

17 Innovative ideas

17.1 Where do we want to be

At stakeholder events a number of suggestions were made about Croydon Borough taking a lead on very innovative transport solutions. While they are by their nature long term and in some cases technically difficult there may be some benefit in considering what travel and transport options we will need in 30 years time:

- undertaking research and investigation into emerging technologies such as Personal Rapid Transit, hybrid monorails, fuel cell vehicles, etc; and
- trialling new transit systems as part of Croydon's development of a local green industrial/technology base.

17.2 Where are we now

The Borough has been primarily focused on utilising and enhancing existing modes of transport, but has worked with TfL and SWELTRAC on electric charging point proposals, for example.

17.3 What are the options for change

To achieve a degree of success in the area of innovative transport systems or technologies the Borough needs to assess costs and benefits, as well as the risk of being an early adopter. If funding from third party sources becomes available then a research orientated project may be useful to engage with Universities – for example Kingston University is undertaking advanced but practical research into vehicle battery technology for small electric vehicles and motorcycles. Similar projects could be considered over the lifetime of the Borough Transport Strategy and monitoring on other innovative transit projects could be a low level priority.