



CABINET – 7 FEBRUARY 2020

**LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE STRATEGIC TRANSPORT
PRIORITIES 2020 TO 2050**

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Cabinet of the development of the draft Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Transport Priorities (LLSTP) document which has been prepared in partnership with Leicester City Council and to seek approval to undertake a consultation exercise on the draft LLSTP which is appended to this report.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that Cabinet:
 - (a) Approves the draft Leicestershire Strategic Transport Priorities 2020-2050 document (LLSTP) for consultation;
 - (b) Notes that a further report will be submitted to the Cabinet in Summer 2020 presenting the outcome of the consultation and seeking approval for the final version of the LLSTP.

Reason for Recommendations

3. The development and approval of the LLSTP establishes the narrative for the key long-term transport priorities for the future development and prosperity of Leicester and Leicestershire. It highlights where the two transport authorities will work together to deliver common transport aims and objectives, including those in support of the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan (LLSGP). This will support the delivery of growth in ways that seek to improve connectivity, reduce congestion and minimise environmental impacts.
4. Engagement and consultation with stakeholders are an important part of the process for developing new policies. This helps to ensure that the Authority's policies take account of customer expectations and delivers the most appropriate service levels, consistent with the budget available.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

5. Subject to approval, initial stakeholder consultation on the draft LLSTP is expected to take place between 17 February 2020 and 25 May 2020.
6. As part of the consultation exercise, the draft LLSTP will be considered by the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5 March 2020.
7. A further report on the outcome of the consultation, presenting the final revised draft LLSTP for approval, will be submitted to the Cabinet in Summer 2020. The City Council will present a report to the City Mayor in line with this timescale on the outcome of the consultation.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

8. The Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2026 (LTP3) identifies six overall priorities, four of which are relevant when considering strategic transport:
 - Supporting the economy and population growth;
 - Encouraging active and sustainable travel;
 - Improving connectivity and accessibility;
 - Managing the impact of our transport system on quality of life.
9. On 23 November 2018 the Cabinet approved the Strategic Growth Plan (LLSGP) “Leicester and Leicestershire 2050: Our Vision for Growth”, which provides an agreed local framework for considering the longer term needs of the area. This LLSGP was prepared and approved by the County Council and nine other partner organisations (the City Council, the seven district councils and the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP)), following extensive consultation.
10. The Council’s Strategic Plan (agreed by County Council on 6 December 2017), supported by the Council’s Enabling Growth Plan, outlines the Council’s five key outcomes for 2018 to 2022. The draft LLSTP supports the Strategic Plan outcomes, which are:
 - **Strong Economy:** economy is growing and resilient so that people and businesses can fulfil their potential.
 - **Wellbeing and Opportunity:** people have the opportunities and support they need to take control of their health and wellbeing.
 - **Keeping people:** people are safe and protected from harm.
 - **Great Communities:** communities are thriving and integrated places where people help and support each other and take pride in their local area.
 - **Affordable and Quality Homes:** Leicestershire has a choice of quality homes that people can afford.
11. On 15 May 2019, the County Council declared a climate emergency and committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 for its own operations, to work with others and to lobby government to make the wider 2030 target possible. On 13 September 2019 the Cabinet approved work to be undertaken in revising the Council’s Strategic Plan and Single Outcome Framework to incorporate the new environment and climate change commitments.

12. This is an important piece of work that could have wide ranging implications for the Authority's own services and, ultimately, across society more widely (e.g. the need for significant behavioural change influenced by a wide range of national, regional and local policies and initiatives). The outcome of this work will thus help to inform the development of the next Local Transport Plan and its associated programmes.

Resource Implications

13. There are no immediate resource implications for the Council arising from the recommendations in this report, as support for the development of the LLSTP is being resourced through existing staffing and operational budgets. The long-term delivery of the LLSTP will be dependent on the necessary resources being secured to finance the delivery of key infrastructure in parallel with the growth outlined in the LLSGP.
14. The Director of Corporate Resources has been consulted on the content of this report.

Legal Implications

15. The LLSTP would support the Authority's responsibilities as Local Transport Authority.
16. The Director of Law and Governance has been consulted on the content of this report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

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PART B

Background

17. The Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan (LLSGP) sets out a strategy for the growth and development of Leicester and Leicestershire in the period to 2050, enabling partners to consider the longer-term needs of the area and opportunities which extend beyond the conventional timeframe of a Local Plan (typically around a 20-year time horizon).
18. The LLSGP will:
 - Support partners to plan effectively for the future, giving Local Plans a consistent framework, help to make decisions on infrastructure and secure Government funding.
 - Give some control over accommodating and supporting future growth and help to protect and enhance environmental assets.
 - Provide confidence to the market, Government, local businesses and residents that the local councils and the LLEP are working together to manage the growth of the area in a plan-led and co-ordinated manner.
19. The strategic transport assessment evidence, produced in support of the LLSGP, demonstrates that the area's current transport system will be unable to accommodate the anticipated level of demand generated by future growth without the need for significant investment. The LLSGP refers to the Local Transport Authorities (LTAs) – the County Council and Leicester City Council – collaborating on a Strategic Transport Plan which will set out short and long-term aspirations for developing the area's transport system up to 2050. The LLSTP is that document, albeit renamed to better reflect its content as it has been developed.

Key Policy Drivers

20. Current Government policy is driven by the following key factors: economic growth, housing delivery, the environment, health (wellbeing) and social mobility. At present the country is failing to provide enough housing to meet the needs of the growing and changing population. People also need jobs, and it is important that the County continues to have a strong, prosperous and growing economy. Housing delivery and growth are at the heart of national government policy.
21. Growth will inevitably generate additional travel demands, which will have implications for the environment and climate change. It is acknowledged that transport has a role to play in mitigating this impact and that the LTAs must take a leadership role in building on the global, national, and local commitments made to address the situation by working with partners to act within Leicester and Leicestershire. Local authorities and partners have a key role to play to accelerate the use of low-carbon transport and improve air quality, as they move together towards a zero-emission future.
22. The emergence of new technological innovations, such as electric vehicles, will clearly play a significant role in helping to reduce the environmental impact whilst also opening new opportunities in the efficient operation of the area's transport

networks. The LTAs are committed to embracing these opportunities and look forward to developing innovative measures to enable people to meet their travel needs more effectively, sustainably and efficiently.

Development of the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Transport Priorities

23. The draft LLSTP has been prepared by Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council to outline priorities for the two Local Transport Authorities. A copy of the draft LLSTP is appended. It highlights where the two authorities will work together to deliver common transport aims and objectives, including those in support of the LLSGP. The LTAs have a strong track record of partnership working to develop and deliver strategies and programmes such as Park and Ride, bus priority corridors, Leicester and Leicestershire Rail Strategy and the Leicester and Leicestershire Integrated Transport Model.
24. The objectives of the draft LLSTP are to:
- a) Set out the Local Transport Authorities' transportation priorities to meet the challenge of economic and housing growth in the city and county;
 - b) Underline the need for continued investment in Leicester and Leicestershire's transport systems and supporting infrastructure;
 - c) Provide a framework for the work that has been, and is being, done to identify transport investment to support growth; and
 - d) Summarise how the Local Transport Authorities' will continue to work together to identify further transport investment requirements towards 2050.
25. The principal aims are to:
- improve connectivity;
 - support and drive the economy to unlock growth;
 - create high quality environments for communities to thrive;
 - ensure development is sustainable and maximises social and environmental benefits;
 - support the transition to a low carbon and circular economy;
 - support national and international efforts in combatting the impacts of and adapting to climate change;
 - maximise opportunities from technological innovations;
 - address wider social challenges including accessibility, severance, and deprivation;
 - improve public health, by tackling sedentary behaviour and poor air quality; and
 - focus transport investment and funding to achieve the biggest impact for the City and County.
26. The draft LLSTP is not intended to provide a detailed list of investment proposals or transport requirements. The LTAs will continue to prepare their own specific detailed plans and strategies, including their respective Local Transport Plans. Infrastructure requirements, because of local growth and development, will continue to be included within Local Plans (which in Leicestershire are produced by the district councils). The LTAs continue to work in collaboration with district councils to ensure that the right infrastructure and transport interventions are identified to support Local Plan growth.

Strategic Transport Themes

27. Five strategic transport themes have been developed, which cover the interconnected transportation issues that arise across distinctive parts of the city and county and those that extend beyond the area, connecting with other cities. The themes summarise the transport aims, challenges and priorities for the City and County and where the two LTAs can work together to ensure coordination and added value to transport schemes.
28. The five themes cover:
1. the transport movements in and out of the area to other cities,
 2. travel within the Leicester urban area
 3. travel around Leicestershire
 4. travel around county towns and other urban areas
 5. ensuring that the transport network is resilient to growth pressures.
29. For each theme a time period for the delivery of projects and programmes is shown as follows:
- Short-term priorities over the period to 2025, which is a reasonable timeframe to identify schemes that are likely to be programmed for delivery, where funding is identified or there is a reasonable prospect of it being secured.
 - Medium-term projects are shown to 2036 which accords with timeframes set out for infrastructure delivery in the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan and most Local Plans for the area. Some regional projects identified in Midlands Connect and Transport for East Midlands strategies may also be deliverable in this timeframe.
 - Long-term priorities are set to 2050 which reflects the period over which major regional transport infrastructure projects might be expected to be delivered, including those in Midlands Connect and Transport for East Midlands strategies.

Local Transport Plans

30. The County Council's current LTP3 sets out its overall transport strategy framework to 2026. Since its approval in 2011, a number of separate policies and strategies either have, or are being, developed and approved, for example for Asset Management, Passenger Transport and Network Management. These amplify and develop areas of LTP3. Given this, and the number of changes since the LTP3 was agreed in 2011, it is intended that work will commence later this year on the next iteration, LTP4. This will be subject to the timescale for, and interactions with, work to determine the Authority's response to the climate change emergency (including the review of the Environment Strategy). As with the LTP3, the development of LTP4 will be subject to consideration by Members.
31. Officers are currently developing a new cycling and walking strategy for the County, with a view to it being considered by members later in 2020. The strategy will provide the direction for future funding, partnership working and ambitions to increase levels of cycling and walking.

32. Leicester City Council's LTP3 similarly sets out the transport strategy framework for the city to 2026. Since 2011 a number of individual transport and related documents have been approved which provide action plans for cycling, air quality, the economy and parking. The City Council intends to develop a new LTP4 document and consultation on this is expected to commence in 2020.

Prospectus for Growth

33. The County Council publishes a Prospectus for Growth, which provides information on national, regional and local transport projects that are vital to support growth ambitions identified in the LLSGP. This document is regularly refreshed, and it is expected that the next update will be published in Spring 2020.

Consultation on the LLSTP

34. It is proposed that consultation on the draft LLSTP, which will last thirteen weeks, will consist of an online questionnaire available via a link from the Council's website and targeted engagement with key stakeholders, including the public, parish councils, other transport bodies, national and regional bodies, the area's local planning authorities and business and economic growth bodies. The consultation will commence on 17 February 2020 and close on 25 May 2020 and will be advertised widely through media channels and stakeholder networks.
35. The Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee will consider a report on the 5 March 2020 as part of the consultation process.
36. A further report detailing the outcome of the consultation and presenting a final version of the LLSTP will be brought to the Cabinet in Summer 2020.
37. An initial briefing on the general purpose and proposed content of the draft LLSTP has been given to District Councils to help inform the draft document. Members from the County Council, City Council and District Councils meet regularly on planning matters and will consider the LLSTP as part of the consultation.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

38. The Equality Act 2010 requires the Authority to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity between different protected groups.
39. An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) screening exercise is currently in development and will be informed by the outcome of the consultation. A full EHRIA, if appropriate, will be presented to the Cabinet in Spring 2020, alongside the consultation outcomes, to assist the Cabinet with its decision on the exercise of its Public-Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010.
40. As the LLSTP is a high-level strategic document, the responsibility for mitigating any adverse impacts upon individuals or community groups will fall to subsequent statutory plans, primarily the Local Plans prepared by individual authorities. In most cases, it will be important to ensure that specific infrastructure and services are planned effectively to deal with the needs of these groups.

Environmental Impact

41. The LLSTP outlines the high-level environmental challenges that are faced in developing transport priorities in the city and county. All these matters will be considered as part of the review and development of an updated Local Transport Plan. This will be informed by the outcome of the work undertaken in revising the Council's Strategic Plan and Single Outcome Framework to incorporate the new environment and climate change commitments and the review of the Council's Environment Strategy.
42. Where relevant an appropriate Environmental Impact Assessment will be completed as specific schemes are developed.

Background Papers

Report to the Cabinet on 23 November 2018 'Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan:

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=5185&Ver=4>

Appendix

Draft Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Transport Priorities 2020-2050