

## Consultation on Isle of Man Transport Strategy: Key Principles

Closing Date: 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024

### Douglas City Council Response

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#### **Feedback on Strategy Vision**

##### **Vision**

A safe, sustainable, accessible and equitable transport system which supports economic and population growth on the Island.

##### **QUESTION**

**The Transport Strategy will deliver the vision detailed above. Do you have any comments, feedback or further suggestions on this vision for transport on the Isle of Man? Is there anything we have missed?**

The vision should include 'environmentally friendly' or 'reduced carbon'.  
Further suggestion – that the public be consulted to ensure the service that is required is being provided.

#### **Feedback on Strategy Principles – Strong and diverse economy**

Transportation provides economic and social opportunities and benefits that result in positive multiplier effects including better accessibility to markets, employment, and essential services.

##### **Principle 1 - Economic Growth**

Our transport system will help to deliver a strong and diverse economy and support growth in established and new sectors. The strategy aims to encourage good transport links to realise economic opportunities.

##### **Principle 2 - Affordability**

Our transport system will be affordable, operate fairly and efficiently, offer choice of transport mode, and support a competitive economy. It will optimise operational efficiency and cost by providing reliable and cost-effective transport options. The strategy seeks to do this while considering climate change commitments and promoting emissions reductions.

### **Principle 3 - Investment and funding**

Investment and funding of our transport system must reflect the true social, economic, and environmental costs, to ensure users pay an equitable share whilst recognising the principles of a Just Transition.

#### **QUESTION**

**Do you have any comments, feedback or further suggestions on these economic principles? Is there anything we have missed?**

Principle 1 Economic Growth and Principle 2 Affordability – Broad economic effects which are intangible can be enhanced further by offering free public transport, standard fixed daily fare (comparable to systems in the UK) or a scheme such as 'Fare Free Fridays'. The Committee would like to see facts and figures of cost versus budget of the islands transport provision.

### **Feedback on Strategy Principles – Building great communities**

Transportation systems enable us to build great communities and enhance our quality of life.

#### **Principle 4 - Accessibility**

Our transport system will provide communities with fair and inclusive access to places, goods, services, and work.

#### **Principle 5 - Health & Wellbeing**

Our transport system will help to protect and promote the health (physical, mental and social well-being) and safety of our communities.

#### **Principle 6 - Integrated Planning**

Our transport and planning systems must align to reduce the need to travel. Development should be focused on locations which are sustainable, thereby limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes.

#### **QUESTION**

**Do you have any comments, feedback or further suggestions on these community-centred principles? Is there anything we have missed?**

Active travel should be mentioned here. Government needs to re-energise its active travel plans and see them through to fruition.

Consideration for visitors to the Island should also be considered as a principle.

An assessment and accessibility of bus stops and shelters should be conducted as the public will be averse to using public transport if they have too far to walk to a bus stop

and or there is no shelter to protect them from the elements. Connectivity with better interconnections is also key to eliminate the need for passengers to require two or sometimes three buses to reach their destination.

### **Feedback on Strategy Principles – An environment we can be proud of**

Our future transportation systems will minimise environmental impacts. Residents and business have a responsibility to act as stewards of the natural environment and are able to make sustainable choices with regard to personal movement and consumption.

#### **Principle 7 - Environmental Impact**

Our future transport system will help us deliver our net zero targets without threatening public health, global climate, biological diversity, or the integrity of essential ecological processes. We are committed to protecting and enhancing the biodiversity our Island.

#### **Principle 8 - Land and Resource Use**

Our transport system makes efficient use of land and other natural resources while supporting a natural and built environment which respects and protects our rich culture, biodiversity and sense of place. We have control over streetscapes and will make investments to create more enjoyable living places. We will consider form as well as function in the design of our streetscapes. This includes the decommissioning of transport assets, in particular electric vehicles and their batteries.

#### **Principle 9 - Innovation**

Our transport system will accommodate technological advances to provide innovative services relating to different modes of transport and traffic management and enable users to be better informed and make safer, more coordinated, and 'smarter' use of transport networks.

### **QUESTION**

**Do you have any comments, feedback or further suggestions on these environmental principles? Is there anything we have missed?**

Active travel should be mentioned here. Government needs to re-energise its active travel plans and see them through to fruition.

Consideration for a future plan for type of fuels to operate buses.

### **Feedback on Strategy Aims**

Guided by the nine principles, the Transport Strategy will aim to:

### **Improve road safety**

Road safety is a key concern in any road transport system. We want to see a future where no one is killed or seriously injured on our roads, aligning with the Safe System Approach and aims of the Island's Road Safety Partnership to achieve this.

### **Improve accessibility**

A wide range of barriers can exist which prevent people from accessing transport services and infrastructure. We want to work with communities to remove these barriers and adopt best practice to create an inclusive transport system.

### **Decarbonise the transport system**

The transport sector is the third highest contributor to climate change on the Island. We want to drive a shift to more sustainable travel modes, and chart a transition away from petrol and diesel vehicles to reduce the emissions attributable to transport.

### **Reduce dependency on private cars**

Personal car use on the Island is high, and comprises almost two thirds of overall transport emissions. We want to see a transition away from use of personal cars for everyday trips to increased use of active and public transport.

### **Make best use of existing infrastructure**

We want to maintain and manage existing assets effectively and efficiently, upgrading and adapting where necessary to improve factors such as accessibility, safety and resilience, and support modal shift.

### **Support sustainable population growth**

The Island is targeting population growth to 100,000 residents by 2037. We want to ensure we have the necessary infrastructure to manage this growth sustainably, to contribute to a vibrant and thriving Island supported by an effective transport system.

## **QUESTION**

**These aims have been developed based on the overarching vision and principles, and will be used to shape the on-the-ground commitments within the Transport Strategy. Do you have any comments, feedback or further suggestions? Is there anything we have missed?**

There should be a vision incorporating the other public transport offerings to be interconnected. Public transport needs to be integrated for residents, and visitors, especially in Douglas.

Vision – Douglas as the capital should have a high-quality transport interchange with high quality amenities available to the public.