

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 22 MAY 2018 AT 11.30AM

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Agenda Item</u> <u>No.</u> 3</p>

**TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF THE LOCAL
TRANSPORT PLAN 4**

Report of the Chief Executive

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Executive Member: Derrick Ashley, Environment, Planning & Transport

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend that County Council approves the adoption of the Local Transport Plan 4.

2. Summary

2.1 The Draft Local Transport Plan was subject to public consultation for the 12 weeks up to 23 January 2018, from which nearly 700 responses were received.

2.2 The consultation response showed support for the overall direction of the Local Transport Plan 4.

2.3 Given the largely positive feedback received, the draft Local Transport Plan 4 had few minor amendments. However, the consultation responses included some key themes including; additional requests for Sustainable Travel Towns, additional supporting documents, and minor amendments to policies. This resulted in changes to the draft Local Transport Plan; the inclusion of a Rural Transport Strategy supporting document and the production of an Electric Vehicle Technical Report.

2.4 A copy of the draft Local Transport Plan 4 highlighting the recommended changes is attached at Appendix A to the report

3. Recommendations

3.1 Cabinet will consider the draft Local Transport Plan 4 at its meeting on 14 May 2018; Cabinet will be asked to recommend to Council that Council approves adoption of the draft Local Transport Plan 4.

- 3.2 Cabinet's recommendation to Council will be circulated to Members in the Council's Order of Business sheet. .

4. Background

- 4.1 The Local Transport Plan (LTP) is a statutory document which provides a countywide transport strategy and forms part of the County Council's policy framework. In 2014, the Highways and Waste Management Cabinet Panel endorsed a proposal to update the current Local Transport Plan to develop a new spatial transport vision for the county.
- 4.2 The Local Transport Plan is the formal document that the County Council is required to produce as a Highways Authority. This will set out all the policies on transport that will guide the County council and other stakeholders as well as setting out the major transport schemes which the County Council will either support or directly deliver.
- 4.3 The key role of the Local Transport Plan 4 will be to support the sustainable delivery of the growth set out in the 10 Local Plans in the county, through its policies and major transport proposals. In the longer term however the role of the Local Transport Plan 4 should also be to help shape spatial planning in the county in the future.
- 4.4 Following a series of technical studies and consultations to develop a Transport Vision, individual policies and strategic schemes, a draft Local Transport Plan 4 was presented to the Environment, Planning and Transport Cabinet Panel on 5 October 2017.
- 4.5 Subsequently a draft for consultation was approved by Cabinet on 23 October 2017. A public consultation was then held for 12 weeks for the period 31 October 2017 to 23 January 2018.
- 4.6 At their meeting in 9 March 2018, the Environment, Planning and Transport Panel were updated on the feedback received from the 2017 Local Transport Plan 4 consultation and discussions were held over the possible amendments to the content of the new LTP.
- 4.7 A subsequent Environment, Planning and Transport Cabinet Panel meeting was held on 24 April 2018, where the proposed amendments to the content of the LTP4 were discussed and considered. The inclusion of a Rural Transport Strategy and the production of an Electric Vehicle Technical Report were also discussed.
- 4.8 The LTP4 will be considered by Cabinet on the 14 May 2018. Any additional changes arising from this meeting will be reported to County Council.
- 4.9 The Local Transport Plan 4 has a series of supporting documents which will provide further detail on particular topics and geographic

areas. It is expected that the documents will be completed within 18 months following the adoption of the Local Transport Plan 4.

5. Strategic Assessments

- 5.1 The development of the Local Transport Plan 4 has been informed by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA). The undertaking of an SEA on any plans likely to have a significant effect on the environment is a legal requirement (EU Directive). There is also a legal requirement to undertake a HRA on the LTP.
- 5.2 Overall the Local Transport Plan 4's emphasis on a transition away from a highway capacity enhancement and the stronger support for modal shift and behaviour change will have beneficial implications for the environment and equalities. The SEA has not flagged up any significant issues requiring changes to the content of the LTP4, although it makes a number of recommendations to be addressed during the development of the LTP4 supporting documents or schemes.
- 5.3 The SEA was published alongside the draft Local Transport Plan 4 during public consultation.
- 5.4 The SEA environmental statement can be found in Appendix B and the full SEA report is currently available in the Members Lounge to view.
- 5.5 The HRA concluded the LTP4 Strategy would not have an adverse effect, but made recommendations that some schemes would require further assessment when they are taken forward.
- 5.6 The full HRA report can be found in the Members Lounge.

6. Consultation Key Themes and Changes

- 6.1 The key emerging issues raised from the public consultation and requests for policy and scheme amendments were as follows;

6.2 Rural Transport Needs

As well as responses from the consultation noting an under-representation of rural transport needs in the Local Transport Plan 4, the Strategic Environmental Assessment also recommended the need for a rural transport strategy. The County Council currently holds a Rural Transport Strategy which was adopted in 2012; however, this is not included in the proposed list of Local Transport Plan 4 supporting documents. An update or a new Rural Transport Strategy will be developed given the prominence currently placed on urban transport and given the loss of public transport in rural areas which creates the potential for isolation especially of the elderly.

6.3 Electric Vehicles

Responses to the consultation raised questions on technical issues regarding electric vehicles and the requirement for more explanation, context and what the practical implications might be. Given the current importance placed on electric vehicles a technical report will be produced, with consideration following this for an electric vehicle strategy once public demand and technological trends are better known.

6.4 The consultation raised a number of requests for proposed Sustainable Travel Towns (STT) which would have expanded the current list of Sustainable Travel Towns.

The concept and criteria of what constitutes a Sustainable Travel Town in Hertfordshire is still evolving. The list of all named Sustainable Travel Towns has therefore been temporarily removed from the LTP4 until a definitive set of criteria is developed and the list will then be repopulated.

Officers are currently developing a set of criteria for identifying what elements a Sustainable Travel Town will need to include and the level of support they will require from District and Borough Councils. This will be considered by the Environment, Planning and Transport Panel at a future meeting. It is envisaged that not all settlements will need to be a Sustainable Travel Town in order to deliver appropriate sustainable transport measures.

The criteria are likely to include the following:

- There are significant existing problems (e.g. congestion, air quality, health, road safety and accessibility) which could be tackled by an STT, or planned growth which could lead to these problems;
- There is a one-off opportunity to introduce the principles of STTs e.g. the delivery of a bypass which allows the reallocation of road space and priorities within the urban area or a new town centre development;
- The local planning authority supports the STT concept within its Local Plan or is working towards this;
- There is a local organisation (which could be the district / borough council) which can help identify, develop and deliver revenue-funded initiatives to encourage modal shift.

6.5 Requests were made for an Air Quality Transport Strategy. This is currently being considered at a corporate level in the Council. It is believed that input from a transport perspective will be beneficial and an update will be provided shortly.

7. Performance Indicators

7.1 Policy monitoring and related performance Indicators have been reviewed and simplified. The monitoring section of the Local Transport Plan 4 has been updated with the following performance indicators;

Performance Indicator	Policy
1 Percentage of sustainable mode share for Hertfordshire residents	1) Transport User Hierarchy 3) Travel Plans and Behaviour Change 4) Demand Management 7) Active Travel Walking 8) Active Travel Cycling 9) Buses 10) Rail
2 Percentage of new developments within 30 minutes by public transport of key services	2) Influencing Land Use Planning 6) Accessibility
3 Percentage of passengers travelling to airports by non-car modes (Luton and Stansted)	11) Airports
4 Journey time reliability in Hertfordshire	12) Network Management
5 Speed limit compliance - Percentage on compliance of speed limits	15) Speed Management
6 KSIs - Total number of people killed or seriously injured on Hertfordshire's roads	17) Road Safety
7 Number of ULEV vehicles registered in Hertfordshire	19) Emissions Reductions
8 Overall roads condition index for Hertfordshire's roads	22) Asset management

8.2 Supporting documents are expected to include further performance indicators.

9. Next Steps

9.1 Having considered the comments of the Cabinet Panel, officers recommend that the County Council adopts the new LTP4.

9.3 A progress report will be produced annually to monitor the performance of the Local Transport Plan 4.

10. Financial Implications

10.1 The LTP4 is aspirational rather than a commitment and schemes will only be progressed as funding becomes available. However, in order to ensure delivery of the LTP4 objectives it will be important that the County Council seeks significant external funding. One of the responsibilities of the new Growth and

Infrastructure unit will be to identify possible new funding sources and to bid for resources.

- 10.2 Funding will also need to be sought from existing funding sources such as Section 106 contributions.
- 10.3 Requirements for County Council funding will be considered through the Integrated Plan process on an annual basis.

11. Equality Implications

- 11.1 When considering proposals placed before Members it is important that they are fully aware of, and have themselves rigorously considered the equalities implications of the decision that they are taking.
- 11.2 Rigorous consideration will ensure that proper appreciation of any potential impact of that decision on the County Council's statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. As a minimum this requires decision makers to read and carefully consider the content of any Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) produced by officers.
- 11.3 The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council when exercising its functions to have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 11.4 The development of the Local Transport Plan has been subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment from the Transport Vision stage to the current draft Local Transport Plan 4 stage, attached at Appendix C. This process has informed the content of the Plan and minimal equalities impacts have been identified in the content of the Draft Plan.
- 11.5 The overall message of the draft Local Transport Plan 4 is to challenge the growth and dominance of individual car use, and addressing the socio-economic inequalities and transport issues that arise with an aging population. The objectives of the Draft Plan include enhancing connectivity and accessibility for all. Also providing information on transportation matters in formats that all groups can access.
- 11.6 The other key dimension to addressing equality issues will be the review of the Accessibility Strategy, which is programmed to be completed to coincide with the final adoption of the Local Transport Plan 4. As part of Review of the Accessibility strategy there will be an updated audit of essential services for transport disadvantaged groups.

- 11.7 An action plan to mitigate any potential equalities implications for those with protected characteristics is set out at section 8 of the EqIA.

Background Information

Environment, Planning and Transport Cabinet Panel, 5 October 2017.

<http://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/789/Committee/52/Default.aspx>

Cabinet, 23 October 2017

<http://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/654/Committee/8/Default.aspx>

Environment, Planning and Transport Panel, 9 March 2018

<http://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/740/Committee/52/Default.aspx>

Environment, Planning and Transport Cabinet Panel, 24 April 2018,

<http://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/818/Committee/52/Default.aspx>

Cabinet, 14 May 2018

<http://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/661/Committee/8/Default.aspx>