



Extended consultation on Cambridgeshire's Local Transport Plan

The consultation on our Local Transport Plan has been extended to 30th July in response to concerns over leaflet delivery earlier this year.

You have received this leaflet because you live in one of the areas where leaflets may not have been delivered. Please read the information in this leaflet and give us your views on the new Local Transport Plan.

What is a Local Transport Plan?

Cambridgeshire County Council is updating the Local Transport Plan which sets out our existing and future transport issues and how we will seek to address them. Produced in partnership with the City and District Councils, this leaflet sets out our ideas for what to include in the new Local Transport Plan.



So why do we need a new Plan?

Our current Local Transport Plan runs to March 2011, so we need to update the plan for the future. While the transport system across Cambridgeshire has improved over the period of our first two Local Transport Plans, the demands upon it have also increased. The high levels of growth in homes and jobs that have contributed to these demands will continue through the next decade and beyond, as we move into what is likely to be a challenging period of less Government funding for Councils.

We therefore need to develop transport schemes and initiatives that meet the needs of local people, provide for growth and offer value for money.

The new Plan will start from 2011 and will be kept under review so that it remains current. It will set out how we intend to spend the transport funding we receive from Government and other sources (such as contributions from developers).

The Objectives of the Plan

To guide the Local Transport Plan's transport and travel improvements, we need to set some overall objectives. We are therefore proposing five headline objectives that reflect the wider goals of the County Council and its partners.

- Support economic growth
- Tackle climate change
- Promote equality of opportunity
- Improve quality of life and a healthy natural environment
- Contribute to better safety, security and health

What should we put in our new Plan?

Cambridgeshire is a diverse county, with different transport problems experienced in different areas. It is therefore important that we develop and implement schemes that respond to this range of problems.

We will produce a clear programme of transport improvements that meet our objectives, offer value for money, and are informed through consultation with our partners, local residents and organisations. We would like to hear your views on our proposed strategy to achieve this, as outlined in this leaflet.

What have we achieved in the current Local Transport Plan?

- We have delivered bus priority measures, new Park and Ride facilities and other improvements that have contributed, with associated commercial investment, to a very strong growth in bus use. Over 24.3 million bus journeys were made in Cambridgeshire in 2008, compared to just over 15 million in 2001.
- 10% of journeys to work by Cambridgeshire residents are by bicycle, compared to the average of 2.8% for England. In Cambridge the figure is 26% – the highest in the UK.
- Our partnership programme of road safety engineering, education and enforcement has, alongside improvements in vehicle technology, reduced the number of casualties on the county's roads. In 2008, the total number of road accident deaths and serious injuries in Cambridgeshire was 38% less than the 1994-1998 average.
- The condition of main roads in Cambridgeshire continues to be better than government targets, in spite of the high levels of traffic they carry compared to many other areas of the country.
- We were rated excellent by Government for the delivery of our first Local Transport Plan and the plan quality of our second.



Public transport

We propose that our public transport strategy should focus on three main areas:

Main routes

We intend to further improve bus priority measures along key transport routes in the county. Our aim is that information about available bus services reaches all communities, so that people are well informed about their bus services and are encouraged to make use of them.

Urban and surrounding areas

To widen travel choice, we will work with the commercial bus industry to recommend improved, more frequent and more accessible bus services. We aim to improve interchange facilities between bus and rail, so that it is easier for people to make journeys without the car, for example, the Cambridge Gateway Project which will open up access to the train station. We recognise information on all public transport services must be accessible to all. For Cambridge and the market towns it will be important to promote better links from their surrounding villages, to further build a joined-up public transport network. Our market town transport strategies will help to deliver improvements to the overall public transport experience – we would like this to include improvements to waiting facilities and the availability of information.

We also propose to build a public transport interchange at Chesterton in north Cambridge, including a rail station and bus / Guided Busway links. This will dramatically improve public transport access for local residents and commuters to the Science and Business Parks on the north side of Cambridge.

Rural areas

Greater accessibility is a priority in rural areas. We want to build upon the work that has been started in the second Local Transport Plan to develop and implement strategies to improve access to key services. This is especially relevant in areas where commercially provided public transport cannot provide a realistic option for many trips. It is also important that we further develop the role of "demand responsive" services – these are more flexible transport services which can better respond to travel needs in rural areas. This includes making more use of the services provided by community transport schemes, including the better coordination of schemes.

Subject to available funding, we hope to continue rolling out Real Time Passenger Information signs across the bus network so that information on bus arrival times is more readily available.

Cycling

We have been successful in increasing levels of cycling in the county, and maintaining the high level of trips seen in Cambridge. To encourage even more people to cycle across the county, we propose to:

- Ensure good provision and links are built into all major new housing developments
- Improve and upgrade existing cycling infrastructure – such as on and off road cycle lanes
- Prioritise routes that link homes with large employment sites, key leisure and community facilities and schools and colleges
- Improve cycle facilities in and around market towns, through our Market Town Transport Strategies.

Walking

Making the environment safer and more attractive will encourage more of us to make journeys on foot, helping to reduce congestion and improve local air quality, and will help to give us a healthier lifestyle. We propose that our strategy for walking will be to make travel by foot the preferred option by:

- Improving pavements, footpaths and pedestrian crossings so that our walking routes are connected, comfortable, convenient and feel secure



- Making our streets even safer in terms of personal security, crossing roads, removing barriers and obstacles and maintaining the condition of pavements
- Prioritising improvements along walking routes to schools, places of work and shopping areas
- Continuing to implement our Rights of Way Improvement Plan as an integral part of our transport system.

Smarter choices

Our aim is to strengthen the range of initiatives that encourage and support more environmentally friendly travel through changing people's travel behaviour. We propose to:

- Raise awareness of the problems associated with increasing car dependency on the environment, health and local communities.
- Continue to work with individuals, new residential developments and organisations on site-specific travel plans
- Promote walking, cycling, public transport, car sharing and car clubs, as alternatives to driving alone.

Safety

We will introduce safety initiatives, traffic calming and speed reduction measures, focussed on accident hotspots, where there is a clear need for intervention. This programme has to be flexible to respond to sites of greatest need.

We propose that our road safety strategy focuses on providing safer routes to schools and on education, training and high profile publicity campaigns to raise awareness of possible dangers.

Traffic management

The car will remain an important means of travel for many people, particularly in more rural areas. We need to make sure we have a clear strategy for improving and maintaining the roads while at the same time reducing congestion, pollution and carbon emissions.

We will:

- Seek to maintain and improve the condition of roads throughout the county
- Implement parking policies that restrict parking where appropriate and necessary, and where good access by alternative modes exists
- Reduce traffic congestion through appropriate management measures
- Subject to funding and resolving planning issues, deliver major improvements to the A142 at Ely to address congestion problems and support growth in rail freight and passenger movements
- Seek to manage freight traffic, including minerals and construction traffic and control its impact
- Work with the district councils to identify and secure the delivery of new roads or improvements necessary to allow planned development in the Market Towns and around Cambridge to take place.

Our road maintenance strategy will build upon the steady progress we have made over the past few years. We will also seek to co-ordinate schemes with other improvements such as safety schemes, to maximise benefits and achieve value for money.



How will we measure our success?

We will measure our success in improving transport across the county through a series of targets. These will be based upon:

- Increasing the use of public transport, walking and cycling
- Reducing congestion
- Reducing the total number of accidents
- Improving accessibility to key services
- Improving the condition of Cambridgeshire's roads
- Improving bus journey time reliability

In addition, we will measure the impacts of our plan in other areas, such as air quality, health, and access to services and facilities.

What happens next?

Your views are vital to shape the new Local Transport Plan and ensure it will provide the right transport solutions for Cambridgeshire.

Please complete the attached questionnaire and post it back to us, reply paid by **30 July 2010**.

At the end of the consultation, we will gather together all of the responses we receive and use these to inform the final plan.



Further information

Visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ltp for further information about the Local Transport Plan.

If you have a particular question, please contact us directly by email at transport.plan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or by phone on 01223 715490.

The Transport Innovation Fund

In March, the County Council was notified by the Department for Transport that its Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) process had been terminated, and that it was proposing to establish a new Urban Challenge Fund. This new Fund would be available for urban transport improvements which seek to meet environmental, health and economic goals. The Department for Transport has requested comments on its proposals for the new Fund.

The Transport Innovation Fund had offered the Council an opportunity to bid for £520M of transport improvements for providing transport to meet the demands of growth planned for our area and was focussed on reducing congestion. The Department for Transport has indicated that funding available from the Urban Challenge Fund would be considerably less than was available through TIF. However, the work undertaken in producing our Transport Innovation Fund bid has

provided us with a wealth of evidence and analysis of the transport challenges we face. This puts us in a strong position to bid for money from the new Fund if it is taken forward by the new Government.

For now, it is important that we get your views on the Local Transport Plan so that we have a clear, well-informed strategy for transport and are therefore in a strong position to benefit from the Urban Challenge Fund or from other funding opportunities.

Further information on the Urban Challenge Fund is available at www.dft.gov.uk



Highways Agency roads

There are some roads in Cambridgeshire which are not maintained by the County Council – these roads form part of the strategic national road network and are the responsibility of the Government run Highways Agency. The roads in Cambridgeshire operated by the Highways Agency are the A14, A1, A1(M), A428, A47, A11 and M11. We will continue to work with the Highways Agency on plans for these roads, such as the rerouting and upgrading of the A14. **For more information visit www.highways.gov.uk**

Resources and prioritisation

All national parties have indicated there will be no extra funding for councils. Therefore, during the period of the third Local Transport Plan there will be significant pressures on council finances and we will not be able to fund and deliver all of the transport improvements that we all want to see. This will mean that we will have to prioritise schemes and measures. However, it is still important to have a plan, so that we are in a position to bid for funding and resources when opportunities arise.

Questionnaire

Now that you have had a chance to consider the draft proposals for Cambridgeshire's Local Transport Plan, we would like to know your views.

Strategy and objectives

How important do you think the proposed objectives are?

Support economic growth

Very important Important Quite important Not important

Tackle climate change

Very important Important Quite important Not important

Promote equality of opportunity

Very important Important Quite important Not important

Improve quality of life and a healthy natural environment

Very important Important Quite important Not important

Contribute to better safety, security and health

Very important Important Quite important Not important

Please add any comments you wish to make about these objectives:

Transport improvements

How important do you think the following are? 1 = highest priority and 6 = lowest priority.

- Improve public transport infrastructure
- Improve walking facilities
- Improve cycling facilities

- Promote travel awareness and improve information
- Improve safety
- Improve roads for cars

Please use the space below to detail any comments you wish to add about the new Local Transport Plan. (please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

As part of our commitment to ensuring equality of service, it would be helpful to know something about you...

Please give your age group

- 16-29 30-44 45-59 60-74 75+

Are you: Male Female

Do you have any long-term illness, health problem or disability which limits your daily activities or the work you do? (include problems which are due to old age)

- Yes No

Home Postcode _____

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Please detach and post it back to us, postage paid, by 30th July 2010. If you would like a copy of this document on audio cassette or in Braille, large print or other languages please contact us on 01223 715490

working in partnership:



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2



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