

The principles of transport planning: the outcomes sought

Transport planning is all about creating connections between people and places, without which everyday life cannot function. However, this aim is complicated because:

- Transport is almost entirely generated by where people and places are located
- Connections are not always through physical travel
- The impacts of transport are often greater on non-users than users.

This is why we start our transport principles by setting out some key social, economic and environmental goals. Transport planners should develop and implement transport plans and schemes which:

1. Maximise connectivity for people and businesses while minimising the need to travel – thus reducing cost for users and non-users alike
2. Manage demand as an end in itself, for example by
 - a. working with spatial planners to minimise the need for movement of people or goods
 - b. supporting options that encourage the least damaging alternatives, such as non-motorised modes, sustainable goods transport and digital connectivity
3. Meet the key quality of life objectives of:
 - a. environmental, economic and social sustainability
 - b. health and wellbeing, safety and security for all users and non-users
 - c. equality of access for all members of society to the connectivity they need
 - d. respect for the needs of local communities
4. Are integrated and provide a range of choices to people on how and when they can travel
5. Are adaptable and flexible for a range of possible future scenarios, and resilient to major shocks and events, such as extreme weather, attacks and disruption
6. Innovate and work creatively with new technologies so that they benefit the whole of society.

The principles of transport planning: how we behave

In striving to achieve the outcomes above, transport planners should carry out their work in accordance with the following principles:

1. ***Integrity:***

Provide robust, independent and honest evidence-based advice which always protects the integrity and objectivity of the profession.

2. ***Clarity:***

Explain clearly all the work we do, in particular to make the levels of uncertainty in all technical work, such as forecasting the future, transparent to experts and non-experts alike.

3. ***Make connections:***

Work across sectoral boundaries, especially with spatial planners, and give equal weight to demand management, the different ways of travelling, and non-transport solutions to transport problems.

4. ***Constructive challenge:***

Adopt an open minded, problem solving approach, be innovative, always fully consider alternative solutions, and not favour one type of investment (such as capital or revenue) over another.

5. ***Focus on People:***

Be led by clear quality of life objectives, to understand the impacts of transport plans and projects on individuals as well as society as a whole and to listen, understand and acknowledge the views of all those affected (whether users or non-users).