

COUNCIL
9 NOVEMBER 2017**LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 4 – COMMENTS FROM
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE BOARD**

The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board considered the Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) at its meeting on 7 November, following the Cabinet's consideration last week.

I would like to thank the CMR, Dr Pollock and officers Mr Andy Baker and Ms Michele Jones for their attendance at the meeting to outline the process, contents and purpose of the Plan and answer questions.

The main aspects of the Plan discussed by the Board were:

- The effectiveness of the consultation process for the Plan. The Board heard examples of where changes have been made to the Plan as a result of comments received. Members considered the process had worked well and commended the officers for answering every point made during the consultation in a transparent way. As a result of this the Board has agreed to undertake a short review of the consultation process used to learn about and share good practice.
- The Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel had considered the Plan in January 2017 and the Panel Chairman, Mr Alastair Adams, reported that questions raised by the Panel relating to cycling had been answered. However, the challenge for the Council is about delivering the schemes outlined in the Plan, especially for cycling where much of the finance is reliant on external grant bids.
- The role of the A38 across the county as a "relief" road for the M5. This has led to inconvenience and distress for many residents when the M5 has been closed or been operating with restrictions for a long time. Panel members were concerned whether the Plan contains appropriate infrastructure provision in areas such as Bromsgrove to deal more appropriately with traffic from the M5. It was also suggested that Highways England could be more proactive in the information provided to local residents about planned work and associated closures. Arising from this discussion, the Board has asked the Economy and Environment Panel to examine the role of, and the County Council's relationship with, Highways England.
- It was noted that the Government has announced funding for roads which are important elements for infrastructure but are not currently identified as strategic. In Worcestershire the A449 and A456 would be examples of these. The Board has asked that members are alerted when the consultation on this is launched.
- Lack of access to services in rural areas and whether the Plan offers enough support for delivering improvements, especially for projects like cycleways and bus services.
- Whether the Plan acknowledges the impact of pollution on communities and contains enough detail to enable this to be tackled. It was noted that District Councils are

responsible for dealing with air quality. Arising from this discussion the Board suggests that District Councils should be lobbied where appropriate and necessary to establish low emission zones.

The Board has the following comments for consideration by Council:

1. The Board supports LTP4. In doing so it acknowledges that as a strategic plan it does not contain detailed work programmes. The Board urges Councillors to use the "hooks" in the Plan to drive and support infrastructure improvements in their divisions.
2. The Board recommends that the County Council lobbies District Councils where appropriate and if necessary for the establishment of low emission zones.
3. There should be procedures in place to ensure the opportunity for bus services to be available to connect communities, particularly in rural areas.
4. Due to the impact on local communities when the M5 and/or M42 are closed, the provision of suitable bypass infrastructure should be included in the Plan.
5. The potential future opportunity to use government funds for major, de-trunked roads should be kept under review and all members notified when consultation on the proposals is launched.

Mr Chris Bloore,
Chairman, Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board