

**ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT CABINET PANEL
FRIDAY, 9 MARCH 2018 AT 10.00AM**

LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 4 CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Report of the Chief Executive and Director of Environment

Author: Trevor Mason, Team Leader Strategic Transport & Rail
Tel: (01992) 556117

Executive Member: Derrick Ashley, Environment, Planning & Transport

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To inform the Panel of the outcome of the recent consultation on the draft Local Transport Plan 4.

2. Summary

2.1 The draft Local Transport Plan 4 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 that there is support for the overall direction of the Local Transport Plan 4, for each of the policies, and for each of the Major schemes.

2.3 Discussions on how the consultation response will shape the final Local Transport Plan 4 will be discussed at the Panel's meeting on 24 April.

3. Recommendation

3.1 The Panel is asked to note the responses received to the Local Transport Plan 4 consultation.

4. Background

4.1 The Local Transport Plan 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 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 & Transport Cabinet Panel on 5 October 2017.
- 4.3 Subsequently a draft for consultation was approved by Cabinet on 23 October. Consultation was then held for 12 weeks for the period 31 October to 23 January 2018.
- 4.4 The Local Transport Plan will be supported by a series of “daughter documents” which will provide further details on particular topics and geographic areas. It is expected that these documents will be completed in the 18 months following the adoption of the main Plan.

5. Level of Response

- 5.1 Consultation responses were invited either via an online survey or by separate written response. The total number of responses received was 677, of which 609 were by the online survey.
- 5.2 Responses have been received from all 10 district / borough councils, and from several neighbouring authorities. A list of organisations which submitted a response is set out in Appendix 1.

6. Analysis of Consultation Responses

- 6.1 At the time of writing, analysis of all the individual consultation responses was still being undertaken. However, it is possible to present the results of the online survey questions, the points raised by key stakeholders and an emerging view of the wider public issues.
- 6.2 The full consultation response, together with the resulting proposed changes to the draft Local Transport Plan, will be presented to the Panel at its meeting on 24 April.

7. Online Survey Results

- 7.1 The online survey asked respondents to consider the overall direction of the Local Transport Plan. For all questions, as detailed in Table 1 below, there was an overall support for the document. Further details are provided in Appendix 2.

Table 1 – Online survey results to main topics

Topic	Strongly Agree or Agree	Neutral	Strongly Disagree or Disagree
Change in behaviour / reduced car use	55%	23%	21%
Overall mix of measures	51%	14%	34%
New highways only considered after all other options	50%	18%	31%
Encouraging shared mobility	64%	18%	16%
Encouraging Ultra Low Emission Vehicles	70%	17%	11%

7.2 Respondents were also asked whether they particularly agreed or disagreed with any of the 23 policies set out in the draft document. The response shows that all of the policies have a majority level of support, with the least supported policy rated as 66% agree. The detailed results are shown in Appendix 3.

7.3 The analysis for the Major schemes (Table 2) also shows that there is a majority level of support, with the highest level of support shown for the sustainable transport schemes, and the lowest level of support for the road schemes. Further details are shown in Appendix 4.

Table 2 – Online survey results to Major schemes

Major Scheme	Strongly Agree + Agree	Disagree + Strongly Disagree
Sustainable Travel Towns	87%	13%
Cycle Infrastructure Improvement Towns	85%	15%
A414 Bus Rapid Transit	82%	18%
Passenger Transport Hubs	82%	18%
New rail stations	80%	20%
Hertford Bypass	75%	25%
New M1 Junction 8A	68%	32%

8. Key Themes

8.1 The open-ended responses to the consultation are still being analysed, but the emerging key issues being raised are:

- Under-representation of rural transport needs
- The practical implications of electric vehicles

8.2 Other points that have been raised include:

- Parking restrictions – although the online survey shows that there is clear support for the need to introduce a package of measures including “reduced

car parking provision and increased parking costs” there are a number of concerns that this could have a negative impact on the local economy;

- suggestions for additional schemes, especially for Sustainable Travel Towns ;
- suggestions for minor amendments to the policies or supporting text.

8.3 These issues are presented for information only at this stage, but proposals for how these should be addressed in the final Local Transport Plan 4 will be presented to Panel at its meeting on 24 April. The potential responses to the comments may include modifications to policies and/or supporting text, appropriate coverage within the daughter documents, and further technical briefing notes.

9. Conclusions from Consultation Responses

9.1 The consultation response shows that there is overall support for the draft Local Transport Plan document. Whilst some changes may be required, there has been no identification to date of any major alterations that might be required.

10. Next Steps

10.1 The analysis of the consultation responses and the recommendations for changes to the draft document will be presented to the Panel on 24 April.

10.2 The recommendations of the Panel will be considered by Cabinet on 14 May and County Council on 22 May.

10.3 Following the adoption of the Local Transport Plan, a series of “daughter documents”, which set out in detail how the Plan will be delivered, will be adopted through their relevant processes.

11 Financial Implications

11.1 The initial consideration of the consultation responses has no financial implications.

11.2 The delivery of the Local Transport Plan will require significant financial resources which will need to be obtained from a variety of sources. An assessment of the financial implications of the Plan’s delivery will be made when the draft document is considered by panel in April.

12. Equality Implications

12.1 When considering proposals placed before Members it is important that they are fully aware of, and have themselves rigorously considered the equality implications of the decision that they are taking.

- 12.2 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.
- 12.3 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.
- 12.4 The development of the Local Transport Plan has been subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment from the initial Transport Vision stage to the current consultation stage. The Equalities Impact Assessment was reported to Panel at its meeting on 5 October 2017. This process has informed the content of the Local Transport Plan and minimal equalities impacts have been identified in the content of the draft Local Transport Plan. The assessment will be reviewed in the light of any changes that may be proposed following the consideration of the consultation responses.

Background Information

Hertfordshire's Local Transport Plan – Draft for Public Consultation – Hertfordshire County Council (November 2017)