

Summer 2003

NEWS

dHc

Ltd

12 Melville Terrace
Stirling, FK8 2NE
And
7-9 North St David Street
Edinburgh, EH2 1AW

T +44(0)1786 448005 F +44(0)131 5249611 E mail@dhc1.co.uk W www.dhc1.co.uk

This newsletter describes some of the projects which DHC has been working on over the last 6 months. If you would like to find out more about any of these please do not hesitate to contact Derek Halden or Paul Davison at the above address. There are also more details of some of the projects at www.dhc1.co.uk.

Common Ground in Community Transport

Community Transport is increasingly recognised as meeting important needs outside mainstream provision, issues brought recently to fore with the publication of the Social Exclusion Unit's work

on transport. DHC has been working with Aberdeen University to review developments in two very different regions of Scotland. The needs of people in reaching and using everyday services, that are often taken for granted, are similar in both areas. In **Greater Easterhouse**, regeneration of the

economy, housing and the environment needs to be matched by appropriate transport solutions in which the community has a stake. Access to healthcare elsewhere in the city is a specific issue where community transport can make a big impact. In **North Sutherland**, we have been reviewing transport funded through Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) funds, with the objective of understanding transport needs in one of the remotest rural regions of western Europe and making recommendations for future support.



Community Minibus at Durness

Public Transport Network Coverage in Greater Manchester

DHC and the University of Westminster were appointed by Greater Manchester PTE and DfT to identify how to assess whether public transport met the needs of people and businesses in the area. Key uses of public transport accessibility measures include:

- Identification of gaps in the overall public transport network and priority areas for service improvement.
- Evaluation of the contribution of new services to the overall utility of the net-

work (these could range from new subsidised bus services to major light rail schemes).

- Assessment of the contribution that subsidised bus services make.
- Determination of how changes in commercial bus networks over recent years have impacted on access.
- Use for site accessibility measurement and development control.
- Presentation of detailed local maps highlighting the travel opportunities available to a community or from a destination (e.g. GP surgery).
- Development of school and company transport plans.

Children and Sustainable Transport

It could be argued that the last decade has seen a shift in transport policy and research from meeting the perceived demands of travellers to understanding their attitudes and reasons for behaviour. The field of travel behaviour and the wide range of what are termed "soft" measures has grown up to meet policy objectives by influencing the root drivers of expressed travel need. Work being undertaken by DHC for the Scottish Executive is trying to understand the attitudes of the next generation of transport users, where they develop such understanding, and how much it influences their behaviour and that of their parents. Lots of detailed discussions with children, teachers and questionnaires to their parents will shed light on the importance of transport issues are to young people, and give pointers on the best ways of influencing behaviour that lasts into adulthood. Results will be complete in Autumn 2003.



Photo: Sustrans, Jason Patient

Key aims are to ensure that the accessibility measures reflect how people behave and perceive the public transport options available to them.

Contact Us:
Telephone: 01786 448005

Fax: 0131 524 9611

E-mail: mail@dhc1.co.uk

12 Melville Terrace, Stirling, FK8 2NE
Website: www.dhc1.co.uk

Co-operate Workshop Pays Dividends

DHC is working with the University of Aberdeen to improve understanding of the factors that motivate individual and community action to meet rural transport requirements. The project, involving collaboration between academia, the private sector and public administration, will build upon current understanding of rural transport management and recent developments in individualised marketing approaches.

In the first phase, psychology theory approaches will be used to establish the roots of individuals' behaviour and identify the potential levers which will

be most effective in encouraging community-based and public transport solutions.

In the second phase, implementation of initial findings will be demonstrated in practice by incorporating them into ongoing local authority transport co-ordination activities. At the end of the project, the research will be able to



define, for each people group, the optimum mechanisms for transport providers to engage better with them, and recommend a how each stakeholder can act to develop a more integrated approach to the planning and management of rural transport.

A recent workshop, involving experts, practitioners, local authority and voluntary sector officers, investigated the scope for understanding the needs of different user groups. It was concluded that whilst such an approach may be useful for analysis, a partnership approach is needed between travellers, operators and planners to deliver successful solutions.

Accessibility Pilots Take Off

The Department for Transport, working in partnership with the Central-Local Working Group on Accessibility Planning, is to pilot accessibility planning techniques in LTP areas in England. DHC and the University of Westminster Transport Studies Group (UoW) have been appointed to lead this 12-month study with 7 local transport authorities. They will be assisted by: the TAS

Partnership, Transport and Travel Research, and CAG Consultants.

The 7 pilot authorities cover urban and rural areas and are Devon County Council, Lincolnshire County Council, Merseyside PTE, Nottinghamshire County Council, Plymouth City Council, Tyne and Wear PTE, and Wiltshire County Council.

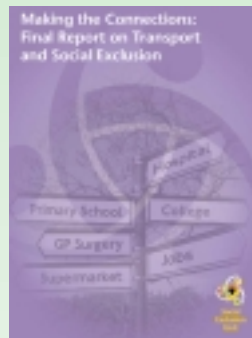
The recent Social Exclusion Unit report on transport and social exclusion "Making the Connections" introduced the accessibility planning framework to deliver joint action on improving accessibility to jobs and key services, by transport, planners, education, health, police and other interests.

adaptable, to different geographical areas. This will inform DfT guidance for transport authorities on accessibility planning to be published during 2004.

New Staff

Craig Nelson joins DHC from Aberdeen University where he is completing his PhD.

Craig has been reviewing public participation in the Multi-modal studies, considering the South-West Area study (SWARMMS) as a case study. He brings an understanding of the latest transport policy developments and the ways in which the public can engage with transport policy - its development and implementation. Welcome Craig.



The main aim of the project is to develop and test approaches to demonstrate accessibility planning approaches that are transferable, or

New Office

DHC has opened an office in Scotland's newest and most central city, Stirling. An expanding project portfolio brings further staff and responsibilities.



DHC staff check out the new office in Stirling

Feel free to contact Paul Davison, who will run the new office, who will be pleased to help you.

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

We work with other companies and individuals from a range of disciplines, bringing together the necessary skills and experience for each project.

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.

