



CABINET – 17 SEPTEMBER 2021

LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL DRAFT LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 4 AND WORK PLACE PARKING LEVY CONSULTATIONS

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this supplementary report is to set out an updated County Council response to Leicester City Council's draft Workplace Levy (WPL) following receipt of further information from the City Council.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the comments in response to Leicester City Council's consultation on its draft Local Transport Plan 4 as set out in paragraphs 23 to 36 of the original Cabinet report and those relating to the Workplace Parking Levy, as set out in paragraphs 14 to 17 of this supplementary report, be submitted to Leicester City Council in response to their consultation as the views of the County Council.

Reason for Recommendations

3. The draft Leicester LTP4 and WPL will inform the next stage of local transport plan making in the City up to 2036. As the City of Leicester is important to residents of Leicestershire, e.g. for access to jobs and services, so then too is the need for good transport connectivity to and through the City. Proposals within the City's boundaries have the potential to interact with and affect county highways, transport networks and local communities. The content of the Leicester City draft LTP4 and WPL are thus important to the County Council.
4. The proposed responses set out key comments for consideration by Leicester City Council in preparing its new LTP4 and WPL proposals. These comments seek to ensure alignment with key strategic documents (including the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan (SGP), the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Transport Priorities document and the County Council's Strategic Plan) and ensure that Leicester City Council's draft LTP4 and WPL do not have a negative effect on County highways or residents. With regard to the WPL, recent further information received from Leicester City Council has led to proposed amended comments in relation to that aspect of the consultation.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

5. Consultation responses are required to be submitted to Leicester City Council by 17 September 2021.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

6. The Council's Strategic Plan (2018 to 2022) "Working together for the benefit of everyone" was approved by the County Council in July 2020 (having been revised in light of the Council's declaration on climate change). It has five strategic outcomes, with the delivery of 'Affordable and Quality Homes' and 'Strong Economy' most directly impacted by the City Council's emerging LTP4 and WPL.
7. In November 2020 the Cabinet approved the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Transport Priorities document (2020-2050), which highlights where Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council will work together to deliver common transport aims and objectives and ensuring that long-term development needs and associated transportation requirements are co-ordinated.

Resource Implications

8. There are no immediate resource implications for the Council arising from the recommendations in this report. However, where proposals put forward by Leicester City Council have cross-boundary implications, officer resources will be required to work with City Council colleagues to understand the nature of any potential impacts and to identify any possible complimentary/mitigating measures that might be required in the county area and which should be funded by the City Council.
9. The Traffic Management Act 2004 (network management duty) states that:

"It is the duty of a local traffic authority to manage their road network with a view to achieving, so far as is reasonably practicable and having regard to their other obligations, policies and objectives, the following objectives:

 - securing the expeditious movement of traffic on the authority's road network; and
 - facilitating the expeditious movement of traffic on road networks for which another authority is the traffic authority".
10. Close working between the County Council and City Councils is of paramount importance in the delivery of transport infrastructure and related proposals. Early evidence-based identification of cross-boundary issues, such as impact on neighbouring authority's road networks, are vital to delivering the network management duty and achieving wider benefits for Leicester and Leicestershire.

11. The Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of Law and Governance have been consulted on this report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

Officers to Contact

Ann Carruthers
Director, Environment and Transport
Tel: (0116) 305 7000
Email: Ann.Carruthers@leics.gov.uk

Janna Walker
Acting Assistant Director, Development and Growth
Tel: (0116) 305 0785
Email: Janna.Walker@leics.gov.uk

PART B

Leicester City Council's Workplace Parking Levy (WPL) overview

12. The City Council is considering the concept of a WPL scheme for Leicester, to encourage more people to switch from using private cars to sustainable transport and to help deliver the funding for transport improvements identified within the City Council's LTP4. Potential investment from WPL in radial bus routes and services, new park and ride sites and an improved rail station would have the potential to benefit travellers from the County. More information concerning the WPL Scheme and consultation proposals is set out in the original Cabinet report.

Proposed response to Leicester City Council's draft WPL consultation

13. The County Council's proposed response to the draft WPL consultation, which is set out below, has been amended since the publication of the original Cabinet report to reflect receipt of further information from the City Council.
14. The County Council welcomes the opportunity to formally comment on the proposals at this stage. The proposed response below sets out key comments for consideration by Leicester City Council.
15. These comments seek to ensure alignment with key strategic documents and, given the connectivity, interaction and possible impact on County highways and communities, of proposals. They also seek to ensure that proposals will not have a negative effect on Leicestershire highways or residents and to seek further information on any potential benefits for the county
16. As such, the County Council has the following comments:
 - i. The County Council has no plans to introduce its own WPL.
 - ii. The County Council is opposed in principle to the introduction of a WPL in Leicester City and will respond further to the City Council after consideration of a further detailed business case.
 - iii. The County Council would expect that a business case will include a fully researched and evidence-based study of the impacts on the County and how they would be mitigated, including the likely levels and geographic extents of workplace parking displacement from the City into the County. This should draw on evidence from, at a minimum, Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council.
 - iv. If the WPL proposal is taken forward, the County Council would expect that the boundary for such a scheme was within the extents of Leicester City Council's administrative boundary.
 - v. Should the project be implemented in due course, it should include funding from the City Council for the introduction of appropriate mitigation measures for affected areas across the County.
17. Should Leicester City Council not agree with points iii to v above, it should be noted that the County Council will voice its opposition to the WPL proposal more widely, in order to seek to safeguard the interests of its residents.

Leicester City Council's Draft LTP4 Consultation

18. Information concerning Leicester City Council's draft LTP4, which sets out the transport strategy framework for the City to 2036, and the County Council's proposed response, is set out in the original Cabinet report.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

19. There are no equality and human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
20. The City Council's draft LTP4 and WPL document indicates that significant further work will be undertaken to progress the proposals. The County Council will continue to work with the City Council where appropriate to minimise any negative impact on the County.

Background Papers

Report to the Cabinet – 17 September 2021 - Leicester City Council Draft Local Transport Plan 4 and Workplace Parking Levy Consultations

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=6446&Ver=4>

Report to the Cabinet on 20 November 2020 'Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Transport Priorities':

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=5999&Ver=4>

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