

New Local Transport Plan Objectives – Cabinet 2024

Appendix E

Summary of Comments at Political Group Consultations on 14th March 2024.

Two Political Group consultations were held on 14th March 2024. The meeting at 2pm was held in person at the Plough Lane offices of Herefordshire Council, while the 6pm meeting was held online via Teams.

Each meeting was chaired by Cllr Price, Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure, and lasted for approximately one hour. Comments were made in the teams chat, and verbally in the meeting.

2pm Meeting

The Green Party requested that all background documentation is published in full irrespective of audience. Members made reference to the scrutiny meeting recommendations – see Appendix C.

6pm Meeting

The Green Party were disappointed that the LTP objectives don't have any ambitions for levelling up public transport accessibility including bus and to rail stations.

Cllr Louis Stark (Liberal Democrats) - disappointed that the LTP objectives don't have any ambitions for levelling up public transport accessibility- he referenced Ross-on-Wye having poor bus connections to the rest of the county and to rail, which he has also raised with Midlands Connect in the past.

Cllr Stef Simmons (Green Party) - references some broader higher level objectives she added to the Teams chat, stating that out of these flow elements such as those raised by Cllr Stark about connectivity with PT, helping to protect and enhance the environment, reduce carbon emission and congestion. She stated that if you don't set correct objectives from the outset, you will not get the correct responses that will connect with the Local Plan and our need to grow the economy. She said the LTP is a countywide plan and building a road will only benefit Hereford, and it won't improve accessibility or the lives of people in the rest of the county. The LTP needs to link back to the LCWIP and BSIP and have a much more holistic approach, otherwise we won't get funding from DfT.

How is the LTP taking account of the changes proposed to the distribution of development which is already solidified in the update of the Local Plan?

Independent members – commented on the ability of the LTP to reference all of the DfT ambitions for transport, without direct control of modes such as rail.

Cllr Ed O'Driscoll (Green Party) – asked whether the recommendations from the Connected Communities scrutiny meeting have been made/considered in the cabinet report and whether you have watched the video of the meeting

Cllr Liz Harvey – asked a set of questions:

“Are we also considering what this £100m of funding could do if spent on other infrastructure schemes throughout the county, rather than reverting to the Hereford-centric schemes?”

“Were these LTP slides provided to councillors in advance of this briefing?”

“The decision on progressing the City Masterplan due in the autumn of last year was wrapped into the forthcoming decisions on the City Roads Strategy and the LTP. Where is the City Masterplan decision now?”

Cllr Stef Simmons – Stated that: “LTP Objectives are vital and should as a starter for 10 include: Reduce carbon emissions; Reduce congestion; Improve public health; Reduce road deaths/injuries; Boost local economy; Protect and enhance environment. We need to scope all options to ensure we are able to access funding from DfT”

Cllr Liz Harvey – Asked questions: “The Marching About Partnership is a cross border partnership. The Welsh authorities are interested on East-West connectivity rather than North-South. How are we considering infrastructure connectivity immediately outside of the county in developing our LTP - not just in Wales, but also e.g. M50J2 in Gloucestershire?”