

NEWS RELEASE

boroughofpoole.com/news



1 June 2009

ASSESSING SOUTH EAST DORSET'S TRANSPORT NEEDS

A major study of traffic movement and transport needs in South East Dorset is entering its next phase.

Residents, visitors and those working in South East Dorset will have the opportunity to have their say on the current and future transport needs of the area.

From Monday June 8 leaflets will be available in libraries, council offices and tourism offices in Poole, Bournemouth, Christchurch, Wimborne and Ringwood, asking for their views on travelling around the area. The information can also be accessed from www.sedorsetmms.com

Anyone responding to the questionnaire will automatically be entered into a prize draw for a chance to win two VIP tickets for the Bournemouth Air Festival.

The study, being carried out by transport planning consultants Atkins, will develop proposals for improvements to the transport system, plus housing and employment growth, over the next 20 years.

Transport improvements in South East Dorset, estimated at £400 million, cannot be delivered without the study.

Rick Clayton, Project Manager for the SE Dorset Transport Study, said: "The next 20 years could see major growth in the area and we need to start planning now to make sure we have the transport system in place to provide for it. A good quality transport system is essential to support the local economy and the quality of life for the community. It must be developed sensitively to protect and enhance the special quality of our environment."

Rob Thompson, Project Lead, Atkins, said: "We are keen to hear from anyone travelling in the area, whether it's on foot or by cycle, bus, train or car, to understand what they see as the major difficulties in getting around."

The first part of the study involved collecting information about the area's current travel patterns. This included a series of interview surveys carried out last year as people travelled around the area; at bus stops, train stations, car parks and during their journeys at the roadside.

This includes the information collected from over 60,000 completed roadside surveys that has been analysed and used to prepare a computer model of the transport system. The model will be used to estimate how travel patterns will change in the future and what the impact of improvements to the transport system will be.

-Ends-

Contact: Hayley Pope, Media and Communications Officer, Borough of Poole, tel: 01202 633060 or email h.pope@poole.gov.uk

-m/f-

(contd...)

Notes to editors:

The study is jointly funded by the Highways Agency, Department for Transport, South West Regional Development Agency, along with Borough of Poole, Bournemouth Borough Council and Dorset County Council.

Atkins, a leading transport planning consultant, was selected to assist in the technical and strategy development work for the study.