

Agenda Item 31.

TITLE	Local Transport Plan - Consultation
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Wokingham Borough Wellbeing Board on Thursday, 14 December 2023
WARD	None Specific
DIRECTOR/ KEY OFFICER	Director, Place and Growth - Giorgio Framaliccio

Health and Wellbeing Strategy priority/priorities most progressed through the report	Creating Physically Active Communities
Key outcomes achieved against the Strategy priority/priorities	The Local Transport Plan (LTP) aims to encourage active and sustainable travel and as such has a direct impact on creating physically active communities, and improving the mental health and wellbeing of children, young people and adults. In addition, further measures aim to reduce traffic, increase uptake of electric vehicles and reduce speed of vehicles in built up areas. These (and other measures in the plan) contribute to the remaining three priorities: reduce the differences in health between different groups of people; support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives, and; help children and families in early years

Reason for consideration by Wokingham Borough Wellbeing Board	To present the draft Local Transport Plan to the board with a view to further enhance the LTP to ensure it supports the Wokingham Health and Wellbeing Strategy Into Action.
What (if any) public engagement has been carried out?	Executive approved the draft report on 30 November to allow the consultation on the draft LTP in winter 2023/2024 and with an expectation to adopt the plan in summer 2024. This draft LTP has been developed in conjunction with several stakeholders, both internally and externally, and has been guided by a Member working group. A 'transport principles' engagement was completed in March 2023 using 'Engage.Wokingham' to ascertain public sentiment for a series of transport considerations or principles. Over 750 individual responses were received and a small number from representative organisations and parish councils. The formal public consultation will ensure adequate consideration of Member and public views ahead of any formal decision to adopt the plan in summer 2024.
State the financial implications of the decision	At this stage there are no financial implications.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board note the content of the draft Local Transport Plan and provide feedback and highlight any particular concerns regarding the current draft version that could be incorporated into the final draft.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) is a statutory requirement of the council deriving from the Transport Act 2000. The current Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2011-2026 has provided many improvements including the Wokingham Greenways, enhancements to Wokingham town centre, the Arborfield Cross Relief Road, the North Wokingham Distributor Road, upgrades to railway stations and more.

With a significant part of the current LTP having been delivered, changing technology and government policy, a better understanding of travel habits and with climate change, there is a need to refresh the transport strategy to address current priorities and the needs of our communities. The updated LTP (LTP4) will be an important part of the authority's goal of making Wokingham borough a net-zero carbon producer.

The draft LTP4 is attached to this report. It is intended to be a high-level document that will be supported in future by daughter documents which give further detail on our approach to different elements of transport planning (such as Cycling and Walking, Public Transport and Future mobility). The draft document includes an action plan, outlining some of the key interventions that we propose to deliver throughout the plan period. A less technical, easier to read version of this report is currently being produced for the consultation. In addition to this, a summary of the evidence informing the Plan (Appendix A) and a report on early public engagement completed in March 2023 (Appendix B) have been completed. These can be found at myjourneywokingham.com/car-travel/local-transport-plan/. A Sustainability Appraisal Report also forms part of this pack and is provided as Enc 2.

Following Executive Approval of the draft, allowing the consultation to start in December, a consultation plan is in development to detail how we will engage with all stakeholders though in particular young adults, those in education, SEND groups and religious and ethnic minorities each of which were under-represented in responses to the March 2023 engagement.

The LTP4 will support our local priorities, including a prosperous economy, improving the quality of life for residents, reducing the environmental impact of transport, and represents a step in the transition of the transport sector towards lower carbon emissions and Net Zero. Through the development of the evidence base and the plan itself, a working group, including representation from public health colleagues, helped to shape the documents and steer the project. Now that consultation is underway, further development and refinement of the plan is required to ensure that all of the Council's Services' requirements can be met as much as possible.

It should be noted that for the last three years the Department for Transport has intended to release detailed guidance as to the recommended content of an LTP. This has delayed the completion of this plan to date and although the guidance has still to be released, the current document has been developed using best practice and best knowledge of the likely content of this guidance. WBC is aware that there will be

additional guidance from DfT regarding carbon assessment which will need to follow the plan once this guidance is finalised.

Background

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) is a strategic document that sets out the approach for all aspects of transport across the borough. The LTP will help identify future transport interventions for funding and ensures that we are addressing the priorities of our residents whilst ensuring we meet the requirements of national and local objectives. The LTP will be supported by Daughter documents that will provide greater detail in certain areas; two such documents have already been adopted by the council: The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and the Local Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

The council's third and current LTP (LTP3) was written in 2011. With a significant part of the strategy having been delivered and changes in technology, policy and demographics, there is a need to produce a new transport strategy.

The LTP4 looks back at what has happened since 2011, then considers the views of our residents and changing/current travel habits and trends that have been identified. It considers changes in national and regional policy and the borough's own updated goals and objectives from its various strategies as well as the emerging Local Plan.

The Documents

The documents that are to be consulted on are the LTP4 and its Action Plan. In addition, there is a Sustainability Appraisal (Enc 2) which must be consulted on; this demonstrates that none of the measures will have a negative impact on the environment or on individuals, and makes recommendations for further work as projects from the plan are developed to ensure that this can be achieved.

There are two background documents that provide more detail on the data used in developing the new Plan: *The LTP4 Evidence Base*, which includes an overview of empirical data and changes in the borough since 2011 and *The LTP4 Principles Report* which summarises the results of our early engagement with residents in March 2023.

Analysis of Issues, including any financial implications

The following is the summary of the Local Transport Plan.

LTP4

Travel and socio-economic data analysis suggests that travel patterns can be split into four geographic areas:

Earley, Woodley and Shinfield	Includes the most urban areas of these Towns and Parish; mainly focussed on travel towards Reading
--------------------------------------	--

North Wokingham	Which includes Twyford and the surrounding area which is mainly rural and has high car dependency
South Wokingham	The more rural areas of the south of the borough which also have relatively high car dependency
Wokingham and Winnersh	The central area of the borough which has the highest levels of “self-containment” and active travel in the borough.

These characteristics have been used to develop place-specific solutions where we know that certain interventions will benefit certain travel types, it also means that although the Local Plan will have a Transport Hierarchy, we must accept and support those that are dependent on private car use.

The LTP will support our local priorities. This is reflected in a Vision within which the LTP strategy can be grouped into three key themes that deliver local priorities:

- Create Healthy and Safe Places
- Reduce Environmental impacts
- Develop the Economy

Create Healthy and Safe Places

The LTP will help to build and maintain healthy communities, attractive environments and work towards reducing negative impacts associated with road transport such as injuries from traffic collisions, noise and emissions.

Targets include a 50% reduction in those harmed on our roads and align with national objective for 50% of trips in towns to be made by walking and cycling. For rural areas measure to improve the vitality of rural service centres and access to active travel routes, through either Greenways or a network of lower traffic routes are proposed.

Reduce Environmental Impacts

Consistent with local, regional and national targets, the LTP will support the transition of the transport sector to carbon neutrality. Achieving this will require improved travel choice and changes in travel behaviour to reduce travel and congestion. This includes promoting low emission vehicles, developing a core network of attractive bus and cycle routes across the borough and the removal of all air quality exceedances in the borough.

Develop the Economy

We will work with our partners and stakeholders to protect and enhance our strategic road and rail connectivity. We will work with and encourage rail operators to improve services at our railway stations and measures to decarbonise the railway and complement these with improvements to station interchange and access.

Maximising our existing assets is vital in keeping the borough moving, and a well-maintained transport system was a priority from the consultation.

Next Steps

Throughout the development of the plan, officers have tried to ensure that other council department's objectives and needs are considered. As part of this work, some synergies have been identified; for instance, in improving the quality of routes to school, there are environmental and health benefits as well as less reliance on the council to provide home to school transport. Discussions are ongoing with officers to ensure that all needs are considered. Bringing the Local Transport Plan to the Wellbeing Board will help officers working on the project further develop LTP4 and ensure that full consideration is given to health and wellbeing within the plan.

Following consultation, the results will be analysed and from all of the information collected the draft plan will be finalised following any further work and investigation as required. This will lead to the completion of LTP4 which will then be submitted to the Council for consideration for adoption. It is anticipated that this will be in summer 2024.

This Strategy is supported by an Action Plan which identifies some of the actions proposed to deliver the objectives of LTP4, this is included as Enc 1 (titled "Draft Local Transport Plan").

Enc 2 is the Sustainability Appraisal.

Enc 3 presents the draft Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA). This will be updated post-consultation.

The Evidence Base and Principles Engagement Consultation Report which have been used in the development of the plan are available as appendices to the LTP online at <https://www.myjourneywokingham.com/car-travel/local-transport-plan/>.

Partner Implications
The LTP4 is intended to create a framework for transport in the borough. The aims of the LTP are to improve active and sustainable transport which will, in general, assist in the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing agenda in Wokingham.

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

List of Background Papers
Enc 1 – Draft Local Transport Plan Enc 2 – Draft Sustainability Appraisal Enc 3 – Draft EQIA

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

This page is intentionally left blank