
Local Transport Plan Consultation

Committee considering report:	Executive
Date of Committee:	23 March 2023
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Richard Somner
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	8 March 2023
Report Author:	Alec Gore, Transport Policy Team Leader
Forward Plan Ref:	EX4337

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to notify the Executive of the work carried out to date on the new plan and the initial public consultation that has taken place on the strategy document.
- 1.2 The Local Transport Plan (LTP) is a set of documents that the government requires all local transport authorities to produce under the Transport Act 2000. These set out our priorities and strategies for maintaining and improving all aspects of the local transport system over a set period of time. The current LTP3 runs from 2011-2026. LTP4 will run from 2024 to 2039 in line with the Local Plan period. This consultation process allows for public engagement and for respondents to feedback at each stage of the project. We can then refine our draft strategy before final inclusion in the document.

2 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Executive note the report and the recent consultation that has taken place to help shape the future of travel and transport across the District.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	Department for Transport funding was provided to all local transport authorities to update their LTPs.
Human Resource:	N/A

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Legal:	There is a statutory duty on the Council to produce a LTP under the Transport Act 2000 ¹ . The consultation will have been completed before the pre-election period.			
Risk Management:	N/A			
Property:	N/A			
Policy:	The proposal relates to the Local Transport Plan (LTP4).			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		
Environmental Impact:	X			Reduced carbon emissions
Health Impact:	X			Improved air quality
ICT Impact:		X		N/A

¹ [Transport Act 2000, S108-109](#)

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Digital Services Impact:		X		N/A
Council Strategy Priorities:	X			Protecting and enhancing our environment
Core Business:	X			Protecting and preserving our environment as we work towards carbon neutrality Supporting our Environment Strategy Delivery Plan Supporting the uptake of low emission vehicles
Data Impact:		X		
Consultation and Engagement:	<p>This report concerns the public consultation on the draft Local Transport Plan Strategy. Other stakeholder bodies are also being consulted.</p> <p>Members and internal stakeholders were involved in workshops during the development of the consultation material with the Transport Advisory Group receiving updates at each step of the process.</p> <p>The public consultation took place online via our Consultation and Engagement Hub. The timeline is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start date: 2023-02-08 • End date: 2023-03-22 • Results 2023-06-30 <p>In seeking the public's views on our draft plan, we want to know if they think that we are focussing on the right areas, and if there is anything we might have missed.</p> <p>A summary of the responses that had been received at the half-way point of the consultation is presented in Appendix B.</p>			

4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 This report has been requested by the Portfolio Holder in order to notify the Executive of the work on the development of a new LTP to date (see draft strategy consultation document at Appendix A) and the public consultation that has taken place.
- 4.2 Initial feedback at the half-way point of the consultation indicates that there is widespread support for the proposed priorities and highlights access to public transport, pedestrian facilities and clean air as being the top 3 most important transport considerations for the respondents. Appendix B provides an
- 4.3 A full report on the consultation and the final proposed LTP will be reported to Full Council in due course and will then seek a decision to adopt.

5 Supporting Information

Introduction

As a Local Authority, we have a statutory duty to publish a Local Transport Plan (LTP), which contains a strategy and an intervention plan. We must also update the Plan to keep it relevant.

Background

- 5.1 We have made good progress in delivering our current LTP, which was adopted in 2011. However, there have since been major changes that have impacted on transport:
 - (a) The 2021 Census has shown us that the number of people living in West Berkshire has increased, as has the number of people aged 65 years and over.
 - (b) The Covid-19 pandemic brought significant changes to how we live and work, including being able to work from home, and accelerated changes in online shopping.
 - (c) There is also a greater importance being placed on emissions from transport and that of walking, cycling and leisure time for how it helps our physical and mental wellbeing.
- 5.2 We are revising the LTP, making it relevant to the challenges and opportunities we face today and providing a modern transport system for West Berkshire.
- 5.3 Our draft LTP focusses on the following priorities, and the fifteen objectives that will help to achieve them:
 - creating places for people
 - providing sustainable access for all
 - decarbonising transport
 - supporting sustainable growth

How we developed our draft plan

- 5.4 Over the past year, we have worked to understand travel patterns, trends and emerging opportunities. This includes changes up to 2020, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and changes in propensity to access services digitally.
- 5.5 How we travel is influenced by how close we are to the services we need, e.g. shops, doctors and schools, why we need to travel, and the quality of transport and digital infrastructure to allow us to get to where we want to go. Our draft LTP takes into account the different travel needs of the people who live, work and learn in our district, and we have grouped the district into the following three place types:
- Newbury and Thatcham
 - Rural areas and villages
 - Eastern area
- 5.6 We have also been mindful of the work that has been taking place on the Local Plan Review (LPR) and the impact on transport resulting from proposed developments, e.g. at Sandleford and North-East Thatcham. Colleagues in Development and Planning and Highways Development and Control have been engaged with and Transport Assessments (TA) for the LPR undertaken. These involved modelling likely impacts and possible mitigation using our transport models.
- 5.7 Strategic road and rail corridors, e.g. mainline railway and M4, which play an important role for businesses and residents, will also be considered in the LTP.

6 Other options considered

- 6.1 There has been a delay within the Department for Transport (DfT) in issuing the guidance on writing Local Transport Plans. This has meant that our progress in developing our LTP has been without the benefit of the confirmed guidance. The option of delaying the public consultation on the LTP Strategy until we had the DfT guidance and possibly until we had the full document including the long-list of options for interventions, was considered. It was decided that it was important to keep the momentum that had built with progress so far and that there was a desire to get the public input at this stage and not wait.
- 6.2 Officers and our consultants have therefore worked diligently to have the LTP Strategy ready for consultation in this early spring period. The feedback from the consultation will then be considered alongside the guidance on LTPs from DfT and changes made as a result as appropriate before further consultation is planned.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 The Portfolio Holder is asking the Executive to note that a new Local Transport Plan is being developed and initial consultation has taken place.
- 7.2 We have sought the public's views on our draft plan. We want to know if they think that we are focussing on the right areas, and if there is anything we might have missed. The initial feedback shows there is widespread support for the proposed priorities.

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7.3 A full report on the consultation and proposed final LTP will be taken to Full Council in due course and will then seek a decision to adopt.

8 Appendices

Appendix A – Consultation Draft of the Local Transport Plan February 2023

Appendix B – Summary of consultation responses at half-way point

Background Papers:

- 8.1 The [draft LTP](#) sets out how the priorities and objectives can be achieved for each place type, by taking the individual needs of the communities into consideration.
- 8.2 The [supporting evidence document](#) can also be found online.
- 8.3 The LTP has been developed in parallel with the emerging [Local Plan](#), and is also supported by a number of strategies designed to help deliver the priorities, including:
- [Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan](#)
 - [Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle Strategy](#)
 - [Bus Service Improvement Plan](#)

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or associated Task Groups within preceding six months | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Item is Urgent Key Decision | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Report is to note only | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Wards affected: The Local Transport Plan is a district wide plan and will therefore impact on all wards across West Berkshire.

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