

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2010</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT &amp; COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

## **Purpose**

To update the Committee on the progress made in preparing the third Local Transport Plan (LTP) and invite the Committee to provide their comments on the emerging strategy.

## **Recommendation:**

**THAT: Members provide comments on the local transport plan so that they may inform final revisions to the strategy.**

## **Key Points Summary**

- Herefordshire Council is required to review and replace the current LTP, taking into account local priorities, new government guidance and the Local Transport Act 2008.
- The LTP is an important Council strategy which sets priorities for investment in transport improvements for the whole county.
- There are likely to be significant funding pressures around highways and transport services in the next few years but new funding opportunities are also emerging.
- A consultation exercise on the emerging LTP Strategy closed on the 19<sup>th</sup> November. A verbal update on key messages from the consultation will be provided at the meeting.
- Views of Members will be taken into account in final drafting of the strategy and in preparation for consideration by full Council 4 February 2011.

## **Alternative Options**

- 1 It is a statutory requirement for the Council to adopt a new Local Transport Plan by the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 2 To keep the Environment Scrutiny Committee apprised of progress with the LTP and invite their input into the final strategy document.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Steve Burgess, Transportation Manager on (01432) 260968

## Introduction and Background

- 3 A report was provided to this Committee at its meeting 13 September 2010. That report provided background on the requirement to prepare the next local transport plan and how this work was being coordinated with development of the local development framework Core Strategy preferred options.
- 4 The Executive Summary of the consultation draft LTP3 is appended to this report to provide Members with an overview of the proposed strategy. The draft LTP3 has been written to reflect the Local Development Framework current Preferred Option for Hereford. The final review of LTP3 will need to reflect any decisions regarding the LDF Strategy when it is considered by Council. The report will also be accompanied by a presentation to members summarising the development of the LTP, current understanding of future funding and the timetable for adopting the strategy. A copy of the presentation will be available for members.

## Key Considerations

### Important Council Strategy

- 5 The Local Transport Plan (LTP) is one of the Council's most important strategies, setting out proposals for transport improvements and highway maintenance for the whole County over a long time period. The strategy plays a significant role in directing the work undertaken by our delivery partner Amey Herefordshire but also coordinates other partnership activities and resources relating to road safety, carbon reduction proposals and health improvements. The LTP forms part of the Council's Policy Framework and also informs the Capital Strategy.

### Funding

- 6 Whilst the Comprehensive Spending Review was announced in October and there are indications of government departmental budgets we do not yet have detail for the local transport plan programme 2011/12 to 2014/15. This is due to be provided to the Council in a settlement letter in December. Indications from the departmental budget and proposals to change the formula which is used to determine individual local transport authority allocations are that capital funding for transport in Herefordshire will reduce significantly over the next 4 year period.
- 7 In the context of increasing pressures on both capital and revenue programmes it is important that we maximise opportunities to secure alternative sources of funding. Opportunities are likely to come forward through the following sources:
  - i. Local Sustainable Transport Fund – government will announce more details of this new fund later in the year
  - ii. Development funding – continued application of the Council Planning Obligations policy and development of strategic policy to secure funding from the planned growth across the County (Community Infrastructure Levy)
  - iii. European funding – a number of bids are currently under consideration including the Pedal Power project
  - iv. Regional Growth Fund – Government has set aside £1.4B for 2011/12 to 2013/14 to support job creating projects. The support of the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership will be important in accessing this fund.
  - v. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) – Government has announced proposals to introduce this through

## Public Engagement

- 8 A wide range of stakeholder views have been taken into account in developing the LTP. Public consultation took place January to March 2010 and sought views on the priorities for future transport delivery. A second round of public consultation took place has just concluded on the emerging strategy proposals. This exercise closed on the 19<sup>th</sup> November and the results will be published on the Council's website shortly. In addition, we have also had regard to other survey information including the National Highways and Transportation Survey. This provides detailed information on Herefordshire residents' satisfaction with a comprehensive range of transport services and facilities.

## Timetable for Completing the LTP Preparation

- 9 The LTP Strategy will be finalised to reflect any changes to the emerging LDF core strategy, feedback received during the recent consultation exercise and by members at this Environmental Scrutiny Committee. The final LTP strategy will be presented for consideration by Cabinet on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2011 and full Council at its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2011 at the same time as the LDF Core Strategy is considered.

## 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 None in respect of this report.

## Consultees

- 14 Community consultations have been carried out as outlined above.

## Appendices and Background Papers

- 15 Herefordshire's Local Transport Plan Strategy 2011 to 2026 - Executive Summary (draft)