

1. Introduction

This Inception Report describes the research planned in a new EPSRC-funded research programme, DISTILLATE: Design and Implementation Support Tools for Integrated Local land Use, Transport and the Environment.

The principal objective of DISTILLATE is to develop, through a focused, inter-disciplinary research programme, ways of overcoming the barriers to the effective development and delivery of sustainable urban transport and land use strategies and, through them, enhanced quality of life.

DISTILLATE is coordinated by the Institute for Transport Studies at the University of Leeds; its other research partners are the Centre for Environment and Planning at the University of the West of England, the Transport Studies Group at the University of Westminster, the Stockholm Environment Institute and Department of Mathematics at the University of York and TRL Ltd. In addition there are sixteen local authority members who between them provide some 35 case studies. These are listed in Annex 1.

The DISTILLATE programme includes seven technical research projects which were selected during an initial scoping study as reflecting the priority research needs required to meet the overall objective. Each project involves a number of the case studies, and there is significant interaction between them. The overall programme has been carefully designed to facilitate these case study inputs and interactions. The scoping study included initial surveys of local authorities' needs and a series of literature reviews. The reports of these are available as source documents from the Programme Manager.

This Inception Report sets out the background to the programme, its overall objectives and structure. It then describes each of the individual projects in turn, and presents the overall work plan. Subsequent sections consider the role of the local authorities, the approach to dissemination and exploitation, and the arrangements for programme management. A series of annexes provide more detailed information.