

CABINET
15 DECEMBER 2016**LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 4**

Relevant Cabinet Member

Dr K A Pollock

Relevant Officer

Director of Economy and Infrastructure

Recommendation

- 1. The Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy, Skills and Infrastructure recommends that Cabinet:**
 - (a) agrees to undertake a public consultation of 12 weeks on the draft Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) 2017-2030 for Worcestershire; and**
 - (b) receives a further report for consideration having regard to the outcomes of that consultation.**

Background

2. The County Council is required to produce a Local Transport Plan (LTP) under the Transport Act 2000. Originally, Local Transport Authorities were required to produce a valid LTP every five years, involving close liaison with the Department for Transport.
3. This requirement was revised under the Local Transport Act 2008, which both enabled local authorities to set the length of their LTP periods, and reduced the involvement of the Department for Transport in the development and delivery process.
4. The LTP sets the strategic vision and direction of highways and transportation services. The availability of reliable and efficient transport networks plays a major role in the effectiveness of the Worcestershire economy. Evidence has shown that a good transport network is important in sustaining economic success in modern economies. Where investment in transport infrastructure and services has been inadequate, this has been shown to adversely impact on future growth and competitiveness
5. Worcestershire has had three previous LTPs: LTP1 (2001 to 2006), LTP2 (2006 – 2011) and LTP3 (2011 to date). Since the LTP3 was put together, funding mechanisms, socio-economic aspirations, development growth and the level of evidence available to support investment in schemes have changed. Additionally, many schemes included in the LTP3 have now been delivered or developed since their conception. It is now proposed to revise the LTP3 into the LTP4, to take account of these major changes.
6. The current LTP3 is made up of a series of detailed policy documents and an overall strategy which includes projects and/or schemes for proposed delivery.

7. The policy documents have been extensively reviewed, leading to the production of a tighter and more up to date policy compendium. These will be available for the start of the public consultation.

8. The main LTP4 strategy document (see Appendix A) has been revised, removing any schemes that have been implemented since LTP3 adoption. It also proposes new and emergent schemes, reflecting the Infrastructure Delivery Plans (IDPs) within the county as well as schemes that may have been suggested by key stakeholders during a pre-consultation exercise period (July 2016). The main document sets out an outline delivery programme, which is split into three area-based transport strategies:

- The North East Worcestershire Transport Strategy (Bromsgrove and Redditch)
- The Wyre Forest Transport Strategy
- The South Worcestershire Transport Strategy (Malvern Hills, Wychavon and Worcester).

9. It is proposed to also consult on an Environmental Impact Assessment and a Habitats Regulation Assessment. A Health Impact Assessment and an Equality Impact Assessment will be produced, but these will not need to be subjected to a public consultation.

10. Full details of the consultation exercise are included in the Consultation Plan (Appendix B) and a draft public consultation document is also available to view (Appendix C). In essence, the consultation will run for 12 weeks from 22 December 2016 to 17 March 2017, with the draft documents being amended to reflect any comments received as appropriate. It is proposed that the revised documentation will then be re-submitted to the Cabinet and following this to full Council for final adoption in summer 2017.

Legal, Financial and HR Implications

11. There is a legal requirement to consult on an LTP prior to final adoption by full Council.

Privacy and Public Health Impact Assessments

12. The draft LTP4 documents will be subject to a Health Impact Assessment. This assessment is currently being prepared and its development, including a consultation with health colleagues, will run in tandem with the LTP4 public consultation (Dec 2016 - March 2017). It is proposed to submit the health impact assessment to Cabinet when the LTP4 is re-submitted for adoption in summer 2017.

Equality and Diversity Implications

13. An Equality screening exercise has been carried out to identify which of the policies and strategies comprising the LTP are of particular relevance in the lives of people who have one or more relevant Protected Characteristics (such as Age and Disability). This assessment will identify the potential negative impacts on any of the protected groups affected to inform the decision-making and so that any mitigating actions can be taken.

14. Equality impact analysis will be carried out for each of the areas where equality relevance has been rated as either Amber or Red.

15. We will ensure that the consultation in respect of the Plan is inclusive and that findings contribute to Equality analysis and any resulting action to mitigate negative impact of proposals. The findings of the Equality analyses will be summarised in the consequent Cabinet report and completed Equality Assessments will be appended to that report.

Supporting Information

The following supporting information is available electronically. Hard copies will also be made available in the Members' area and in County Hall Reception.

- Appendix A: LTP4 Strategy Document
- Appendix B: Consultation Plan
- Appendix C: Draft Public Consultation document

Contact Points

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Economy and Infrastructure) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.