



The London Freight Plan – Consultation

Response from The South and West London Transport Conference

- SWELTRAC welcomes the production of the London Freight Plan and the establishment of the Freight Unit at Transport for London.
- SWELTRAC supports the objectives of the London Freight Plan and the priority areas it highlights. It also applauds the efforts made to examine strategic issues along with the practical challenge of delivering results on the ground. SWELTRAC also supports the Freight Unit working to develop links between highway authorities and freight operators.
- From SWELTRAC's perspective, the issue of funding streams is not well defined in the Freight Plan. The delivery of freight schemes through two funding sources, Borough Partnerships and the Freight Unit can cause confusion and possible replication of funding applications for schemes. Ideally the funding should come from one source.
- Traditionally, SWELTRAC has funded various freight schemes (e.g. freight studies around industrial estates, freight signage projects) and would seek to do so in the future. The Plan rightly supports the development of sub-regional Freight Quality Partnerships. With the development of new Freight Quality Partnerships (for example the newly developed South London Freight Quality Partnership) and its continued promotion, it is important that the role of sub regional organisations such as SWELTRAC in the freight industry in London be clearly defined so as to avoid replication of freight projects. SWELTRAC have already experienced this confusion and unless the issue is appropriately addressed it is sure to continue. The London Freight Plan is an ideal mechanism for resolving this.
- SWELTRAC believe there is a gap in the Freight Plan in relation to freight travel planning. There is an opportunity to decrease the number of deliveries being made to and from industrial estates, commercial parks etc by working with businesses on the estate. There appears to be a gap between the Freight Plan and the funding available for freight travel planning.
- Commenting on the specific proposals:
 - SWELTRAC would like to play a significant role within the regional Freight Quality Partnerships. We look forward to receiving further details regarding the operation and funding arrangements for the FQP. Successful engagement with

the Freight Operators is vital to the success of the FQP and careful consideration must be given as to how to achieve this.

- SWELTRAC supports the proposals to encourage a modal shift to water and rail. SWELTRAC is keen to investigate the possibility of rail freight interchanges as means of helping to achieve this shift.
- SWELTRAC would like to see specific guidance developed regarding freight travel plans.
- SWELTRAC supports the development of alternative fuel technology.

There is a mistake on page 61, Appendix A, David Hawkins, SWELTRAC, should read Ben Hawkins.

Overall, SWELTRAC supports TfL working with the freight industry and stakeholders to address the challenge of delivering freight sustainably in the Capital.

17 August 2006