

Title of Report:	Local Transport Plan 2011-2026
Report to be considered by:	Council
Date of Meeting:	3 rd March 2011
Forward Plan Ref:	C2192

Purpose of Report: To set out the transport policy framework for the delivery of local transport measures over the next fifteen years

Recommended Action: That the Council:

1. Approves and adopts the West Berkshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026
2. Delegates authority jointly to the Head of Planning & Countryside and Head of Highways & Transport in consultation with the Portfolio Members for Planning, Housing & Transport Policy and Highways, Transport (Operational) & ICT to agree any non-material refinements to the policy document prior to submission to the Department for Transport.
3. Delegates authority through an Individual Decision jointly to the Portfolio Members for Planning, Housing & Transport Policy and Highways, Transport (Operational) & ICT in consultation with the Transport Policy Task Group to agree the supporting Implementation Plan and any changes to the LTP necessary as a result of formal review or significant changes locally or nationally (as described in paragraphs 2.10 and 2.11 of this report).

Reason for decision to be taken: The current Local Transport Plan (2006-2011) comes to an end on 31st March 2011. It is a statutory requirement that West Berkshire, as the Local Highway Authority, adopts a new Local Transport Plan ready for 1st April 2011.

Other options considered: Not developing a new plan to fulfil the Council's statutory duty was not considered to be an acceptable option.

Key background documentation:

- Guidance on Local Transport Plans (DfT), July 2009
- West Berkshire's Local Transport Plan 2006 - 2011
- West Berkshire LTP Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Draft Environmental Report October 2010

The proposals will also help achieve the following Council Plan Themes:

- CPT1 - Better Roads and Transport**
- CPT2 - Thriving Town Centres**
- CPT4 - High Quality Planning**
- CPT5 - Cleaner and Greener**
- CPT6 - Vibrant Villages**
- CPT7 - Safer and Stronger Communities**
- CPT8 - A Healthier Life**
- CPT9 - Successful Schools and Learning**
- CPT12 - Including Everyone**
- CPT13 - Value for Money**
- CPT15 - Putting Customers First**
- CPT16 - Excellent Performance Management**

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the above Council Plan Priorities and Themes by:

Providing an effective transport policy framework that helps to support a range of plans and delivery programmes across West Berkshire. Transport impacts on a significant number of activities and the implementation of the Local Transport Plan will touch on a wide number of Council Plan Themes.

Portfolio Member Details	
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Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	9 th February 2011
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Implications

Policy: The proposed Local Transport Plan sets the policy framework for delivery of local transport measures in West Berkshire for the next 15 years.

Financial: An Implementation Plan is being developed to support the delivery of the Local Transport Plan. This will link with other key Council documents such as the Capital programme, other work programmes and the Local Development Framework. It will be refreshed annually and will link with the Council's budget setting processes. The Implementation Plan will also be an important document for feeding into the plans for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Personnel: No implications.

Legal/Procurement: As Local Highway Authority, West Berkshire Council is required to produce a Local Transport Plan under the Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008.

Property: No implications

Risk Management: Monitoring, evaluation and review of the Plan will take place on a regular basis and will help to highlight any risk to the Plan's implementation. In addition, all transport schemes and projects will be developed according to the Council's Project Management Methodology which includes risk management so that risks can be identified at an early stage and appropriate mitigation applied to ensure the successful outcome of projects.

Equalities Impact Assessment: An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out in tandem with the development of the Local Transport Plan.

Is this item subject to call-in?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval	<input checked="" 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 Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Item is Urgent Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Executive Summary

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council's current Local Transport Plan (2006-2011) comes to an end on 31st March 2011. It is a statutory requirement for a new plan to be in place from 1st April 2011.
- 1.2 The new plan that has been developed covers the period from 2011 through to 2026. This end date of 2026 fits with both the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Development Framework.

2. Proposals

- 2.1 The proposed new Local Transport Plan (LTP) is a policy document which sets out the framework for transport activity in West Berkshire. It is supported by a number of other detailed strategies and has close links with other Plans.
- 2.2 This policy document will be supported by Implementation Plans which will set out a 3-year rolling programme of delivery.
- 2.3 The LTP includes an overall Vision Statement, sets out the transport related issues and challenges for West Berkshire and describes the process of developing the local transport goals (Chapters 3, 4 and 5).
- 2.4 The key chapters for setting the details of the policy framework are Chapters 6 and 7. These contain Transport Visions for the four areas of the District (mirroring the same spatial areas used in the Local Development Framework) and a set of policies covering a range of transport topics and modes.
- 2.5 Programme development, management and delivery along with performance management are set out in Chapters 8 and 9.
- 2.6 The development of the LTP has been supported by two rounds of consultation and a number of statutory assessments.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The proposed LTP has been developed according to the guidance issued by DfT and through consultation with various stakeholders, Parish & Town Councils, Officers and Members.
- 3.2 The development of the Plan has been overseen by the Transport Policy Task Group and the attached Plan at Appendix A is recommended for approval and adoption to become the Local Transport Plan for West Berkshire up to 2026.

Executive Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council's current Local Transport Plan (2006-2011) comes to an end on 31st March 2011. It is a statutory requirement for a new plan to be in place from 1st April 2011.
- 1.2 Previous Local Transport Plans have covered 5 year periods. However, DfT guidance now encourages the development of longer term plans. The new plan, therefore, covers the period from 2011 through to 2026. The Plan is attached at Appendix A.
- 1.3 The end date of 2026 has been chosen to fit with the timescales of both the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Development Framework as these are two key documents that feed into the Plan.

2. Proposals

- 2.1 The proposed new Local Transport Plan (LTP) is a policy document which sets out the framework for transport activity in West Berkshire. It is supported by a number of other detailed strategies and plans (e.g. Freight Strategy, Passenger Transport Strategy, Network Management Plan etc.).
- 2.2 The LTP also has close links with the Local Development Framework, the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, the emerging Air Quality Action Plan and a number of other wider Council strategies and plans.
- 2.3 This policy document will be supported by an Implementation Plan which will set out a 3-year rolling programme of delivery and be updated annually. The Implementation Plan will include the schemes, measures and projects that the Council will undertake (sometimes in partnership with others) in order to deliver the LTP. The contents of the Implementation Plan will be influenced by the Council's budget setting process.

What the LTP covers:

- 2.4 The LTP includes an overall Vision Statement, sets out the transport related issues and challenges for West Berkshire and describes the process of developing the local transport goals (Chapters 3, 4 and 5).
- 2.5 The key chapters for setting the details of the policy framework are Chapters 6 and 7. These contain Transport Visions for the four areas of the District (mirroring the same spatial areas used in the Local Development Framework) and a set of policies covering a range of transport topics and modes.
- 2.6 The Transport Visions in Chapter 6 are supported by separate documents that provide greater descriptions of the transport networks and services in each of the spatial areas. These were included in the consultation draft of the plan but much of the detail was removed for the final version following comments made through the consultation process and discussions with GOSE. The full details will still be available separately on the website.

- 2.7 Chapter 7 contains a set of 15 'key policies' (see figure 7.1 at the start of Chapter 7). There are also 'supporting policies' which help to unpack some of the key policies that cover large subject areas. For example, the Passenger Transport Policy (LTP K9) is supported by policies that look at the details of bus services, community and voluntary transport, rail, taxis, park and ride, etc.
- 2.8 The main supporting strategies and plans that will help to deliver the policies are also shown in figure 7.1
- 2.9 Programme development, management and delivery along with performance management are set out in Chapters 8 and 9. This is largely unchanged from the previous LTP in terms of project and performance management. Due to the longer timescales for the plan the arrangements for monitoring and review will be different.

Plans for review:

- 2.10 It is proposed that reporting against indicators and progress made in programme delivery can be fed back using the annual re-refresh of the Implementation Plan (see paragraph 2.3 above). After 6 years a review of the LTP will be undertaken. This review will be at the level of detail considered most appropriate at the time and could include reviewing and refreshing policies and amending other details as necessary.
- 2.11 If there are significant changes nationally or locally that require alterations to be made at other times, the LTP process is flexible enough to accommodate this. Significant changes would include consultation with appropriate stakeholders.

3. Development of the Plan

Governance arrangements:

- 3.1 The governance for the development of the Local Transport Plan has been provided by the Transport Policy Task Group. Through the monthly Task Group meetings Members have guided officers through the process, considered consultation feedback and agreed the content of the proposed Plan. This group will continue to oversee the progress of delivery of the plan and reviews that are necessary.

Consultation:

- 3.2 The development of the LTP has been supported by two main rounds of consultation. The first round was November 2009 – January 2010 and considered the vision statement, issues and challenges and the development of local transport goals. This involved main stakeholders, Parish and Town Councils, neighbouring Highway Authorities, Members and Officers.
- 3.3 The second round of consultation was held October 2010 - November 2010. This sought views on the draft plan from all those involved in the first round of consultation but included an extended group of stakeholders and members of the public. A number of meetings were also held with interest groups, working groups, neighbouring Highway Authorities, GOSE and Parish / Town Councils where requested.

- 3.4 The feedback on the draft plan has been useful for the further development of the plan following the end of the consultation period. A number of changes have been made. Apart from the change described in para 2.6 above, the alterations have been reasonably minor. However, they have been important in strengthening the links with other plans and agendas and ensuring that all modes and transport issues are adequately covered in the plan.
- 3.5 Consultation feedback reports have been prepared following each round of consultation in order to report back to stakeholders regarding the Council's response to their comments.
- 3.6 In addition to the main consultation periods, workshops were held for Members in July 2010. These provided a general briefing on the LTP and an opportunity for Members to help shape the Transport Visions for the four spatial areas of the District.
- 3.7 The Implementation Plan will be subject to consultation after the local elections in 2011. Due to the close links with funding, Implementation Plans have not generally been produced by Highway Authorities and consulted upon alongside their policy documents. Instead, the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review and Local Government Settlement announcements have been awaited prior to detailed Implementation Plans being developed. An indicative Implementation Plan will be available when the LTP is published for 1st April. It will include the initial 3 years of delivery and leave the medium and longer term projects to be included in the consultation document.

Supporting assessments:

- 3.8 A number of statutory assessments have taken place to support the development of the LTP. These have helped to ensure that the Plan takes into account any potential impact on the environment, health, habitats and equalities.
- 3.9 The Strategic Environmental Assessment has also been through two similar periods of consultation focussed on the statutory bodies (Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency). The comments received have been taken on board.

4. Conclusion and Recommendation

- 4.1 The proposed LTP has been developed according to the guidance issued by DfT and through consultation with various stakeholders, Parish & Town Councils, Officers and Members.
- 4.2 The development of the Plan has been overseen by the Transport Policy Task Group and the attached Plan at Appendix A is recommended for approval and adoption to become the Local Transport Plan for West Berkshire up to 2026.
- 4.3 Taking into account the possible need for minor changes and the timetable for updating and reviewing the plan, the recommendations to Council are that Council:
- (1) Approves and adopts the West Berkshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026
 - (2) Delegates authority jointly to the Head of Planning & Countryside and Head of Highways & Transport in consultation with the Portfolio

Members for Planning & Housing and Highways, Transport (Operational) & ICT to agree any non-material refinements to the policy document prior to submission to the Department for Transport.

- (3) Delegates authority through an Individual Decision jointly to the Portfolio Members for Planning & Countryside and Highways, Transport (Operational) & ICT in consultation with the Transport Policy Task Group to agree the supporting Implementation Plan and any changes to the LTP necessary as a result of formal review or significant changes locally or nationally (as described in paragraphs 2.10 and 2.11 of this report).

Appendices

Appendix A – Proposed Local Transport Plan 2011 - 2026

Consultees

Local Stakeholders: A wide range of stakeholders have been consulted including: members of the public, all Ward Members, Parish & Town Councils, local bus operators, First Great Western, Network Rail, Highways Agency, GOSE, local business, neighbouring Local Highway Authorities, various transport interest groups and forums and the emergency services.

Officers Consulted: A large number of officers were involved in the development of the plan or included in the consultation from:
Planning & Countryside, Highways & Transport, Property & Public Protection, Education Services and Youth Services & Commissioning.