

7 Integrated Transport

Plymouth City Council has invested in a sub-regional Real Time Passenger Information System (RTPI). The City Council has invested over £1.7m in a Private mobile Radio Network Real Time Information System. This includes the fitting of 171 buses and 41 bus shelter displays. The City Council strongly believes, that beyond the improved customer information through the shelter displays, internet and SMS texting, the real power of the systems comes through schedule adherence and operator management.

The City Council has also invested in the development of a Citywide, interoperable smartcard platform. The City Council has jointly funded through its Real Time Information Contract, through the City's Post-16 Partnership and private investment the upgrade of all ETM within the City. The upgrade in addition to providing the two way interface with the City's RTPI system is also ITSO migratable therefore providing a platform for interoperable smartcard development. It is anticipated to have an operational smartcard trial from September 2005.

Through ticketing is already in operation, linking rail users directly with bus services in Plymouth, and employers operating staff travel plans can use swipe cards accepted by either operator in the City.

'i+-terminals' are already in existence in Plymouth allowing journey planning and access to information about public transport, employment opportunities and health provision services. In 2005, the City Council was awarded winner of the UK eWell Being Mobility Category sponsored by Local Transport Today and the UK Centre of Economic and Environmental Development

Timetable integration is demonstrated by the service to Millbrook, whose timetable is necessarily synchronised with that of the Cremyll foot ferry, which forms an important link in the route. Almost all other bus journeys between sub-regional settlements (i.e. Callington to Tavistock) require passengers to change regardless of the time of day at which they travel.