consideration by the Environment & Heritage Committee on 11 April 2006, the Policy & Resources Committee approved the Local Transport Strategy 2006-2009 on 9 May 2006. This report is the first annual monitoring report.

**2. DETAIL**

- 2.1 The appendix to this report provides where possible updated information for each of the targets in the various chapters of the Local Transport Strategy (LTS). It also summarises projects delivered since the LTS was published in May 2006. The main projects completed are as follows:
- Larbert Station Car Park extension on Foundry Loan
  - Westquarter Primary School – 2 footway/cycleway upgrades
  - St. Margaret's Primary School – 2 footway/cycleway upgrades
  - Denny Eastern Access Road Phase 1
  - 20mph Zones at Schools – Signing installed at all 56 schools ( 24 still to be activated by Scottish Power)
  - Falkirk Town Centre Parking Survey
  - Funding secured from Regional Transport Partnership for various projects (most notably Larbert Station Car Park, Falkirk High Station car park land acquisition, and the A801 Avon Gorge detailed design).
- 2.2 The various appendices to the appended report give more detail on the following:
- Traffic Growth Figures
  - Rail Patronage Figures
  - Bus Service Reliability
  - LTS Summary Action Table
  - Updated Road Accident Casualty Statistics
  - Falkirk Town Centre Parking Survey 2006 Results
- 2.3 Traffic growth within the Falkirk Council area is traditionally measured on the Motorway, Trunk Road and 'A' Class network. No recent figures have been supplied by the Motorway and Trunk Road Authority. However, traffic flow figures collected for the local road network highlight a small increase in the urban 'A' Class and a

decrease in the rural 'A' Class. The overall 10 year trend for all 'A' Class roads shows an average increase of 1.4% per annum since 1996.

- 2.4 Rail patronage figures for the Falkirk stations shows an overall continued increase in numbers - 2.21% between 2006 and 2007. The detailed figures for each station are listed in the accompanying report.
- 2.5 Bus surveys were carried out to determine the reliability of the services provided. In the morning reliability varied between 87% and 100% and in the afternoon reliability varied between 85% and 100% for buses being within 5 minutes of timetable. The detailed breakdown and routes surveyed can be found in the appended report.
- 2.6 The most recent analysis of accidents in the Falkirk Council area using a five-year average for the period 2001- 2005 can be summarised as follows:-
  - The casualty rate in the Falkirk Council area continues to be approximately 22% lower than the Scottish average.
  - Overall there continues to be a general downward pattern in the number of casualties noted in the Falkirk Council area.
- 2.7 When compared with the base five-year period (1994-1998):-
  - The average number of overall casualties has fallen by approximately 12%, with an overall decrease in the number of casualties either killed or seriously injured.
  - Higher than average casualty rates (per 100,000 population) continue to be evident in the age groups 17-24 and 25-54 years. In particular, the casualty rate for the 17-24 age group continues to be well above the average casualty rates for the Falkirk Council area.
  - There has been an increase in the numbers of casualties in the driver/rider class for the 25-54, 55-74 and 75-99 age groups compared with the base five-year average. There has been an increase in the numbers of casualties in the pedestrian class for the 11-16 age group, compared with the base five-year average.
- 2.8 A parking survey was carried out for Falkirk Town Centre in autumn 2006 and the results highlighted that overall capacity within the town centre had risen by 3% to 6,245 parking spaces with the total demand of 4,064 on Friday and 5,209 on the Saturday. Although there is no overall shortage of provision there are areas of parking pressure within the town centre and these are highlighted in the accompanying report and the 2006 Falkirk Town Centre Parking Survey report.

### **3. FUTURE MONITORING**

- 3.1 Progress on projects / actions listed in the LTS Summary Action Table, in the appended report, which are not yet completed, will be reported in the 2008 Annual Update Report.

The 2008 Local Transport Strategy Update Report will also include updates on Traffic Growth, Rail Patronage, Public Transport Reliability, and Road Accident Causalities.

The update report will also include revised car parking data for the following town centres:

- Larbert
- Stenhousemuir
- Bonnybridge
- Denny
- Grangemouth
- Bo'ness
- Polmont

#### **4. POLICY, FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Local Transport Strategy is compatible with other Council policies. The monitoring report has no financial, legal or personnel implications.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 It is recommended that the report be noted.

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**Director of Development Services**

**Date: 7 September 2007**

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### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

#### **2006 Falkirk Town Centre Parking Survey report**

Anyone wishing to inspect these documents contact Kevin Collins on 01324 504728