



Report To: Leader and Cabinet
Lead Officer: Director of New Communities & Planning

10 July 2014

Local Transport Plan and Long Term Transport Strategy

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to agree the Council's response to Cambridgeshire County Council's (CCC) consultation on the Local Transport Plan (2011-31) Policies and Strategy document and Long Term Transport Strategy. The public consultation runs for 5 weeks from 5 June to 11 July 2014.
2. This is not a key decision because it is responding to a consultation. It was first published in the June 2014 Forward Plan.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that Cabinet agrees:
 - a) the response to Cambridgeshire County Council set out in paragraphs 20-23 and **Appendix 1** of this report.
 - b) delegated authority be given to the Director of Planning and New Communities to make further technical comments in consultation with the Strategic Planning and Transportation Portfolio Holder.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. Transport improvements across the County are important for the delivery of the growth agenda, the economy, to improve quality of life and safety for local residents and the travelling public. Transport congestion, particularly around Cambridge, impacts on the potential for delivering the high levels of growth required, the environment and economy of the district. Therefore it is recommended that the Council responds to the consultation to ensure the interests of South Cambridgeshire are appropriately incorporated into these transport strategy documents.

Executive Summary

5. Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) is carrying out consultation on a 'refresh' to the Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP) Policies and Strategy document (adopted in March 2011) and the Long Term Transport Strategy, between 5 June and 11 July 2014.
6. The County Council has a duty to ensure that the LTP remains current (under the Transport Act 2008) and has updated it to reflect new data and changing context with regard to funding and local development plans. The updated LTP will cover an extended period to 2031 (currently 2026), in line with the plan period for the submitted South Cambridgeshire Local Plan.

7. The LTP forms a suite of documents and this 'refresh' provides the opportunity to incorporate the recently adopted Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire (TSC&SC). The Long Term Transport Strategy (LTTS), which sets out the strategic transport requirements over the longer-term (to 2050), will also form part of the LTP once adopted.
8. The report proposes that the Council supports the refreshed Local Transport Plan and Long Term Transport Strategy, as they will support delivery of the growth strategy for the area.

Background

9. The **Local Transport Plan (LTP)** is a statutory document which sets out the transport objectives, policies and strategy for the county. CCC adopted Local Transport Plan 3 (2011-26) in March 2011. The review of the Plan covers the period 2011-31 and is split in to three main parts:
 - The **Policies and Strategy** document sets out the Plan's objectives, problems and challenges and the strategy to meet the challenges.
 - The **Long Term Transport Strategy** provides a high level view of the more substantial transport infrastructure and service enhancements that are needed across the county.
 - The **Transport Delivery Plan** is essentially a business plan detailing how the LTP strategy will be delivered. It details programmes for the delivery of improvements to the transport networks managed by the County Council, and also for the day-to-day management and maintenance of the network.
10. The County Council has a duty to ensure that the LTP remains current (under the Transport Act 2008) and has updated it to reflect new data and a changing context. CCC has not changed the objectives or policy direction of the plan. There are a number of factors contributing to the decision to refresh the LTP at this time. These are:
 - To reflect the longer timescales for the Local Planning Authorities' emerging Local Plans to 2031 (2036 in Huntingdonshire), and to provide support for future planned development and the growth agenda more widely;
 - To incorporate the new Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire (TSCSC). This strategy was adopted as a daughter document to LTP3 in March 2014, and provides part of the evidence base to the South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge Submission Local Plans;
 - To incorporate the Long Term Transport Strategy (LTTS) as an LTP3 core document;
 - To refresh the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) and Community Impact Assessment (CIA) as part of the evidence base underpinning the LTP;
 - To set the principle of the first LTP3 Implementation Plan being incorporated into the County Council's detailed Transport Delivery Plan, which will fulfil the role of LTP Implementation Plan from April 2015;
 - To reflect the current funding environment for transport schemes (that has changed considerably since 2011);
 - To refresh the text of this document to contain up to date case studies, scheme delivery information and statistics.

11. CCC is also consulting on the **Long Term Transport Strategy (LTTS)** which forms part of the LTP. The LTTS focuses on strategic transport policies and priorities which enable economic growth and support the spatial strategy. It identifies the strategic transport infrastructure required to support emerging Local Plans of Cambridgeshire's districts to 2031 and 2036 for Huntingdonshire. It looks at aspirations for transport and accessibility longer term to 2050 in support of developing a sustainable transport system which makes the most efficient use of our transport network, meets people's needs and helps spread the benefits of economic growth.
12. The LTTS also aligns with Peterborough City Council's LTTS and LTP. Together, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are at the core of the functional economic area of the Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership (GCGPEP) area. The LTTS will inform priorities for investment through the GCGPEP's Strategic Economic Plan which will in turn inform the GCGPEP's negotiations for a growth deal with government through the Single Local Growth Fund.
13. The Strategy considers requirements for the transport network across Cambridgeshire, including those on the trunk road, motorway and rail networks that are managed by the Highways Agency and Network Rail. It also references key schemes in the wider area and region that are relevant to Cambridgeshire, and will help to ensure cross border coordination with neighbouring authorities on transport matters.

Considerations

14. Officers worked closely with CCC in developing the strategy and policies within Local Transport Plan 3 (2011-26). The Council (at a Planning Portfolio Holder's Meeting on 8 March 2011) supported the LTP3 and endorsed the District Statement for inclusion within LTP3.
15. CCC is not proposing any changes to the policy direction of the plan, but the general areas of change in the LTP of relevance to SCDC are:
 - Removal of a section detailing what has been happening within South Cambridgeshire in terms of community transport, which included specific reference to the South Cambridgeshire Community Transport Strategy. This is disappointing as officers worked hard to get this included within LTP3 and it is still current Council policy.
 - Inclusion of more detail on travel planning, which complements Policy TI/2 in the Submission Local Plan.
 - Updated information on air quality and noise, and in relation to climate change.
 - More information about the linkages with the Local Enterprise Partnership.
 - Removed specific reference to the Green Infrastructure Strategy.
 - Recognises the local transport aspirations of Parish Council's included within their Parish Plans and commits CCC to work with District and Parish Councils to help deliver them.
 - Includes the Science Park Station and Foxton Level Crossing as major schemes to be delivered.

16. The LTTS has also been prepared in partnership and includes more detail on proposals to 2031 to complement the Local Plan. However it also looks ahead to 2050 to address the longer-term strategic picture to ensure the most efficient use of our transport network and help spread the benefits of economic growth.
17. A Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire (TSC&SC) was prepared in parallel with the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans and supports the development strategy for the greater Cambridge area. The Council made comments on the draft TSC&SC (at a Planning Policy and Localism Portfolio Holder's Meeting on 17 September 2013) supporting the Strategy in view of the needs of Cambridge and the wider area and seeking to address the transport implications. The Transport Strategy provides an important part of the evidence base for the Local Plans. The adopted Strategy has now been incorporated into the LTP now being consulted on.
18. The LTP, LTTS and TSC&SC also form an important bargaining tool for CCC and other bodies (such as the LEP) when bidding for funding from the various funding streams available from central Government.
19. The current consultation does not alter the strategy or policy direction of the LTP, but extends the timescale covered by the plan (from 2026 to 2031), consistent with the emerging Local Plan, and incorporates the TSC&SC. The text has also been updated to reflect the latest funding position (including reference to City Deal) and provide more up to date case studies and scheme delivery information and statistics. As a result, the proposed response to the consultation is largely around points of detail that are technical in nature; these are included in Appendix 1.

Proposed Response

20. South Cambridgeshire District Council supports the refreshed Local Transport Plan in so far as it reflects the longer timescales in the Council's emerging Local Plan to 2031 and provides support for future planned development and the growth agenda more widely. The Council also supports the incorporation of the newly adopted Transport Strategy for Cambridge and the South Cambridgeshire within the LTP.
21. SCDC also supports the Long Term Transport Strategy, which will be incorporated into the LTP, when adopted.
22. The Council recognises the importance of having up to date transport strategy documents to assist with the delivery of planned development and for securing funding to assist delivery of the wider growth agenda.
23. The Council also has a number of more detailed technical comments on the LTP and LTTS. These are set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

Options

24. Alternative options would be not to respond to the consultation, but given the importance to the district this is not recommended. The Council could make a different response, or add additional comments.

Implications

25. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered: -

Financial

26. Having up to date transport strategy documents is an essential bargaining tool for Cambridgeshire County Council and other bodies (such as the Local Enterprise Partnership) when bidding for funding from the various funding streams available from central Government.

Risk Management

27. The LTP and LTTS are important to the delivery of development in the district and the wider growth agenda.

Climate Change

28. The LTP and LTTS seek to provide people with a better choice of mode for travel, helping to reduce the reliance upon the private car. This could help reduce emissions from travel.

Consultation responses (including from the Youth Council)

29. A number of Council services have been consulted in the preparation of this report, including the Partnerships Team and Environmental Health.

Effect on Strategic Aims

30. **Aim 2** - We will work with partners to create opportunities for employment, enterprise, education and world-leading innovation.
31. **Aim 3** - We will make sure that South Cambridgeshire continues to offer an outstanding quality of life for our residents.

Background Papers: The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Local Transport Plan 2011-31 Policies and Strategy:
http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20006/travel_roads_and_parking/66/transport_plans_and_policies
- Long Term Transport Strategy:
http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20006/travel_roads_and_parking/66/transport_plans_and_policies/5

Report Author: Claire Spencer – Senior Planning Policy Officer
Telephone: (01954) 713418