

Christmas 2003

# NEWS

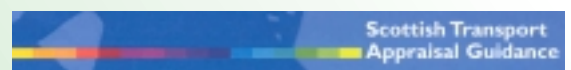


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This newsletter describes some of the projects which DHC has been working on during the run up to Christmas. If you would like to find out more about any of these please do not hesitate to contact us at the above address. There are also more details of some of the projects at [www.dhc1.co.uk](http://www.dhc1.co.uk).

## Scottish Executive takes STAG 'on the road'

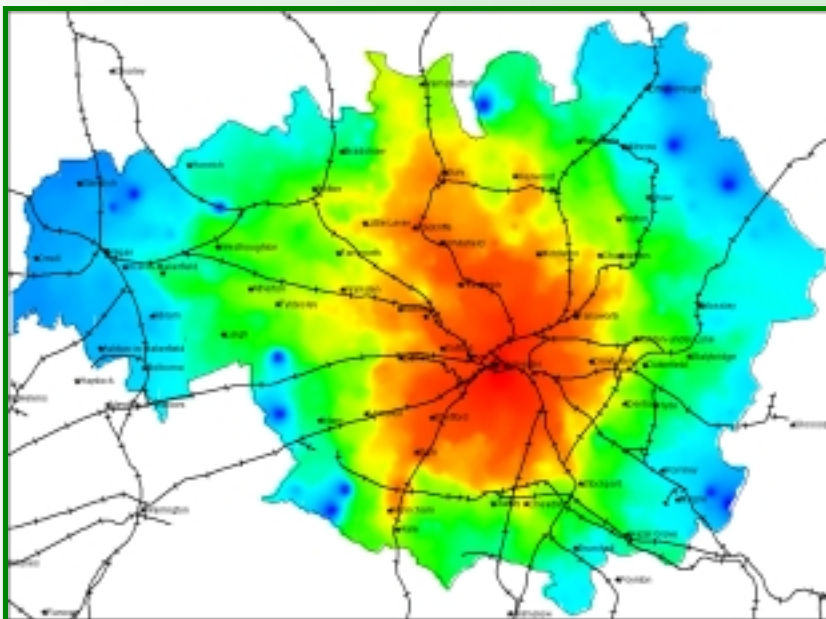


DHC assisted the Scottish Executive in their tour of Scotland to launch the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG).

Derek Halden and Paul Davison shared the task of explaining how emerging approaches to accessibility planning are being implemented in Scotland through STAG at workshops throughout Scotland. Key new requirements of STAG are to:

- Ensure that coverage of public transport networks meets social needs
- Identify how investment influences the quality of local walking and cycling opportunities
- Audit whether the most needy people in society benefit from investment plans
- Identify the location impacts of investment

DHC has optimised approaches to accessibility modelling in different parts of the country using a range of approaches. STAG emphasises that to address accessibility issues involves close joint working between transport and non-transport sectors. Accessibility modelling and joint planning processes are new challenges that future STAG appraisals will need to address.



**Distribution of Access to Higher Education in Greater Manchester**

## Greater Manchester Public Transport Network Coverage

In the Summer Newsletter we featured work on public transport network coverage in Manchester. The PTE already makes use of modelling work in planning innovative bus quality networks.

Prior to the application of accessibility modelling by DHC, the PTE were dependant on mapping that showed only walk times to bus stops, and classified the bus routes by where they went. However, these approaches did not account for travel times through networks, including interchange options, or the use of different modes. DHC has shown that the more sophisticated techniques produce more useful results and that to undertake the work with Traveline data need not be an expensive or time-consuming exercise.

## Growing the Community Transport Sector

Recent DHC studies in the urban areas of Greater Easterhouse, Glasgow and in the key rural area of North Sutherland have identified how to grow and sustain Community Transport Markets in different locations. DHC are now building on this on a project for Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) to map out the role of Community Transport. Working with the TAS Partnership, DHC are investigating options for developing Community and Demand Responsive Transport in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.



## Barriers to Public Transport

At a well-attended joint meeting with the IHT and ICE in September, Derek Halden summarised the findings of the Barriers to Using Public Transport research for the Scottish Executive.

The research found that there are three main types of barrier to be considered. Firstly, there are the "hard" factors, such as costs, time, reliability, car ownership and land use plans. Secondly come the "soft" factors, such as information, comfort and security. Finally, there are the "complementary" factors, including non-transport influences, time budgets, the need to convey others and the weather. Until now the major emphasis has been on the "hard" factors, but the "soft" and complementary factors are also important.

In particular, "soft" and "complementary" factors such as technological change, mobile offices, mobile phones, attitudes to public transport, and other lifestyle issues can be considered using both qualitative and quantitative techniques, and offer real promise in making public transport more attractive.



## D H C     A s s i s t Aberdeenshire Council in Innovative DRT Pilot

Aberdeenshire Council have commissioned DHC and the University of Aberdeen to evaluate and assist in the implementation of two innovative Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) services. The project is focusing on two contrasting pilot areas within rural Aberdeenshire and will demonstrate how practical co-ordination of rural transport services can be achieved through a managed approach to the development of DRT.

DHC have been advising on the procurement of the Information and Communication Technologies required to operate these services, and undertaking public consultation within the proposed service areas to advise Aberdeenshire Council on service design and development. DHC will also undertake service monitoring, and advise on the development and integration of services into an efficient DRT system.

## dhc welcomes Alex Hilliam and Mark Haseley

**Alex Hilliam** has joined DHC. Alex previously worked for Balfour Beatty Rail before studying Sociology and Business Studies at Edinburgh University. Alex has experience of undertaking social research using a range of research methods.



Alex is applying his skills to the growing number of Demand Responsive Transport Studies.



**Mark Haseley** has joined DHC from Ove Arup & Partners. Mark has over 5 years of experience of transport planning consultancy, working for a variety of private and public sector clients.

Mark is helping with DHC's growing workload in the development of accessibility planning techniques.

**dhc** Derek Halden Consultancy provides research and consultancy services on integrated transport issues for both public and private sector clients.

Our aim is to be a leading supplier of research, advice, and consultancy services on integrated transport. By drawing from state of the art knowledge we can ensure that solutions are soundly based and tailored to the needs of clients. If you would like more information on any of the topics in this newsletter or other areas where we may assist, please get in touch.

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