



Recently completed projects

Developing and piloting accessibility planning techniques

Multi-operator ticketing - user perceptions scoping study

Access to Scottish Airports

Transport plans for Scotland's first National Park

Health equity audit and accessibility planning in Southport

CO-OPERATE approaches to managing behaviour change

Laurencekirk station STAG appraisal

Glasgow Community Transport Operators Group management healthchecks

Accessibility Planning Guidance Published

Between May 2003 and April 2004 DHC and the University of Westminster led a major project for the Department for Transport to develop and pilot accessibility planning techniques across England. The results of this work provided a major input to the national guidance published in August 2004 (www.accessibilityplanning.gov.uk).

All local authorities in England outside London are being required to prepare accessibility strategies as part of their 2005 Local Transport Plans, with detailed accessibility plans to follow in 2006. The DfT guidance sets out policies, procedures, and issues to be considered, but in simple terms it involves:

- Identifying through clear and consistent evidence from qualitative and quantitative sources where there are gaps in service provision for access to work, health, learning, shopping, and leisure, particularly for those people who are most in need.
- Knowing who benefits from accessibility changes resulting from transport, land use, and other service delivery changes i.e. does the local transport strategy provide the greatest benefits for rich or poor, rural or urban, old or young.
- Multi-sectoral delivery of joint action plans targeting accessibility issues including integrating socially necessary transport service provision, and improving improved information on transport options.

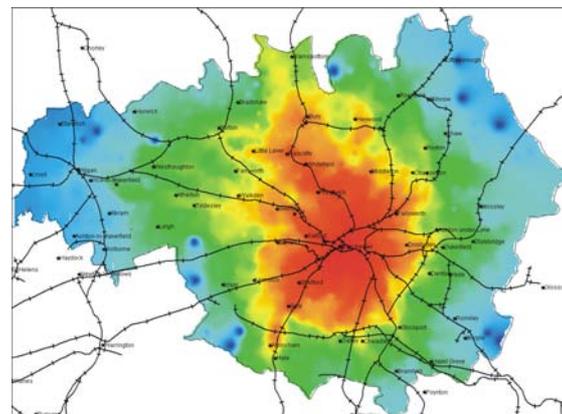
Delivery of accessibility planning in the coming years is certain to be challenging, but the evidence from the pilots is that the process provides a mechanism for different sectors (funders and providers, commercial and social, health/education/employment/transport/social inclusion) to work together to tackle access to opportunities overcoming traditional barriers to joint delivery.

Accessibility Modelling for DfT Pilots

One important source of evidence in accessibility planning is mapping work, and DHC undertook the mapping work for the eight DfT pilots demonstrating how the new national indicators and more local measures of accessibility can be calculated using in house ACCALC modelling methods.

DHC's accessibility modelling software ACCALC has been progressively developed over the last five years from the initial version sponsored by the Scottish Executive in 1999, which was designed primarily for use in small development planning applications.

These tools were further developed during the accessibility piloting project for DfT. By working in partnership with Automatica Ltd., DHC has now run models with over 10,000 zones and which have automatic import facilities from public transport databases. These modelling methods are therefore now proven in work for both DfT and Scottish Executive and can be set up for use in house within local authorities.



When are Multi-Operator Tickets Needed and how can they be Delivered?

Between May and July DHC and Atkins, reviewed the needs and opportunities for developing multi-operator tickets (MOTs) based on user needs. The work was commissioned by DfT as part of a work programme being overseen by the National Bus Partnership Forum. The focus of the work was on bus, but integration with rail, tram and other modes was also included when relevant to bus ticketing.

The research team contacted many local authorities and operators to discuss experiences of current schemes and any new proposals. A database of existing schemes was developed and the research showed that MOTs are important tools for marketing public transport, and widening its attractiveness to more people. In particular MOTs:

- May be a more suitable product for corporate purchase e.g. as part of employee travel plans. Can attract new bus travellers by reducing uncertainty about paying for bus travel.
- Widen availability of the bus tickets generally with a potentially greater number of sales outlets prepared to sell MOTs.
- Are perceived positively by users and non users and could act as an incentive/benefit for users to move to smartcard ticketing technology.

Further work is being undertaken to investigate successful schemes across the country and to understand in more detail the factors affecting user perceptions and success locally.

Supporting Travel Planning at Scottish Airports

Airport Transport Forums at Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen airports are developing travel plans to improve access to work. To support this work DHC was asked to analyse the employment catchments at each airport based on current public transport services and to suggest how these could be improved, in particular through public transport improvements to areas of high unemployment.



In addition to developing accessibility models for these three cities to analyse the catchments, DHC interviewed key stakeholders to identify workable action plans to improve access.

To take forward improvements, funding is needed from several partners, and this is being managed through the Airport Transport Forums. (Contact Derek Halden derek@dhc1.co.uk)

Behaviour Change through Individual Action Programmes

The CO-OPERATE project was funded under the DfT Future Integrated Transport Research Programme to identify the next generation of rural transport management and marketing solutions. Current trends show that rural transport is progressively moving towards approaches that are more: needs responsive and demand responsive, technologically supported, and delivered through joint working. The CO-OPERATE project:

- Explored ways to help communities deliver accessibility improvements.
- Identified how to build capacity amongst individuals and communities to solve their needs.
- Proposed travel awareness/marketing techniques including using new technology to develop communication networks on rural accessibility.
- Developed a toolkit from best practice which can be applied in future action programmes to promote rural accessibility

A restricted test programme was implemented in Aberdeenshire and future plans are for larger scale pilots to test and develop the approaches more widely in other areas. (Contact Alex Hilliam alex@dhc1.co.uk)



Transport Solutions for the Park

The Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park area experiences many of the common problems experienced by residents of, and visitors to, rural areas of Scotland. The creation of the Park Authority provides an opportunity to tackle these problems in an integrated way, working with the local communities.

This study sought to provide a strong evidence base for understanding local community needs and developing practical improvements. Current usage of public transport is generally low, and a priority is to improve knowledge of, and use of services. Plans were suggested by the research and are now being taken forward with partners in communities, businesses, transport providers and public authorities to implement sustainable approaches for residents and visitors to meet their health, education, employment, and tourism needs. (Contact Paul Davison paul@dhc1.co.uk)

Full Steam Ahead on Railway Projects

The legislation and funding are now in place for the re-opening of the Stirling Alloa Dunfermline railway and construction should start in the autumn. The multi-stranded approach developed by DHC to build support for this scheme was recently highlighted by the local campaign group as being central to its successful delivery.



For Laurencekirk station re-opening, a similar approach has been adopted by DHC with community engagement and clear expression of economic development and accessibility benefits being central to the STAG appraisals. Working with Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick, DHC has been able to deliver robust appraisals which should help deliver optimal solutions for Laurencekirk. (Contact Derek Halden derek@dhc1.co.uk)

Recently Awarded Projects

Public transport accessibility mapping in Aberdeen City

Review of transport and the rural economy (for the Countryside Agency)

Evaluation of patient transport to the Beatson oncology unit in Glasgow including user perceptions

Scottish Executive review of demand responsive transport

Community transport and social exclusion

Accessibility indicators from the Scottish Household Survey

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