

MEETING:	Council
MEETING DATE:	26 September 2014
TITLE OF REPORT:	Local Transport Plan
REPORT BY:	Cabinet Member For Infrastructure.

Classification

Open

Key Decision

This is not an executive decision

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To approve extension of the current Local Transport Plan (LTP) until after the council's Core Strategy is adopted, or to 31 March 2016, whichever is the earlier.

Recommendation

THAT: the current Local Transport Plan (2013/14 – 14/15) time period be extended until after the Core Strategy is adopted, or to 31 March 2016, whichever is the earlier, to enable a refreshed Local Transport Plan to reflect the adopted Core Strategy.

Alternative Options

- 1 To not extend the current LTP beyond March 2015. This alternative is not recommended because it is a requirement of the relevant provisions of the Transport Act 2000 (as amended) that the Council maintains a current LTP.
- 2 To adopt a revised LTP in advance of adoption of the Core Strategy. This alternative is not recommended because it would pre-empt the outcome of the Core Strategy adoption process and could result in the transport policy being inconsistent with the land use policy.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 3 To ensure the Council complies with the statutory requirement to adopt and maintain an LTP and to avoid the premature adoption of a refreshed LTP ahead of adoption of the Core Strategy.

- 4 The LTP forms part of the Council's budget and policy framework and therefore extending the existing LTP pending refresh is a decision reserved to Council.

Key Considerations

Background

- 5 The current LTP (see appendices 1 and 2), which is a statutory requirement and which sets out how the council will deliver transport improvements and maintain its transport assets, ends on the 31 March 2015. The LTP needs updating to ensure it is consistent with our land use policies, which are contained in the Core Strategy. As the Core Strategy is not due to be adopted until late 2015 we need to extend the current LTP until such a time that the LDF is adopted. We also need to prepare the next LTP ready for adoption after the Core Strategy is adopted.
- 6 The advantages of this approach are that the Council will conform to our legal requirements, it allows the refresh of the LTP to take account of any changes in the Core Strategy and it allows that refreshed plan to reflect the outcomes of the Highways Agency route study process.

Developing the next Local Transport Plan

- 7 Whilst it is proposed to extend the time period for the present LTP, the programme of work will continue to thoroughly review this plan and publish an on-line draft version to help inform the final document.
- 8 The programme for consultation, development and adoption (post adoption of the Core Strategy) of a refreshed strategy, as agreed by Cabinet, is set out for information below showing key milestones.
- 9 The process of developing our next LTP has been progressed alongside the development of the Core Strategy for several years. The two strategies are coordinated and a strategic linkage between them has been maintained such that the next LTP will closely support the growth proposals included within the Core Strategy. This linkage has been further strengthened through the joint review and development of evidence. Key supporting evidence for the Core Strategy, including various studies into the relief road and the recently completed phasing study (Strategic Prioritisation and Hereford Transport Strategy Review) will directly inform the LTP's long term strategy.
- 10 The evidence base for the transport strategy has been developed from a number of studies and consultations. These have also helped shape the development of the Core Strategy including the delivery of the Hereford Enterprise Zone. The studies have addressed a wide range of transport issues including buses, rail, cycling and car parking.
- 11 Work is now underway to refresh the LTP to enable it to be swiftly adopted after the Core Strategy is adopted. Cabinet, at its meeting on 11 September, approved the following timetable to facilitate this.

Figure 1 Timetable for LTP and LDF adoption.

Task	2014						2015						2016									
	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	
Funding announcements	●																					
Preparation of draft LTP	■																					
LTP consultation including EIA and workshops				■																		
LTP consultation report and LTP review						■																
LTP Cabinet decision and adoption															■			■	■	■		
LDF Submission			●																			
LDF Examination						■	■	■														
Inspector's LDF Report								■	■													
LDF Adoption										■	■	■										

Conclusion

- 12 Extending the time period of our current LTP until March 2016 will ensure we:
- Meet our statutory duties by maintaining an LTP; and also that we
 - Adopt a refreshed LTP which supports and does not pre-empt our Core Strategy.

Community Impact

- 13 LTP3 contains policies and projects which will ensure the Council's transport investments deliver the objectives of the Corporate Plan.

Equality and Human Rights

- 14 The policies and programmes set out in LTP3 were subject to an Equality Impact Assessment and the outcomes of that assessment informed the current document.

Financial Implications

- 15 There are no financial implications from extending the current LTP.

Legal Implications

- 16 Extending the time period of adoption of the present LTP until March 2016, will fulfil the statutory requirements of the Council, as local transport authority, to produce and maintain an LTP under the relevant provisions of the Transport Act 2000 (as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008).

Risk Management

17 By extending the lifetime of LTP we avoid:

- Adopting a refreshed LTP before the Core Strategy is adopted
- Breaching our statutory duties to maintain an LTP

Consultees

18 None at this stage. It is proposed to undertake consultation on a refreshed LTP later this year.

Appendices

Appendix 1 LTP Strategy and Delivery 2013-2015

Appendix 2 LTP Policy 2013-2015

Background Papers

- None