



# Title of report: Local Transport Plan

**Meeting: Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee**

**Meeting date: 3 June 2025**

**Report by: Statutory Scrutiny Officer**

## Classification

Open

## Decision type

This is not an executive decision

## Wards affected

All Wards

## Purpose

To provide an update on the development of the draft Local Transport Plan (LTP), following its initial review by the committee. This report also presents further findings from the ongoing public consultation and invites the committee to continue its scrutiny and contribute to the refinement of the final plan.

## Recommendation(s)

**That:**

- a) **The committee consider the draft Local Transport Plan and provide recommendations to contribute to the drafting of the plan.**
- b) **The committee scrutinise the initial findings from the consultation, and how these findings will be incorporated into the final plan.**

## Alternative options

1. The committee could decline to scrutinise development of the Local Transport plan. This is not recommended as a course of action.
2. The committee could decline to make any recommendations to contribute to its development. It should do so if it has not identified recommendations likely to lead to an improvement in the plan.

## Key considerations

3. **On going public consultation**  
The Local Transport Plan remains under active public consultation, with a wide range of stakeholders—including residents, businesses, transport providers, and community

organisations—invited to contribute their views. The consultation process has been designed to be inclusive and accessible.

Early feedback has highlighted key themes such as the need for improved rural connectivity, safer cycling infrastructure, and more reliable public transport services. As the consultation continues, these insights are being reviewed and categorised to inform the next iteration of the draft plan.

The committee is encouraged to consider how emerging feedback aligns with strategic priorities and where further engagement may be needed to ensure the final plan reflects the needs and aspirations of all communities.

The deadline for responses from the public has been extended to cover the week this committee is being held.

Additionally the consultation deadline for Town and Parish Councils has been extended to the end of June following feedback from them.

### **Changes to the Local Transport Plan Following Scrutiny**

Following the January 2025 meeting of the Connected Communities Scrutiny Committee, several key recommendations were made to strengthen the draft Local Transport Plan (LTP). These have been reviewed and, where appropriate, incorporated into the updated draft.

Notably, the plan now places greater emphasis on environmental protection and climate action, aligning more explicitly with the council's climate and ecological emergency declaration. This includes clearer objectives around low-emission transport, electric vehicle infrastructure, and sustainable freight.

In response to calls for stronger rural collaboration, the council has appointed a new Transport Planning Service Manager with experience in a neighbouring rural authority and continues to engage with regional partners to share best practice.

Additionally, the plan outlines a pathway for progressing active travel projects to a 'shovel-ready' stage, subject to the availability of external funding.

A full summary of the committee's recommendations and the council's responses is provided in Appendix 2.

#### **4. Strategic Alignment and External Funding**

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) is strategically aligned with the council's wider objectives, including climate action, inclusive economic growth, and improved public health. It also supports regional and national priorities, such as the Midlands Connect strategy and the UK Government's transport decarbonisation plan.

5. Importantly, the LTP has been developed in parallel with the emerging Local Plan. However with changes to the National Planning Policy Framework published in December 2024, including the introduction of significant new mandatory housing targets, the Local Plan process has been reviewed and timescales changed. To ensure that the LTP can progress in the interim, the decision has been taken to commence the public consultation. Once the Local Plan is adopted (earliest end of 2028), the LTP will be reviewed to ensure it fully reflects the final housing and development strategy. This approach ensures that the council remains agile and prepared to respond to external funding opportunities—such as those from the Department for Transport and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund—while maintaining alignment with long-term spatial planning.

## **Community impact**

6. Effective scrutiny enables the committee to reflect community concern, one of the four purposes of scrutiny as outlined by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.

## **Environmental impact**

7. While this report has no direct environmental impact, the LTP itself will shape future transport infrastructure and policy, with significant environmental implications. However the work that the committee will undertake resulting from agreeing this work programme may have direct impacts. Reports arising from or supporting this work will outline their potential environmental impact.

## **Equality duty**

8. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. This report contains no direct equality impacts. However the reports and issues that the committee will consider may have direct impacts. Reports arising from or supporting this work will outline the any associated equality impacts for committee consideration.

## **Resource implications**

9. This report constitutes part of the typical function of this committee. Similarly, a programme of work undertaken by committee is an integral part of the council's 'business as usual'. There is no resource implication in setting or agreeing a work programme. However agreed topics in the work programme, in particular any requests for bespoke research or the involvement of outside experts or community groups, may incur resource costs. These will be contained in any reporting or planning of agreed topics within this work programme.

## **Legal implications**

10. The remit of the scrutiny committee is set out in part 3 section 4 of the constitution and the role of the scrutiny committee is set out in part 2 article 6 of the constitution.
11. The Local Government Act 2000 requires the council to deliver the scrutiny function.

## **Risk management**

12. There are no risks identified in considering the information in this report. However, any recommendations made by the committee on this matter may introduce risk if enacted. Any decision based on a scrutiny recommendation would require a risk assessment.

## **Consultees**

13. No consultation took place in producing this report. The consultation undertaken in producing the Local Transport Plan is detailed in the body of this report.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Draft Local Transport Plan

Appendix 2 Summary of recommendation to the executive and executive responses

## **Background papers**

None