

Herefordshire's Local Transport Strategy

2011 to 2026

Executive Summary

Over the next 15 years significant housing and employment growth is planned and it is essential that the transport system supports the expectations of Herefordshire residents. The Local Transport Plan (LTP) Strategy provides information on four themed transport strategies produced to support the emerging Local Development Framework Core Strategy and deliver the five strategic goals for transport.

LTP Strategic Goals:

- To support long-term economic growth within Herefordshire by improving journey time reliability and predictability on key routes.
- To prepare for a low-carbon future by supporting sustainable travel and ensuring responsible management plans are developed to maintain Herefordshire's transport assets.
- To ensure transport is not a barrier to community involvement.
- To improve levels of safety by reducing the risk of incident when using the county's transport network.
- To encourage the adoption of active travel by all ages to create and support healthier lifestyles.

Given the 15 year plan period each strategy has been produced to be flexible allowing us to take into account changes regarding the economy, public finance, technological developments and peak oil.



Developing the overriding LTP Strategy

We have identified a range of future challenges for the transport system through our LTP Vision and Issues consultation exercise. The challenges are grouped into four themes and a corresponding set of LTP Outcomes have been identified to inform the development of the four themed transport strategies.

Links between Challenges and Outcomes

Overarching Challenges	LTP Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating the efficient and safe movement of people and goods • Mitigating the impacts of future development • Reducing the need to travel • Overcoming the barriers to the use of sustainable travel modes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced congestion and improved journey time reliability • An enhanced transport asset • A transport network that is resilient and prepared for the effects of unplanned events • A significant reduction in the number of transport accidents • Car use is reduced for local journeys • Lower levels of out-commuting • Active and public transport improvements to facilitate increased travel demand • Developers and key service providers develop infrastructure that supports the use of active travel • Smarter Choices are fully integrated into transport related decisions • A competitive public transport market • Lower levels of out-commuting • Highly accessible key services • Improved air quality • Active travel is a popular alternative to car use

Themed Strategy Areas

The Hereford Transport Strategy

The Hereford Transport Strategy aims to support the growth of the city by providing new infrastructure, improving traffic management, supporting public transport and promoting walking and cycling for the majority of local trips. A key element of the strategy is the requirement for a relief road with a second river crossing to accommodate the increase in travel demand from new and existing developments. However, the relief road on its own will not solve Hereford's transport and congestion problems; it must be supported by significant improvements and investment in sustainable transport including walking, cycling and public transport.

The Market Towns and Rural Communities Transport Strategy

We want our market towns and rural communities to thrive and this strategy aims to support a sustainable future in which people enjoy living and working within the county's distinct natural surroundings. A key element of the strategy is providing good quality public transport services which complement rural communities and is essential in connecting people with workplaces and key services. Where public transport is not financially viable we will be seeking innovative solutions for tailoring public and community-based transport schemes where gaps exist in the network.

The Road Safety Strategy

This strategy sets out how the council will continue to reduce the number of road traffic casualties on its roads through a combination of road safety improvements and educational programmes. A key focus of this strategy will be targeting younger road users. In taking our strategy forward, we will continue with a balance of interventions that provide targeted engineering improvements, effective enforcement of highway law and education programmes designed to improve driver behaviour.

The Highways Management Strategy

The quality and accessibility of the county's extensive highway network underpins all of this strategy's aspirations to provide a better and safer transport system for Herefordshire residents and visitors. This strategy aims to support the growth of the county by making the best use of its existing highway network and where possible achieve greater efficiencies by improved traffic control and initiatives to change people's travel behaviour. The effective maintenance and management of the county's highway infrastructure also has a valuable role in promoting public health and safety.

Delivering the LTP

The proposals identified within the LTP Strategy are ambitious and reflect the schemes the council aims to deliver during the 15 year plan period. Following the change in national government in May 2010 a number of measures have been implemented to tackle the national debt. These will have a significant impact on the council's ability to finance transport in the short term (over the next 4 years). How the changes in funding impact Herefordshire will be confirmed in the council's Local Government Finance Settlement due in December 2010. Until this has been confirmed the council is unable to finalise the LTP Implementation Plan.

Alternative sources of funding for both capital and revenue initiatives will be pursued, together with increased partnership working to ensure the best value for money. We will continue to use specific developer contributions (such as Section 106) to achieve sustainable communities with funds going towards cycle and walking schemes, safer routes to school and bus infrastructure.

LTP Strategy Consultation

We are always interested in your views regarding transport in Herefordshire. Please take the time to complete those parts of the consultation you are interested in. The consultation form is provided from page 98.

The LTP3 Strategy Consultation period operates from Monday 11th October to Friday 19th November 2010.

Please send your response form to our freepost address:

Freepost RLSE-HHZC-XTUG
Transportation Planning Team
Herefordshire Council
Plough Lane
Hereford
HR4 0LE

Or email us your form to: ltf@herefordshire.gov.uk
For more information on our Local Transport Plan and to download our consultation documents please go to:
<http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/transport/47800.asp>
or phone the Transportation Planning Team on 01432 261817