

TITLE	Local Transport Plan process and invitation for comments
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 19 June 2019
WARD	None Specific;
LEAD OFFICER	Director of Locality and Customer Services - Sarah Hollamby

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

An update of the current Local Transport Plan (LTP3) will bring the current objectives up to date, removing some which have been achieved and bringing the plan in line with legislative changes and trends nationally as well as the borough's own plans and aspirations. The work is being completed in parallel with the Local Plan process to ensure a joined up approach and to provide residents and businesses assurance that Transport is being considered alongside future plans for the borough and that neither plan makes the other less achievable.

RECOMMENDATION

That Members...

1. Support the development of a refreshed Local Transport Plan
2. Contribute the views, concerns and opinions of their electorate to enable the scope of the strategy to be determined.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report looks at what has changed since the adoption of Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) and proposes a programme of work to develop the next Local Transport Plan.

In order for LTP4 to be a success officers request that Members contribute to the process by submitting any particular transport issues, ideas or schemes to the Transport Planning Team for collation. In addition we will be canvassing Parish and Town Councils to establish the concerns and particular issues experienced by residents in their area. This will help us to identify the main priorities for the borough in future and also produce a delivery plan which will include a prioritised list of schemes, from major schemes to minor improvements which will then be consulted on with the public to establish support and ensure that there is support for the plan.

This report outlines the proposed process for the plan and requests feedback on both the process but also asks for input in the form of comments and priorities for Transport in the Borough which Members would like us to consider during the Plan period, which will be in line with the Local Plan Update (to run to 2036).

Background

Every Highway Authority in the UK is required by the Local Transport Act (2008) to produce a Local Transport Plan. This sets the vision for transport in the borough along with a number of objectives and targets which the borough wishes to achieve within the plan period.

The borough's current plan is Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) and was adopted in 2011. This plan is now in need of updating following the work done to date to meet its objectives and also legislative changes including various new Acts, National Policies, Strategies and Plans which include:

- A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (Defra, 2018)
- British Road Safety Statement (DfT, 2015)
- Bus Services Act (DfT, 2017)
- Clean Air Strategy 2018 (Defra, 2018)
- Connecting the Country Planning for the Long Term (Highways England, 2017)
- Creating a Great Place for Living 2016- 2020 (Defra, 2016)
- Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon: Making Sustainable Local Transport Happen White Paper (DfT, 2011)
- Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (DfT, 2017)
- Everybody Active, Every Day (Public Health England, 2014)
- Industrial Strategy (Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, 2017)
- National Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2016-2021 (IPA, 2016)
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019)
- Road Investment Strategy: for the 2015 to 2020 Road Period (DfT, 2016)
- The Road to Growth (Highways England, 2017)
- Transport Investment Strategy (DfT, 2017)
- UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations (Defra, 2017)

In addition, LTP3 includes consideration of census data from 2001, the New LTP4 will be based on the 2011 census with more recent projections and estimates for the population, demographic and travel information than LTP3.

Beneath the overall plan there are a number of daughter documents such as the Smarter Choices Delivery Plan and the Public Transport Strategy. Some of these could be reproduced or replaced following the development of LTP4.

Analysis of Issues

A draft programme for the development of LTP4 is provided as Appendix 1, this is a draft and in order to align with the Local Plan Update (LPU) it is subject to change. The timescales for the LPU are set out in the Local Development Scheme¹, however an accelerated programme is being explored. Therefore, it is likely that the daughter documents for LTP4 will follow the main Transport Plan later in 2020.

¹ Available under the 'What's the Timetable?' section of the following webpage:
<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/planning-policy/planning-policy-information/local-plan-update/>

Work is underway compiling information to support the request for schemes and issues from Parish and Town Councils and this will be shared with Ward Members so that they can also contribute.

This will include detail of some of the activities and achievements to date, completed under LTP3. LTP3 has 5 separate goals:

1. Highways Goal

To have a resilient, safe highway network that balances capacity for all users, enhances the economic prospects of the borough, and promotes sustainable travel

2. Active Travel Goal

To work with partners to promote walking and cycling as a health-enhancing physical activity for all of our residents

3. Public Transport Goal

To promote an integrated and inclusive public transport network that provides a convenient, acceptable, reliable and affordable alternative to car travel

4. Smarter Choices & Demand Management Goal

To enable people who live, visit and work in the borough to make informed, safe and sustainable travel decisions from a range of transport

5. Strategic Projects Goal

To manage the demand for travel in order to ensure that people have a high level of access to different destinations, with sufficient choice, whilst minimising the adverse effects of congestion

The gathering of information and views will help us to identify whether these goal areas remain valid, how they should be prioritised and what emerging issues, such as the climate emergency, should be considered. This will help to shape the approach we take and the format of the new Local Transport Plan.

HOW TO RESPOND

Members are invited to submit their views on behalf of their residents to the Council's Transport Planning Team Manager through the Transportplanning@wokingham.gov.uk email inbox.

The opportunity to comment will remain open until 31st July 2019, following which a summary of the comments received and outline of the key issues to be addressed will be sent to all Committee members.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council continues to face severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of reductions to public sector funding and growing pressures in our statutory services. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions of approximately £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	n/a	n/a	n/a

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

The development of LTP4 has been funded through existing budgets and is part of Business as usual costs for the Transport Planning team.

Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services, including properties and priorities?)

n/a

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

n/a

List of Background Papers

App 1 – Draft Programme for LTP4

Contact Robert Curtis	Service Place
Telephone No Tel: 0118 974 6489	Email robert.curtis@wokingham.gov.uk