

Glossary and Acronyms

The following pages contain definitions and explanations of various words, phrases and acronyms used in Local Transport Plan 3.

Area Action Plan (AAP)

One of the spatial planning documents that makes up the Local Development Framework (see LDF).

Accelerated Development Zones

ADZs are linked with Tax Increment Financing, raising funding for a capital scheme based on the projected future tax gains arising from the development, for example when a new transport link stimulates the beneficial use of surrounding land.

Accessibility Planning

A process of highlighting people's access to services and facilities. It is often achieved through partnership working involving a wide range of authorities, agencies and the private sector, including Local Transport Authorities, Local Strategic Partnerships, health providers, local education authorities, developers and retailers, as relevant, to ensure that people can get to key services at a reasonable cost, in reasonable time and with reasonable ease.

'Accession'

A computer-based model designed to map journey-time accessibility to specific facilities, such as employment areas, health centres and shops.

ACIS

The company that partners Centro in the delivery of Real Time Information at bus stops and bus stations.

ACPO

The **A**ssociation of **C**hief **P**olice **O**fficers.

Active Traffic Management (ATM)

A system of managing traffic flows on motorways with improved information and control signs and part-time use of the hard shoulder. It has been introduced on the section of the M42 in the Metropolitan Area and is being introduced on the M6 through the Black Country north of its junction with the M5. It is also known as "Hard Shoulder Running."

ADEPT

The **A**ssociation of **D**irectors of **E**nvironment, **P**lanning and **T**ransport (formerly the CSS or County Surveyors' Society), which brings together officers with a shared interest in all aspects of local authority environmental, planning and transport

services. It has various topic groups that share best practice and publish occasional working guides.

Advantage West Midlands (AWM)

The Government's Regional Development Agency (RDA) for the West Midlands region, set up in April 1999 to promote regeneration and economic prosperity. AWM produced the Regional Economic Strategy in 2004. It will close in March 2012. Also see Regional Development Agency (below).

ADZ

Accelerated Development Zone. This is associated with Tax Increment Financing, a possible new funding mechanism for capital projects based on future expected tax incomes arising from the development supported by the specific project.

Air Quality Action Plan

An Action Plan drawn up by the relevant local authority to deal with poor air quality in an AQMA.

Air Quality Management Area (AQMA)

An area, designated by the relevant local authority, within which national standards for at least one of a number of pollutants, including NO₂ gaseous and PM₁₀ particulate emissions, are currently exceeded or are forecast to be exceeded in the foreseeable future. Declaration leads to the development and adoption of an Air Quality Action Plan.

'ANITA'

The 'Airport NEC Integrated Transport Access' Major Scheme.

Annual Depreciation Cost (ADC)

The ADC is the aggregate cost of all the capital replacements or treatments needed to maintain or restore an asset's service potential over its expected life cycle, spread over the estimated number of years in the cycle.

Area Based Grant

Area Based Grant is a general grant allocated directly to local authorities as additional revenue funding to areas. It is allocated according to specific policy criteria rather than general formulae.

ATOC

The **A**ssociation of **T**rain **O**perating **C**ompanies

AVL

Automatic Vehicle Location. It has a variety of uses, including the location of buses as part of a Real Time Information system for passengers.

AWTP

Area Wide Travel Plan.

BCR

Benefit Cost Ratio, an indicator used to support investment in a particular scheme.

Benchmarking

The use of performance indicators and other similar measures to compare one authority's performance with another, especially in groups of authorities with similar characteristics (profiles).

Best Value

Best Value was introduced in April 2000 and is defined as a statutory duty to deliver services to clear standards (covering both cost and quality) by the most economic, efficient and effective means available. Authorities must examine their services according to four guiding principles; the Best Value regime requiring authorities to challenge how, why and by whom a service is provided; compare its performance with that of other authorities; consult service users; and use competition to get the best service available. To aid this process, Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) are adopted.

'Birmingham Box'

The name given to the lengths of the M5, M6 and M42 motorways that form a 'ring' around Birmingham and Solihull.

Black Country Joint Core Strategy (BCJCS)

The BCJCS is the spatial planning document that will guide the transformation and regeneration of the Black Country by promoting economic growth through improving the quality of employment land and aiding the delivery of a broad mix of new homes between now and 2026, supported by new shops, offices, leisure, transport and environmental improvements. The BCJCS is a Development Plan Document and forms the basis of the four Black Country Local Authorities' Local Development Frameworks. It was adopted on 3rd February 2011.

Black Country Study (Black Country Strategy for Growth and Competitiveness)

A Sub-Regional Study, commissioned in response to a request by the Deputy Prime Minister following publication of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy in 2004. It aims to identify key actions for the regeneration of the Black Country up to 2030. It helped inform preparation of the BCJCS. The study was led by the Black Country Consortium, on behalf of the Regional Assembly, and was published in May 2006. See: <http://www.blackcountryconsortium.co.uk/default.asp?PageID=237>

'Blue' Routes

A network of Emergency Service Priority routes in Birmingham, designated so as to ensure that the needs of the emergency services are taken account of in decisions made about the city's highway network, in particular with regard to traffic calming measures.

BRT

Bus Rapid Transit, to be marketed in the Metropolitan Area as 'SPRINT' services.

Bus Showcase

A bus route incorporating all aspects of 'best practice' in local urban public transport. Typically undertaken through a non-statutory Quality Partnership between Centro, the local highway authority and the operator(s) which provides:

- Improved infrastructure
- Better passenger facilities and information
- Modern vehicles

BVPI

Best Value Performance Indicator. See Best Value (above).

Cabinet

A way of running local authorities based on the Westminster model of cabinet government. Specific councillors take responsibility for a portfolio of local authority services and/or duties, for example - environment and/or transport. The 'portfolio holders' make up the authority's cabinet.

CABLED

The 'CABLED' project will showcase electric cars across Birmingham and Coventry by making Ultra Low Carbon Vehicles available to a wide cross section of 'real world' users and collecting data on their everyday use. This is part of a UK-wide trial. The West Midlands trial is led by a consortium of eleven academic and industry stakeholders working in partnership with Birmingham and Coventry City Councils.

Call Centre Association (CCA)

CCA is the UK's professional association for call centres. It is involved in benchmarking, professional development, research, influencing government and setting standards.

Capital Expenditure

In the context of Local Transport Plans, this includes not only expenditure on new roads, railways and light rail systems and alterations or improvements, but also major maintenance works and other expenditure linked with maintaining or improving an area's capital assets.

Carbon Footprint

A carbon footprint is a measure of the total greenhouse gas emissions caused directly and indirectly by a person, organisation, event or product. It takes into account the six 'Kyoto Protocol' greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride. A carbon footprint is measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent. Provisional figures for 2009 show that the transport sector accounted for around a quarter of all CO₂ emissions, not including emissions from international aviation and shipping.

Car Club

An arrangement whereby members of the Club share a pool of cars and pay for actual use instead of owning a car privately.

CCI

Carriageway Condition Index, a measurement using information from a variety of methods, including 'SCANNER', Coarse Visual Inspection and 'SCRIM'.

CCTV

Closed Circuit Television. A system of cameras sending pictures through to a control centre, usually for security or traffic monitoring purposes.

CEPOG

The **Chief Engineers and Planning Officers Group** is the officers' group that gives professional and technical advice to the West Midlands Planning & Transportation Sub-Committee. CEPOG has recently been re-organised as the Planning & Transportation Officer Executive Group.

Chord

A term used by the railway industry to describe a railway line that makes a junction with two other lines.

CIPFA

The **Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy** is the professional body for people working in public finance. It champions high performance in public services, translating members' experience and insight into clear advice and practical services, including asset management solutions.

Civil Parking Enforcement

A statutory arrangement that transfers the enforcement of parking offences, including waiting on 'yellow lines' and in contravention of loading restrictions, from the police to the local highway authority.

Class 172 rolling stock

This is a type of passenger train generally being introduced to replace Class 150 'Sprinter' trains. A Class 172 'Turbostar' has fewer seats than the 'Sprinters' but greater overall capacity due to the increased room for standing passengers as well as wider aisles intended to speed boarding and alighting and reduce waiting time in stations.

Climate Change Act 2008

This Act contains a legally binding long-term framework to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050, to be achieved through action in the UK and abroad with an interim reduction in emissions of at least 34% by 2020, measured against a 1990 baseline. The Act also creates a framework for building the UK's ability to adapt to climate change.

Climate-KIC (Climate Knowledge and Innovation Centre)

This is an initiative of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, launched in December 2009, to drive innovation in the area of climate change adaptation and mitigation through integrated and creative partnerships between business, academic and public institutions. The West Midlands is a 'regional partner', bringing together Birmingham and Coventry City Councils, Aston, Birmingham and Warwick Universities, the Midlands Energy Consortium, Qinetiq, Arup, NISP and others.

CO₂

Carbon dioxide. A product of burning fossil fuels and, thus, a motorised transport-related pollutant that is important with regard to climate change. Also see: Carbon Footprint (above).

Coarse Visual Inspection (CVI)

This is a method of assessing the need for highway maintenance work.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Community Infrastructure Levy is a new charge which local authorities may adopt to help fund local and sub-regional infrastructure that supports a development for which planning permission is being sought. It will be calculated in accordance with a published formula that relates to the size and character of proposed developments.

Community Strategy

Councils must draw up Community Strategies to improve the quality of life for local people. They must be completed with the help of businesses, voluntary groups and citizens.

Community Transport

This includes door-to-door transport services, aimed at reaching people who are unable to use conventional public transport. It includes a range of services, usually based on the use of mini-buses, provided by voluntary organisations, community groups, schools and colleges. It also includes Centro's 'Ring and Ride' service and voluntary car schemes. Community Transport services can be open to the public or only available to members of the organisation providing the service.

Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR)

This is the Government's periodic review of national expenditure for the forthcoming period, usually three financial years. The 2010 CSR has set the overall national budgets for the forthcoming four financial years, 2011/12 - 2014/15.

Control Period

This is a term, used by Network Rail, to put a timescale to their investment plans. Control Period 4 covers 2009/10 until 2013/14. Control period 5 will cover 2014/15 until 2018/19. Further Control Periods are planned quinquennially thereafter.

Core Strategy

Core Strategies are a key part of the local planning system introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. They are intended to enhance the strategic role of local authorities and set the vision for spatial change and policies in the area. A Core Strategy should reflect the Community Strategy (see above). The Local Transport Plan should have regard to the existing Core Strategy or Strategies for the area it covers.

CPO

Compulsory Purchase Order. A power vested in local highway (and other) authorities to acquire land, whether or not the owner is a willing seller, required for the discharge of the authority's functions subject to approval by the relevant Secretary of State.

CRCEE

Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency scheme (formerly known as the Carbon Reduction Commitment) is the UK's mandatory climate change and energy saving scheme. The scheme started in April 2010 and is administered by the Environment Agency.

CSS

The **County Surveyors Society** (see ADEPT).

CTC

The CTC (formerly the **Cyclists Touring Club**) is a national cyclists' (not-for-profit) organisation that has protected and promoted the rights of cyclists since 1878. It campaigns locally and nationally on cycling issues relating to cycling as a mode of transport as well as a recreational activity.

'Cycling England'

'Cycling England' replaced the National Cycling Strategy Board and was established in 2005 by the Department for Transport as an independent, expert body, working to get more people cycling, more safely, more often. It is backed by key Government departments and cycling organisations with a remit to create a cycling proficiency scheme for the 21st century ('Bikeability') and be involved with the country's first six 'Cycling Towns' (Aylesbury, Brighton, Darlington, Derby, Exeter and Lancaster with Morecambe).

DaSTS

'**Delivering a Sustainable Transport Strategy**' is a report, published by the DfT in November 2008, that sets out five goals for transport, focusing on the challenge of delivering strong economic growth while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It also provides the framework for a series of national and regional studies into multi-modal transport and access issues.

Demand Responsive Transport (DRT)

This is a bus or, more often, a minibus service that varies its route in response to pre-arranged customer demands. WMSNT's 'Ring and Ride' service is an example.

Depreciated Replacement Cost (DRC)

A method of valuation, which provides the current cost of replacing an asset with its modern equivalent, less deductions for all physical deterioration and all relevant forms of obsolescence and optimisation.

DfT

Department for Transport. The Government department responsible for national transport issues and managing most finance for local transport expenditure.

Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)

The **Disability Discrimination Act**, enacted in 1995 and significantly extended and re-enacted in 2005, aims to end the discrimination that many disabled people face. In particular, the Act requires public bodies to promote equality of opportunity for disabled people and it also allows the Government to set minimum standards so that disabled people can use public transport easily.

Early Contractor Involvement

A process whereby the chosen contractor is involved in the earliest possible stages of the development of a scheme in order to avoid later issues.

ESDAL

'**Electronic Service Delivery for Abnormal Loads**' is a system that simplifies the process of notifying the movement of 'abnormal loads' which are those on vehicles that exceed standard weight, height and/or width dimensions and which must be pre-notified to the police, highway and bridge authorities. ESDAL provides a mapping system that allows hauliers to plot the intended route and obtain full details of the organisations to be notified. It allows an appraisal of the route indicating of the suitability of the vehicle.

EU

The **European Union**

'Fitter for Walking'

'Fitter for Walking' is a 'Living Streets' project designed to improve the local environment and get more people out walking. It is a community-enabling project, aimed at making streets safe, attractive and enjoyable places where people want to walk.

Formula Grant

This is the annual Government Grant to local authorities to help support their revenue expenditure, based on a formula that takes into account a myriad of measures of the authority's and its population's needs across the whole range of local authority services and responsibilities.

FQP

Freight Quality Partnership. A partnership between the Metropolitan Authorities, commercial freight operators and other interested organisations, to promote efficient and effective distribution of freight movement in the Metropolitan Area.

FTA

The **Freight Transport Association** is a trade association representing the transport interests of companies moving goods by road, rail, sea and air.

Government Office for the West Midlands (GOWM)

Established in 1994 along with Government Offices for the other English regions, it combines the former regional offices of the Departments of Transport, Environment, Employment and Trade & Industry. The Government Offices act as a link between Government and local authorities. Government Offices are being phased out in 2011.

'Gridlock or Growth – Choices and Challenges for the Future'

A report, produced in 2006 in association with the Government's Transport Innovation Fund initiative, about the possibility and issues arising from Road User Charging in the West Midlands Metropolitan Area.

'Griptester'

A method of assessing a road surface's grip and skid characteristics.

Gross Replacement Cost (GRC)

This is the total cost of replacing an existing highway asset with a new equivalent.

Gross Value Added (GVA)

GVA is an economic measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector. It is an important measure in the estimation of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which is a key indicator of the state of the whole economy. Briefly, the relationship between GVA and GP can be expressed thus:
$$\text{GVA} + \text{taxes on products} - \text{subsidies on products} = \text{GDP}$$

Growth Points

Growth Points are areas, designated by the HCA, where large-scale, sustainable housing growth is being pursued through a partnership between local organisations and central government. By 2008, there were over forty Growth Points in England.

Hackney Carriage

A vehicle with less than eight seats licensed by the Metropolitan Borough Council for the area within which it operates. Hackney Carriages are commonly referred to as taxis. Taxis are normally allowed to ply for hire (i.e. be hailed on-street) and to wait on designated taxi ranks within the area of the Council that issues the licence and to take pre-arranged bookings anywhere. Many taxis are wheelchair accessible.

'Healthy Towns'

This was a project, announced in 2008 and involving nine areas across the country, as part of a wider public health drive to combat obesity. Dudley was one of the

chosen areas, sharing a £30 million fund to schemes related to cycling, walking, healthy eating and green spaces.

Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV)

A vehicle constructed or adapted to haul or carry goods that result in a gross total weight exceeding 7.5 tonnes.

Heavy Rail

A term used for the conventional railway system to distinguish it from light rail or tram systems. The heavy rail system is operated by Network Rail and serves inter-urban and local passenger needs and carries freight traffic.

'Help2travel'

A travel information web site, linked to MATTISSE.

High Level Output Specification (HLOS)

This sets out what level of railway services the Government wished the rail industry to deliver over a defined period.

High Technology Corridors (HTCs)

These are areas, designated in the Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands, within which cluster developments, closely linked to the region's critical research and development capabilities and advanced technologies, will be promoted. There are three designated HTCs: Birmingham to Worcestershire (Central Technology Belt); Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire; and Wolverhampton to Telford.

Highways Agency (HA)

The organisation responsible for managing a safe, reliable, efficient and environmentally acceptable motorway and trunk road network throughout England, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport. HA roads within the West Midlands Metropolitan Area are the M5, M6 and M42 motorways, a short length of the A45 east of its junction with the A46 and short lengths of the A45, A446 and A452 in the vicinity of Birmingham Airport.

Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)

The Homes and Communities Agency is a non-departmental public body with the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) as its government sponsor. The HCA's role is to create opportunity for people to live in high quality, sustainable places by providing funding for affordable housing, bringing land back into productive use and improving quality of life by raising standards for the physical and social environment.

HS2

High Speed Two (HS2) is the name of the project to build a high-speed railway line between London and the West Midlands, as a first phase, with subsequent extensions to Manchester and the Northwest and to Leeds via the East Midlands. Two stations are proposed in the West Midlands, one near the NEC, the other in

Birmingham city centre. The 'Y' shaped network will place the Birmingham Interchange Station at the heart of the proposed network.

Housing Pathfinder

Housing (Market Renewal) Pathfinder areas are designated with the aim of improving neighbourhoods where problems of low-demand housing are most acute and creating a vibrant and sustainable housing market characterised by a thriving economy, cohesive communities and an appropriate range of high quality neighbourhoods. The Birmingham / Sandwell Housing Pathfinder ('Urban Living') is one of nine across the country, funded by the Homes and Communities Agency.

ICELERT ®

The trade name of a system of Temperature-Sensitive Indicators used to show when temperatures approach freezing alerting motorists and pedestrians that ice may be present or forming on roads or footways.

ICE

The **Institution of Civil Engineers**; the professional body for civil engineers that also produces good practice advice on traffic engineering issues for its members and others.

Impact Investment Locations (IILs)

These are areas in which investment in economic development, regeneration and transport should be concentrated to support economic growth in the West Midlands region. Of the twenty IILs, thirteen are within the Metropolitan Area (Ansty, BIA Runway Extension/A45 Relocation, Bilston Urban Village, Birmingham Eastside, Coventry City Centre, Dudley Town Centre / Brierley Hill, Icknield Port Loop / Birmingham Sandwell Western Corridor, Longbridge / South West Birmingham Corridor, New Street Station, North Solihull Regeneration, Walsall Waterfront, West Bromwich Town Centre and Wolverhampton City Centre). Another one, I54, lies just outside the Metropolitan Area although access to the first (southern) phase is via roads in Wolverhampton.

'IMPREST'

The capital programme management system currently used by the Authorities to monitor LTP2 expenditure and to help inform development of LTP3.

Integrated Transport Authority (ITA)

The Local Transport Act, 2008, created six new ITAs for the six English metropolitan areas, replacing the former Passenger Transport Authorities. They are responsible for all transport policy as well as the functions of the former PTAs (see below).

Integrated Transport Block

This is the funding allocated by Government for capital transport schemes costing less than £5 million (each) designed to achieve the Objectives of the LTP2 but not including capital expenditure on maintenance.

Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)

This is a combination of Information Technology and telecommunications, allowing the provision of on-line information to help drivers and public transport passengers make decisions about travel and to aid them during the journey.

IPTP

'Integrated Public Transport Prospectus', Centro, January 2010

ISA

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal.

Joint Data Team

A team, established on the abolition of the West Midlands County Council, to maintain a central information resource to support the Metropolitan Authorities. The JDT's work, which now also includes maintaining and developing PRISM, has since been the subject of out-sourcing to consultants.

KSI

Killed or Seriously Injured – a term used in the measurement of road casualties, differentiating them from 'Slight Injuries'.

LED

Light-Emitting Diode. LEDs are increasingly used in street lighting and traffic signals because they are more energy-efficient than traditional lamps.

'Living Streets'

'Living Streets' is the national charity that stands up for pedestrians, working to create safe, attractive and enjoyable streets, where people want to walk.

Local Area Agreement

The three-year plan, adopted by the Local Strategic Partnership, to deliver the aims and objectives set out in the area's Sustainable Community Strategy.

Local Highway Authority

The county, unitary or metropolitan borough council responsible for all roads in their area that are not the responsibility of the Highways Agency (see above).

LDF

Local Development Framework. This is the spatial planning strategy, introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004, that is prepared by the local planning authority. The LDF replaces the previous system of Unitary Development Plans and is a portfolio of documents that can be tailored to suit the different needs of a particular area and can be easily updated. The LDF contains the Core Strategy with other, more detailed, plans as required.

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)

These were announced by the new Coalition Government as a replacement for the Regional Development Agencies that are being wound up by 2012. LEPs will be

sub-regional consortia of councils and businesses, containing at least two upper-tier authorities and covering functional economic areas - natural economic geography and travel-to-work areas. Their focus will be on driving economic growth and strengthening local economies, by creating the right environment for business and growth and by tackling issues such as planning and housing, local transport and infrastructure priorities.

Local Planning Authority

The district or unitary council that receives applications for planning permission for development and grants or refuses them. They also produce development plans that are designed to guide the development process. In the Metropolitan Area, planning is a function of the Metropolitan Borough Councils.

Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs)

These are non-statutory, multi-agency partnerships that match local authority boundaries. They bring together the different parts of the public, private, community and voluntary sectors and allow different local initiatives and services to support one another so that they can work together more effectively. They produce the Sustainable Community Strategy and its delivery plan, the three-year Local Area Agreement. There is an LSP for each Authority within the Metropolitan Area.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF)

This is a national fund, over four years 2011/12 – 2014/15 comprising both capital and revenue. Its aim is to challenge local transport authorities outside London to bid for funding to support packages of transport interventions that support economic growth and reduce carbon in their communities as well as delivering cleaner environments and improved air quality, enhanced safety and reduced congestion.

Local Transport Funding Settlement

The annual announcement of Government funding to local authorities, either in the form of grants, borrowing approvals or a mixture of both, for capital expenditure on integrated transport and maintenance schemes. This announcement is normally made in December for the following financial year or for the following two or three financial years.

LTP Centres

These are town or city centres designated in the Regional Spatial Strategy and LTP2 for the purposes of monitoring travel activity.

LTT

Long Term Themes.

Luminaire

The lamp part of a street lighting installation.

M6 (Toll)

Formerly known as the North Birmingham Relief Road and built to relieve the M6 through Birmingham and the Black Country, the M6 (Toll) is a 27-mile privately

financed tolled motorway between junctions 3a and 12 of the M6. It opened in December 2003. It has been estimated that over 90% of all HGV traffic on the M6 / M6 (Toll) corridor continues to use the M6.

Major Schemes

Capital projects in the LTP2 that will cost in excess of £5 million. They are funded individually by the DfT, subject to careful scrutiny of the costs and benefits.

MATTISSE

'Midlands Advanced Transport Telematics Information Services and Strategies in Europe' is a system that provides real-time, multi-modal travel information for the Midlands. Building on the successful 'QUARTET Plus' European demonstration project, electronically produced travel information is gathered from a variety of sources into a coherent package for dissemination. This allows transport operators to manage their network more efficiently and citizens to make informed decisions about their choice of travel. The system operates over the Internet and exchanges event and incident information between the MATTISSE local authority partners, transport operators and the media. The information is used by radio travel news, the Highways Agency, Police and the public via the web site: <http://www.help2travel.co.uk>.

Members

Another name for Councillors

Metropolitan Area

This phrase is used throughout the LTP to describe the combined area of the seven Metropolitan Authorities of Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton. It is also synonymous with the area of the West Midlands ITA and Centro.

MOVA

Microprocessor Optimised Vehicle Actuation. A traffic signal co-ordination and optimisation system designed for the control of traffic light signals at isolated junctions, not coordinated with any neighbouring signals, and stand-alone signal-controlled pedestrian crossings.

MSBC

Major Scheme Business Case. This sets out the costs and benefits of the proposal and is required, by the DfT, to justify the need for Major Scheme funding.

National Indicators

A set of 198 indicators adopted by the previous Government to measure various aspects of local service delivery. Local Strategic Partnerships are accountable for them and were required to adopt a small number (up to 35) of them as priority indicators in their Local Area Agreement. Ten of the National Indicators relate to transport matters. The Coalition Government has indicated that it intends to abandon some or all these Indicators to help reduce the administrative burden on local authorities. Often abbreviated to its acronym and number form, for example - NI168.

NEC

The **National Exhibition Centre**, which is located adjacent to Birmingham Airport and the M42 motorway.

NEC Option C Contract

This is one of a series of standard contracts, devised by the Institution of Civil Engineers, that offer a framework for tender and contract clauses that differ primarily in regard to the mechanisms by which the contractor is reimbursed and motivated to control costs.

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund

A Government grant available to England's 88 most deprived local authorities to enable them, in collaboration with their Local Strategic Partnership, to improve services, narrowing the gap between deprived areas and the rest of the country.

Network Management Duty

This is a duty, arising from the Traffic Management Act, 2004, requiring local highway authorities to designate a Traffic Manager whose task it is to manage the authority's road network with a view to achieving, so far as may be reasonably practicable, having regard to their other obligations, policies and objectives, the following objectives:

- (a) Securing the expeditious movement of traffic on the authority's road network; and
- (b) Facilitating the expeditious movement of traffic on road networks for which another authority is the traffic authority.

Actions to fulfil this duty include, in particular, actions to secure:

- (i) The more efficient use of their road network; or
- (ii) The avoidance, elimination or reduction of road congestion or other disruption to the movement of traffic on their road network or a road network for which another authority is the traffic authority;

In this context, 'traffic' includes pedestrians.

Network Rail

This not-for-profit making company replaced Railtrack in October 2002. They own the track and railway infrastructure and are responsible for the operation and maintenance of track, signalling and a limited number of major stations, including Birmingham New Street Station.

Network West Midlands

Network West Midlands is the recognisable single brand name for all local public transport services in the Metropolitan Area, providing a single identity for the complete network of bus, rail and Metro services. The branding is used at some railway stations in the Metropolitan Area's Travel-to-Work Area.

New and Expanded Towns

New Towns (Redditch, in Worcestershire, and Telford, formerly in Shropshire, in the West Midlands region) were designated in the 1950s and 1960s as locations to meet

the housing needs of people from the conurbation. Expanded Towns (Tamworth, in Staffordshire is the only one in the region) were similar but based on existing market towns. They were designed to be self-sufficient with both homes and jobs for the new residents. However, with the development of better transport links and people's propensity to travel further, they are now within the Metropolitan Area's Travel-to-Work Area.

New Deal for Communities

This is a Government programme to tackle multiple deprivation in the most deprived neighbourhoods in the country, giving some of the poorest communities the resources to tackle their problems in an intensive and co-ordinated way. The aim is to bridge the gap between these neighbourhoods and the rest of England.

NO₂

Nitrogen Dioxide, a gaseous pollutant caused by motor vehicles.

NRSWA

New Roads and Street Works Act, 1991.

OJEU (and OJEU Notice)

Official Journal of the European Union. This is the publication in which all invitations to tender for public authority contracts, valued above a certain financial threshold, must be advertised. The invitation to tender is often referred to as an OJEU Notice.

ORR

The **Office of Rail Regulation:** the independent safety and economic regulator for Britain's railways.

P&R

Park & Ride. A facility providing parking for cars, powered two-wheelers and cycles that provides easy interchange on to a public transport service.

'Park Mark'®

Park Mark®, is awarded to parking facilities that have met the requirements of a risk assessment conducted by the Police as part of ACPO'S 'Safer Parking Scheme', an initiative aimed at reducing crime and the fear of crime in parking facilities.

Parry People Mover

A lightweight railway vehicle that can operate on a heavy rail system instead of a conventional train. A PPM operates on the branch line between Stourbridge Junction and Stourbridge Town railway stations.

Passenger Transport Authority

Passenger Transport Authorities (PTAs) became ITAs (see above) in 2009, following the Local Transport Act 2008. PTAs were responsible for the policy and strategy for local public transport services across the metropolitan area. This responsibility included supporting bus and rail services that are not provided commercially and the provision of a Concessionary Fares Scheme providing free travel for local residents

over 60 years old or with specific disabilities. PTA functions are now part of the ITA's responsibilities.

Planning and Transportation Monitoring Group

This Member Group monitors progress with Local Transport Plan schemes and reports to the West Midlands Planning & Transportation Sub-Committee.

PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}

Particulates less than ten or 2.5 microns in size respectively, being different measures of gaseous-borne pollutants caused by motor vehicles, most often associated with diesel-engine vehicles.

Powered Two-Wheeler (P2W)

Includes motorised cycles, scooters, mopeds and motorcycles.

Primary Care Trusts (PCTs)

These are public-sector agencies, throughout the country, responsible for engaging with their local population to improve health and well being and commissioning a comprehensive and equitable range of high quality, responsive and efficient services. They oversee the work of Hospital Trusts and GP practices.

Primary Route Network (PRN)

A network of roads that link places of major traffic importance (primary destinations). The PRN includes motorways and trunk roads (most of which are the responsibility of the Highways Agency) and some non-trunk 'A' class roads (the responsibility of the relevant local highway authority). Non-motorway roads that are part of the PRN have distinctive green background directional signs.

'Primelines'

This is a network of 'Showcase' quality services, operated in Coventry.

PRINCE2

Projects in Controlled Environments is a process-based method for effective project management and a de facto standard used extensively by the UK Government and widely recognised and used in the private sector.

Principal Roads

A network of all-purpose roads, which complement the trunk road network. They are the 'A' class roads for which the local highway authority is responsible.

PRISM

The **Policy Responsive Integrated Strategy Model** is the strategic transport model that helps inform transport policy and related decisions in the Metropolitan Area.

Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

The Private Finance Initiative was launched in 1992 and underwent a detailed review in April 1995. It is the most common form of a Public Private Partnership. The aim is to provide a mechanism through which the public sector can secure improved value-

for-money in partnership with the private sector. In effect, the public sector procures the provision of fully serviced, maintained, repaired and renewed accommodation, road, bridges and equipment, etc., for an agreed period and the private sector bidder provides the services through the creation of a capital project in accordance with an agreed output specification.

Private Hire Vehicle (PHV)

A PHV is a vehicle with less than eight seats licensed by the Metropolitan Borough Council for the area within which it operates. It is not a taxi (hackney carriage). PHVs are only allowed to carry passengers with pre-arranged bookings; they are not allowed to ply for hire (i.e. be hailed on-street), nor to wait on designated taxi ranks.

PTP

Personalised Travel Planning

Quality Contract

A mechanism, introduced in the Transport Act, 2000, and amended in the Local Transport Act, 2008, to enable a local transport authority (LTA) to introduce franchising of the local bus services in a designated area. Within such an area, operators would be invited to bid to operate local bus services in accordance with criteria defined by the local transport authority, thereby moving competition for bus services from on-street to off-road.

'Quick Wins'

A series of joint initiatives with the Metropolitan Area's business community to identify congestion 'hot spots' with the aim of delivering small scale highway improvements that complement other programmes and improve overall highway efficiency.

Ramp Metering

This is a traffic management technique to manage the number of vehicles joining a motorway at peak periods by the use of part-time signals on the slip road to control the rate at which vehicles can join the motorway.

Rapid Transit

A generic term encompassing light rail, tramway and guided bus systems.

Real Time Information (RTI)

An electronically based system of passenger information provision. Displays at bus stops or stations provide up-to-the-minute information on the public transport services that use the stop or station. In Coventry, RTI is being used along Bus Showcase routes.

Red Routes

Red Routes improve the efficiency of the main roads by a regime of improvements and controls. These include:

- Road improvements generally within the Red Route highway boundary and improved/innovative traffic signalling.

- Controls that deal better with congestion caused by parked vehicles (in many cases illegally and unsafely) together with better enforcement to maximise compliance.

Red Routes ensure that the main roads operate as efficiently as possible so that people and goods can move about the network with less delay. As the strategy makes the main roads operate more efficiently opportunities arise to:

- Move more traffic and/or reduce delays; or
- Provide improvements for other priority road users

This flexibility in the Red Route concept provides the ability to strike required balances by picking the appropriate measures from the Red Route 'menu' of measures to resolve local problems and issues.

Regeneration Zones (RZs)

These are areas designated in the West Midlands RSS to: encourage urban renaissance; help reverse the long-standing trends of decentralisation of economic activity and population; and encourage the regeneration of local economies. There are four in the Metropolitan Area: Coventry & Nuneaton; East Birmingham & North Solihull; North Black Country & South Staffordshire and South Black Country & West Birmingham.

Regional Assembly

A body consisting of councillors and representatives from the private and voluntary sectors. England's eight regional chambers and assemblies were set up in 1999 to scrutinise the work of the country's eight regional development agencies. They were disbanded in April 2010 and replaced by the Leaders' Boards.

Regional Development Agency

An agency set up by Government to promote economic growth and regeneration. There is one RDA in each of the eight English regions and one for London. The RDA for the West Midlands is Advantage West Midlands. The Government announced in June 2010 that RDAs will cease to exist beyond March 2012 and that economic development and regeneration will be led by Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).

Regional Freight Strategy

A Strategy developed by the former Regional Assembly working in close partnership with local, regional and national stakeholders, aimed at providing a robust framework for more efficient and sustainable freight movements in the region.

Regional Funding Advice (RFA)

Regional Funding Advice was a response to Government's request that each region provides advice on investment priorities for transport, housing, regeneration and economic development. The West Midlands Regional Funding Advice, 2009-2019, was submitted to government in March 2009. It covers public investment of over £800 million per year.

Regional Growth Fund

This is a new national fund which, over the three years 2011/112 – 2013/14, will *“be used to encourage private sector enterprise, create sustainable private sector jobs and help places currently reliant upon the public sector make the transition to*

sustainable private sector led growth" ('Local growth: realising every place's potential', Cmd No. 7961, October 2010).

RRDP

Regional Rail Development Plan

Regional Rail Forum

The West Midlands Regional Rail Forum is made up of representatives from all local authorities with transport responsibilities, train operating companies and major employers in the region. It aims to represent the needs of the region for improved rail services and to ensure that the region's voice is heard when decisions on rail investment are made.

Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)

This is the framework for decisions on planning, transportation and other related issues across a region. It contains the Regional Transportation Strategy, which gives a more detailed framework particularly for the development of local transport plans. It is adopted by the Regional Assembly. The Localism Bill (December 2010) proposes the abolition of RSSs.

Regional Transport Priorities

These were produced by a partnership of the local transport authorities, Centro/West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority, the Highways Agency, Network Rail, the West Midlands Business Council and the West Business Transport Group in the name of the former West Midlands Regional Assembly in response to a request by Government in 2007. The work undertaken in the production of these 'Priorities' continues to help inform current decision-making.

RIDDOR

The **R**eporting of **I**njuries, **D**iseases and **D**angerous **O**ccurrences **R**egulations, 1995; a part of Health & Safety legislation.

Rights of Way

Local rights of way are defined in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000, as footpaths, cycle tracks, bridleways and restricted byways within a local highway authority's area and the ways within the authority's area that are shown in a definitive map and statement as restricted byways or byways open to all traffic.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP)

Introduced in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000, these are statutory plans adopted by the local highway authority setting out how existing rights of way will be improved and new links provided to create a better rights of way network for pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians and people with mobility difficulties.

'Ring and Ride'

This is a dial-a-ride, door-to-door transport service for residents of the Metropolitan Area who have a mobility problem that makes it difficult or impossible to use conventional public transport. The service covers the whole the Metropolitan Area,

divided into three operating areas, with ordinary journeys possible up to half-a-mile into an adjoining area. A limited service for longer 'cross-boundary' journeys is available by special arrangement.

RoSPA

The **R**oyal **S**ociety for the **P**revention of **A**ccidents.

Road Safety Partnership

The West Midlands Road Safety Partnership is a group of agencies that work together to help reduce casualties on roads in the Metropolitan Area. The Partnership Board includes representatives of the seven Metropolitan Councils, the Highways Agency, RoSPA, West Midlands Fire Authority and West Midlands Police.

Route Utilisation Strategy (RUS)

An assessment, by Network Rail, of how different rail services on a selected route or within a specific area operate and interact in order to inform the development of timetables that can delivery reliability and provide an appropriate balance between passenger and freight demand. The findings of a RUS may lead to the need for specific investment to meet demand.

Safer Routes to School

A travel awareness campaign that encourages parents who normally drive children to school to allow them to walk, cycle or use public transport instead. The aim is to reduce road congestion at peak times, reduce danger to pupils on their way to school and develop better road sense in children.

Safer Travel Team

A team of Police and Community Support Officers set up to tackle anti-social behaviour on buses in the Metropolitan Area. They work in partnership with the bus operators and also help tackle fare evasion.

SCANNER

A method of measuring the condition of a road surface.

SCOOT

Split **C**ycle **O**ffset **O**ptimisation **T**echnique is a tool for managing and controlling traffic signals in urban areas. It is an adaptive system that responds automatically to fluctuations in traffic flow through the use of vehicle detectors embedded in the road.

SCRIM

Sideway-force **C**oefficient **R**outine **I**nvestigation **M**achine which is used to assess a road surface's grip and skid characteristics.

Section 8 Agreement

Section 8 of the Highways Act, 1980, allows local highway authorities to enter into agreements with each other for, or in relation to, the construction, reconstruction, alteration, improvement or maintenance of a highway for which any party to the agreement are the highway authority.

Section 31 Grant

Section 31 of the Local Government Act, 2003, enables Government to pay grants to local authorities in England and Wales. This provision is usually used for exceptional expenditure not covered by other funding arrangements, for example to rectify a situation caused by flooding or other such disaster.

Section 106 Agreement

This is a legal agreement between a developer and local planning authority, attached to a planning permission, to undertake some works, contribute to a fund or not to do something associated with the proposed development that would normally otherwise be outside the control of planning permission conditions. Derived from section 106 of the Town & Country Planning Act, 1990, they are also known as 'section 106 obligations' and sometimes referred to as 'planning gain'.

Section 278 Agreement

An agreement for private sector funding of works on the highway network to ensure delivery of mitigation works identified and determined as necessary for planning permission for a development to be granted. Such agreements are made under section 278 of the Highways Act, 1980, as amended by section 23 of the New Roads and Street Works Act, 1991.

Smart Card

An electronic form of pre-payment ticket for use on buses and other forms of public transport, with the possibility of it also being useable for paying for other transport services, such as parking charges, or non-transport services. Sometimes referred to as an 'electronic purse'.

'Smarter Choices'

A range of initiatives designed to encourage people to make informed decisions about their choice of how or whether or not to travel, including consideration of sustainable travel alternatives to single-person use of the private car. It is associated with TravelWise ® campaigns.

Social Exclusion

This term is used to describe people or areas that suffer from a combination of factors that include unemployment, high crime, low incomes and poor housing.

Social Exclusion Unit (SEU)

Set up by the Government in December 1997 to help reduce social exclusion by producing "joined-up solutions to joined-up problems". The SEU works with Government departments to research, implement and promote policies that tackle social exclusion and poverty.

'SPRINT'

The brand name for bus-based rapid transit in the Metropolitan Area.

Statutory Quality Partnerships (SQPs)

Introduced in the Transport Act, 2000, and amended in the Local Transport Act, 2008, these are schemes developed by the relevant public transport authority in partnership with one or more local bus operators and designed to deliver improved quality in local bus service provision. The 2008 Act allows schemes to include provisions relating to timings, frequencies and fares.

Statutory Undertakers

Often also referred to as 'the Utilities'; they include the companies providing electricity, gas, sewerage, telecommunications and water services with equipment under the highway. Although privatised, they have statutory rights of access to their equipment.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

A process required by European Directive and adopted into national legislation whereby certain local authority plans and programmes have to be assessed for their potential impact on the environment with appropriate mitigation measures identified.

Supplementary Business Rates

A way of raising locally determined finance through a supplement to the national Business Rates that would remain to be spent in the local area.

'Sustainability West Midlands'

A not-for profit company that works with its members who are leading individuals and organisations in the business, public, and voluntary sectors across the West Midlands region. It aims to help businesses and communities thrive in a future region that is environmentally sustainable and socially just. It does this by acting as a catalyst for change through our advice to leaders, developing practical solutions with members and sharing success through communications.

Sustainable Travel Demonstration Towns

A national initiative to demonstrate the effect a sustained package of 'Smarter Choice' measures can have when coupled with infrastructure improvements. The 'Demonstration Towns' were Darlington, Peterborough and Worcester.

'Sustrans'

'Sustrans' is the sustainable transport charity that has a vision of people choosing to travel in ways that benefit their health and the environment. It was the force behind the creation of the UK's National Cycle Network made up of more than 12,000 miles of traffic-free walking and cycling paths, quiet lanes and on-road cycling routes for people to use to get to work, school, the shops or just for exercise and fun.

TAMPs

Transport Asset Management Plans.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

This will be new borrowing powers to enable local authorities to borrow against future additional uplift within their business rates base, specifically to fund key infrastructure

and other capital projects that will support locally driven economic development and growth.

TBT

'Transforming Bus Travel', Centro, April 2009

TR22 Assessment

This is a methodology, recommended by the Institute of Lighting Engineers, to assess the condition of street lighting columns and to prioritise them for structural testing and replacement.

Traffic Management Act, 2004 (TMA)

See Network Management Duty (above) and Traffic Manager (below).

Traffic Manager

This is an official position that all local highway authorities are required to have under the provisions of the Traffic Management Act, 2004. The Traffic Manager's role is to carry out the authority's Network Management Duties.

Train Operating Companies (TOCs)

London Midland is the principal operator of local and regional train services in the Metropolitan Area. Other TOCs in the Metropolitan Area are Arriva Trains Wales, Chiltern Railways, Cross-Country Trains, Virgin Trains and Wrexham & Shropshire. Their services provide direct links with London and many other parts of the country, extending from Aberdeen to Penzance and from Aberystwyth to Stansted.

Trans-European Road Network or Routes

The trans-European road network, as adopted in 1996, includes motorways and high-quality roads, whether existing, new or to be adapted, which have one or more of the following characteristics:

- They play an important role in long-distance traffic
- They bypass the main urban centres on the routes identified by the network
- They provide interconnection with other modes of transport
- They link landlocked and peripheral regions to central regions of the European Community

There is a similar designation of railway routes of strategic European importance.

'Transforming Bus Travel'

Centro's policy document that seeks to establish high-quality standards for an improved bus product, comprising of clean, modern vehicles and comfortable, secure waiting environments. It builds on the existing improvements delivered through the Network West Midlands initiative.

Transport Asset Infrastructure Code

This Code, published by CIPFA in October 2009, is designed to support an Asset Management Plan based approach to the provision of financial information about local authority transport infrastructure assets.

Transport Asset Management Plan

An asset management plan adopted by each transport authority to help manage maintenance and renewal programmes. Highway Asset Management Plans include roads, footways and associated land as well as structures that are part of or associated with a highway and signs and other street furniture. Transport Asset Management Plans include all the above and assets not on the public highway such as bus stations.

Transport Innovation Fund

A former Government initiative to provide funding for work on reducing congestion, strongly linked to the introduction of local road user charging. Local transport authorities were invited bid for the initial round of funding in 2005 with further bidding rounds in subsequent years, but with no obligation on successful bidders at any stage to bid for later funding and with no guarantee that successful bidders would receive subsequent funding. This Fund has been superseded by the Urban Challenge Fund.

Travel Plan

A plan to encourage more sustainable travel, including car sharing, use of public transport, cycling or walking. Travel Plans can relate to schools, colleges, workplaces or railway stations.

Travel-to-Work Area

This is a loosely defined area from which significant numbers of people commute into a major centre or employment area. In the context of the Metropolitan Area, it contains towns outside the Area such as Bromsgrove, Cannock and Lichfield.

TravelWise ®

A sustained travel awareness campaign that seeks to change society's travel behaviour by making people more aware of the social costs of traffic congestion, particularly those that have an impact upon the environment and public health. By highlighting the health and cost benefits to the individual, the campaign encourages people to use their cars more carefully and to be more receptive to the idea of using alternative modes of transport such as bus, rail, walking or cycling. All the West Midlands Metropolitan Authorities are TravelWise members.

Trunk Roads

A network of all-purpose strategic routes of national importance for the movement of long distance traffic. They are 'A' class roads for which the Secretary of State for Transport is the highway authority. The Highways Agency is responsible for them (and motorways) on behalf of the Secretary of State.

UKPMS

UK Pavement Management System.

UK Roads Liaison Group

A group of professionals representing local highway authorities, the Highways Agency, the DfT and associated bodies that oversees the work of the UK Bridges, Lighting, Network Management and Roads Boards.

Urban Traffic Control (UTC)

A system of traffic signals, detectors and variable electronic signals linked to a computer programmed to achieve optimum traffic flow for a network.

Utilities

See Statutory Undertakers

UTMC

Urban Traffic Management & Control or **Universal Traffic Management and Control**; systems for linking CCTV, traffic signals, variable message signs, etc., to improve traffic flows along a road or corridor or across an area.

VISSIM

VISSIM is a microscopic multi-modal traffic flow simulation software. The name is derived from 'Verkehr In Städten - SIMulationsmodell' which is the German for 'Traffic in Cities - Simulation Model'.

VFM

Value for **M**oney

Voluntary Partnerships

Also referred to as a Voluntary Bus Partnership Agreements. Introduced in the Transport Act, 2000, and amended in the Local Transport Act, 2008, this is an agreement between a local transport authority (or PTA) and one or more local bus operators designed to deliver improved quality in local bus service provision. The 2008 Act changes the way that the Office of Fair Trading views such agreements in their role of protecting people from anti-competitive agreements between undertakers.

VMS

Variable Message Signs. Electronic displays giving traffic information, often associated in town and city centres with advance warning of car park capacity.

W10 (Gauge Clearance)

This is one of the railway's loading gauge classifications that indicates the maximum size, height and width, of rolling stock able to use the route. It is particularly important for rail freight and determines the size of container that can be carried on standard wagons. W10 allows 2.9 metre high 'Hi-Cube' shipping containers to be carried on standard wagons. W12 is the current recommended clearance for new structures, such as bridges and tunnels, being able to accommodate refrigerated containers.

'Well-Lit Highways'

This is a Code of Practice, published by the UK Lighting Board in 2004, designed to provide local authorities with guidance on lighting management and maintenance to help delivery of Best Value services. It is one of a suite of Codes commissioned by the UK Roads Liaison Group.

'Well-Maintained Highways'

This is a Code of Practice, published by the UK Roads Board in 2005, designed to provide local authorities with guidance on highways management in an ever-changing environment, creating a strong foundation for a positive and lasting maintenance policy. It is one of a suite of Codes commissioned by the UK Roads Liaison Group.

West Midlands Freight Quality Partnership

One of a number of Freight Quality Partnerships across the West Midlands region; it is a partnership between local and transport authorities and agencies, commercial freight operators and other interested organisations with the aim of promoting efficient and effective distribution of freight movement in the Metropolitan Area.

West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority (WMITA)

This is the statutory body, made up of councillors from each of the West Midlands Metropolitan Authorities. It is responsible for transport policy, including the Local Transport Plan, as well as for the co-ordination of public passenger transport services and provision of supporting infrastructure, information and ticketing services.

West Midlands Joint Committee

The Committee of Member representatives of each Metropolitan Authority, including each Council's Leader, and Member representatives of other Metropolitan Area-wide bodies (for example, the Fire Authority) that considers strategic issues. It has certain specific powers and makes recommendations on other matters for the constituent authorities to consider and adopt.

West Midlands Planning & Transportation Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee of Members representing each Metropolitan Authority, including the WMPTA, that considers strategic planning and transportation issues, including the LTP2 and its implementation. It has certain delegated powers and makes recommendations on other matters for the constituent authorities to consider and adopt.

West Midlands region

One of the English regions around which regional policy and governance was developed. It includes the unitary authorities of Herefordshire, Shropshire, Stoke-on-Trent and Telford & Wrekin and the shire counties of Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire and all the districts within them as well as the Metropolitan Area.

West Midlands Special Needs Transport (WMSNT)

WMSNT is the registered charity that operates 'Ring and Ride' services throughout the Metropolitan Area.

WMRIEP

West Midlands Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership. Its role is to provide specialist support to the region's local authorities in areas such as efficiency, transformation, procurement, asset management, people & leadership development and adult & children's social care with the aim of improving performance and saving money.

White Paper

A statement of official Government policy.

Whole of Government Accounts (WGA)

This is an initiative to produce a set of consolidated financial accounts for the entire UK public sector on commercial accounting principles.

'WorkWise'

An award-winning initiative that provides unemployed people who attend specific Job Centres with personalised journey information and free public transport tickets to attend interviews, plus free travel passes for an initial period when starting work.