

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>13 SEPTEMBER 2010</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN - UPDATE</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO AREA</b>	<b>HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

## **Purpose**

To update the Committee on progress in preparing the third Local Transport Plan (LTP), highlighting the timetable for completing the plan and further involvement of the Committee.

## **Recommendation:**

**THAT: The report be noted.**

## **Key Points Summary**

- Herefordshire Council is required to review and replace the current LTP, taking into account local priorities, government guidance and the Local Transport Act 2008.
- The LTP and emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy are being developed in tandem to ensure both strategies work together and that transport supports the development of the County.
- A draft LTP is currently being prepared which will be made available for comment following Cabinet's consideration of the LDF Core Strategy Preferred Option for Hereford on 16 September.
- A further report will be made to the Environment Scrutiny Committee when it meets 26 November 2010.

## **Alternative Options**

- 1 The current transport policies of the Council are set out in the LTP2 2006/7 to 2010/11. Revised transport policies are required to influence sustainable development for emerging LDF Core Strategy and ensure close alignment with Sustainable Community Strategy. It is a statutory requirement for the Council to adopt a new Local Transport Plan by the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 and there is no sensible alternative to preparation of the LTP to an appropriate timetable.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Ben Watts, Senior Transport Planning Officer (01432) 383655

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 2 To keep the Environment Scrutiny Committee apprised of progress with the LTP

## **Introduction and Background**

- 3 Progress is being made to replace the Council's existing LTP. This is being carried out against a background of changing national policies, an emerging local land use strategy and to ensure that the Council's transport strategy is aligned with the Sustainable Community Strategy.

## **Key Considerations**

### **About the LTP**

- 4 The LTP forms part of the Council's Policy Framework and informs the Council's Capital Strategy. It is a statutory duty for local authorities to develop their next Local Transport Plans in time for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011.
- 5 The new LTP will comprise the following key elements:
  - 15 year strategy for transport in the County covering the period 2011 to 2026. The strategy will set out how we will support housing growth and the economic development of the County, further improve road safety and support carbon reduction through an emphasis on sustainable transport.
  - An implementation plan which sets out a programme of scheme delivery for the first 4 years of the strategy – 2011/12 to 2014/15. (The development of the implementation plan will need to have regard to the Governments timetable for its comprehensive spending review and subsequent publication of the transport settlement which is anticipated in December 2010).
  - A suite of transport policy statements which provide more detail on specific themes including parking strategy and public transport.
- 6 The LTP Strategy and emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy are being developed in tandem to ensure both strategy documents fully complement each other. The LTP's main public consultation took place in January, February and March 2010 when it shared the stage with the LDF during the Place Shaping consultation. The consultation results have been published on the Council's website. A further stakeholder consultation is planned during the autumn 2010 to capture views on emerging strategy proposals.

### **Timetable for Completing the LTP Preparation**

- 7 The next steps in the preparation of the LTP Strategy include undertaking a programme of consultation through the autumn, in time for analysis and finalisation of the strategy by the end of the year. It is currently anticipated that the LTP will be reported to Cabinet on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2011 and full Council at its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2011. A summarised programme timetable is identified below, including key Local Development Framework dates (shaded) :

<b>Key Production Stage</b>	<b>Dates</b>
LTP public consultation on vision and key transport issues	January to March 2010
LDF targeted consultation on Market Towns and Rural Communities preferred housing option	August 2010
LDF Core Strategy Cabinet consideration on preferred option – this will inform decision on relief road and preferred housing option	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2010
LDF targeted consultation on Hereford option	October 2010
LTP Stakeholder consultation on emerging Strategy document	October to November 2010
Comprehensive spending review announces scale of Government Departments savings	October 2010
Environment Scrutiny Committee	November 2010
DfT Settlement letter due and will inform LTP Implementation Plan	December 2010
LTP considered by Cabinet	January 2011
LDF Core Strategy considered by full Council	February 2011
LTP adopted by full Council	March 2011

- 8 The LTP stakeholder consultation is dependent on the Cabinet's decision regarding Hereford's preferred development option on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2010 as the Hereford Transport Strategy is dependent on the land use proposals outlined in the LDF Core Strategy. Once agreed all Council Members will be informed of the consultation and the opportunity to comment on the emerging transport strategy. A letter and email will be distributed to all Council Members, Parish Councils, statutory consultees and local stakeholders to encouraging their input into the process. The written communication will provide a link to the Council's website where the strategy document can be viewed. Paper copies of the strategy can be provided upon request. At the end of the consultation period all comments received will be considered to allow amendments before the final strategy is presented to Cabinet and Council in early 2011.
- 9 The consultation will be complete in time for the more detailed consideration of the LTP at the Environment Scrutiny Committee on the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

## **Community Impact**

- 10 None in respect of this report.

## **Financial Implications**

- 11 None in respect of this report.

## **Legal Implications**

- 12 The Council has a statutory duty to prepare the LTP

## **Risk Management**

- 13 The uncertainty regarding the Governments transport strategy and future funding allocations will impact the development of the LTP Implementation Plan. Until a formal announcement is made regarding the CSR on the 20<sup>th</sup> October and the Local Government Funding Settlement is received in December 2010 the Council will not be able to formally develop its Implementation Plan. This announcement should not impact upon the development of the LTP Strategy.

- 14 In developing an important, long term strategy which will affect the whole community there are risks associated with reputation, political support and community expectations. The robust management of this programme will minimise risks associated with development and adoption of the strategy.

## **Consultees**

- 15 Community consultations have been carried out and continue to be carried out as outlined above.

## **Appendices and Background Papers**

- 16 None identified