

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 10 NOVEMBER 2010**DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 3 (LTP3)****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT****Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to:
 - advise the Commission of progress with the development of LTP3,
 - advise of progress with the public engagement exercise on LTP3; and
 - seek the Commission's comments on this consultation (see attached document).

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The change in national Government has not affected the requirement to produce an LTP3. The guidance remains largely unchanged; thus LTP3 must still:
 - be in place by 1 April 2011;
 - be based on 'robust evidence'; and
 - be developed through engagement with stakeholders and residents.
3. Although the Coalition Government has abandoned the 'Delivering a Sustainable Transport System' (DaSTS) approach, it still recognises the importance of transport in delivering its wider economic, environmental and social policies.
4. The Leicestershire LTP3 will consist of a long-term (to 2026), high-level, Strategy and a shorter-term (three year) rolling Implementation Plan. Whilst the long-term Strategy will set the policy direction of travel and provide the framework for changes, it is the Implementation Plan that will apply these changes, setting out what we will do to deliver the Strategy.

Background

5. The Council's Strategy direction remains similar to LTP2. However, how those measures are implemented, and the balance between the services provided as a Council, will change. The short-term driver for these changes is the current economic climate and its impact on public sector funding. In the medium and longer-term, the other most significant driver is the forecast growth in the County's (and City's) population and CO₂ footprint of transport.
6. Updates on LTP3 have been provided to Members. Members' Briefings were held on 24 November 2009 and 9 June 2010 and a further briefing has taken place prior to this meeting.
7. During this time, officers have continued to develop and refine the Strategy and Implementation Plan.

Update on LTP3 development

8. A preliminary consultation was undertaken with approximately 100 key stakeholders and groups in the summer, to give stakeholders an early opportunity to help shape the development of the long-term strategy. Over thirty responses were received, which were broadly supportive of the draft Strategy elements. The Strategy continues to be developed taking these responses into consideration and refinement of LTP3 is still ongoing.
9. Since March 2010, work has progressed to develop the first Implementation Plan. Through analysis of the evidence base, and the outcomes of engagement, a number of proposals for changes of approach are emerging. They can be summarised as:
 - Concentrating more on getting the most out of our *existing* transport system, both in the way that it is managed and the way in which it is maintained;
 - Placing greater emphasis on maximising value for money from the measures that are implemented and seeking to reduce future maintenance liabilities;
 - Improving understanding of the current transport system; more clearly defining the problems and understanding their causes; and developing an understanding of the impacts of population growth and climate change.

Engagement

10. An engagement exercise on elements of the final draft Strategy, and the policy approach that will underpin the Implementation Plan, started on 1 October 2010 and will finish on 26 November 2010. The Council is engaging with, and consulting, members, officers, strategic groups, partners, stakeholders, interest groups, organisations and the public.
11. The engagement exercise is predominantly online, but hard copy leaflets have been made available to Parish Councils, libraries, service shops and individuals who had requested them. This exercise has been promoted through ongoing reports and verbal updates to groups and organisations, through the media and through community forums.
12. This exercise has focused on:
 - continuing to build people's understanding of the situation that the Council faces;
 - ascertaining the level of support for our goals;
 - understanding what others can do to help meet the challenges that are faced to successfully deliver our long-term Strategy; and
 - helping to shape the Council's future approach.

13. In the first four weeks of the consultation, approximately 250 responses had been received. When the consultation has finished on 26 November, an analysis of all responses will be undertaken.
14. The outcomes from this engagement exercise will be reported to the Cabinet on 11 January 2011. The final approval process will then commence in mid-January 2011, including reporting to the Scrutiny Commission on 2 March 2011.

Next steps

15. The Commission's views are sought to help inform the 'final' version of the Strategy and first Implementation Plan. A brief leaflet, which summarises the approach taken, can be viewed at: www.leics.gov.uk/current_LTP3_consultation.
16. A hard copy of this leaflet will also be available at the Scrutiny Commission meeting. A more detailed summary document, which gives more information on the approach taken, is also available via the above link.
17. Work will continue to develop the first Implementation Plan and to establish priorities for the first three years. In parallel, work is ongoing to develop and write the actual Strategy document. Comments received during the engagement exercise will be considered as the final draft of our LTP3 long-term Strategy and Implementation Plan are prepared.
18. The final drafts will be taken to the Cabinet and County Council for approval in March 2011, which will enable the publication of LTP3 before the deadline of 1 April 2011.

Conclusions

19. LTP3 remains an important document for the Authority. Given that the availability of funds for transport schemes is likely to remain severely restricted for some time and also given the significant challenges going forward, it is even more important that the Council has clear, robust and effective policies for the future management and development of Leicestershire's transport system.

Recommendations

20. It is recommended that:
 - i) the work undertaken to-date on the development of LTP3 be noted;
 - ii) the further work required to develop the LTP3 long-term Strategy and Implementation Plan post consultation be noted; and
 - iii) the Commission consider the consultation document and the comments it wishes to make as part of the consultation process.

Background Papers

None.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None.

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List of Appendices

Appendix – “Have Your Say” – Consultation on the Draft Third Local Transport Plan for Leicestershire

Equal Opportunities Implications

21. An ‘Equality Impact Assessment’ (EqIA) is being undertaken on LTP3 to ensure that equality issues within the plan are assessed. The scoping report for the EqIA was published for consultation in June. The EqIA on the LTP3 proposals is being consulted on as part of the 1 October 2010 to 26 November 2010 engagement exercise.
22. The EqIA will ensure that LTP3 fulfils Leicestershire’s corporate and statutory duties on equality and diversity. Consultation will give consultees an opportunity to contribute to the policy before it is adopted.

Environmental Impact

23. The scoping report for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Health Impact Assessment (HIA) were published for consultation in June. The Environmental Report on the LTP3 proposals is being consulted on as part of the 1 October 2010 to 26 November 2010 engagement exercise. The results of this consultation will be used to prepare the Environmental Statement which will be published with the LTP3 next April.