

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING

27th October 2005

Provisional Local Transport Plan 2 2006/2011 July 2005

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	A Better Environment
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Enabling Community Wellbeing
KEY PRIORITY:	Transport Infrastructure
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor J. Dudley
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of Planning, Health and Environment
CONTACT OFFICER:	Rebecca Mayman – Ext. 2554
APPENDICES:	Appendix 1: Outcome of Consultation on Draft Version of Worcestershire LTP2. Appendix 2: Response Schedule to Worcestershire Provisional LTP2 (July 2005) Copies of the Appendices have been placed in Party Group Rooms and a Public Inspection copy is available on request (see front cover for details). Full details of the process, including copies of the Provisional LTP2, a consultation report, and other reports and documents relevant to the LTP2 Strategy, can be found on the County Council website at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/ltp

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the outcome of the District Council's response to the consultation undertaken by Worcestershire County Council on the Draft LTP Document in April 2005.
- 1.2 To agree further comments and representations on the Provisional LTP2 for submission to Worcestershire County Council by 31st October 2005.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Cabinet is asked to decide:

- That the comments and recommendations set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report be approved as the District Council's response to the Provisional Local Transport Plan 2, for submission to Worcestershire County Council.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 LTP2 is a statutory document that sets out Worcestershire's Transport Strategy for 2006-11. The process of preparing LTP2 commenced in September 2004. Members may recall the Cabinet Report of the 14th April, which set out the main issues arising from the Draft LTP2 and their impact on the Wyre Forest District. The District Council submitted its formal responses to the document on 29th April 2005.
- 3.2 Members should note that all responses to the Draft LTP2 version have been published within the LTP2 Consultation Report, which is also available on Worcestershire County Council's website. The results from the Draft LTP2 Consultation showed that 47% of comments received related to accessibility issues – particularly getting to healthcare, employment, education and shopping services. 30% of comments referred to the impact of traffic congestion on local communities and the economy; 15% highlighted road safety issues, particularly for vulnerable road users as a strong concern; 6% of comments received related to maintenance issues incorporating asset management and the condition of roads. Finally 2% of responses referred to Air Quality issues within the County, this lower rate of concern reflects the countywide perspective. (Source:WCC LTP2 Workshop, 5/10/05)
- 3.3 The Provisional LTP2 was published and submitted to the Government Office for the West Midlands in July. WCC is now seeking further responses on the document, which need to be submitted by October 31st. As part of the consultation process, John Seddon, Policy & Strategy Manager from WCC briefed Members of the Environment & Economic Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny Panel on the 12th October. The recommendations arising from the E&ER P&S Panel's consideration of the Provisional LTP2 have been incorporated into the recommendations in the attached appendices. This further round of consultation is intended to cover the following issues:
- Are the Strategy, priorities and the implementation plan right and how should funding be allocated?
 - Report on the accessibility mapping work that is underway and how the results will influence further development of the LTP2 strategy.
 - An initial assessment of the environmental impact of the LTP2 strategy.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Provisional LTP2 is split into strategy influences (Pages 9 – 33), which identifies the main influences on transportation within the County that have been primary considerations in the development of LTP2. The main bulk of the document is contained in the strategy (Pages 37 – 125), which is split into an accessibility strategy, tackling congestion, road safety, air quality, individual District strategies and asset management. The Implementation Plan (Pages 134-136) sets out LTP2 Funding – Provisional Planning Guidelines, Performance Funding, Transport Innovation Fund and Major Schemes. The monitoring section (Pages 139-146) identifies a series of targets and indicators which will be used to monitor the implementation of LTP2 on an annual basis.
- 4.2 The specific strategy for the Wyre Forest (Pages 119-124) contains eight policies which are summarised below:
- WF.1 – Identify and implement an appropriate traffic management scheme to reduce traffic emissions on the A451 at Horsefair and to enable the AQMA designation to be removed.

- WF.2 – Undertake a transportation study to identify the preferred transport strategy to support the economic regeneration of the Stourport Road Employment Corridor.
 - WF.3 – Work with rail industry partners and the SVR to undertake improvements at Kidderminster Railway Station that will improve accessibility within and to the station, improve connectivity with the town centre and interchange with buses.
 - WF.4 – Implement a package of traffic management measures in Bewdley town centre to improve air quality and the town centre environment.
 - WF.5 – Work with Stourport Forward to identify and implement a package of transportation measures to reduce congestion and improve the environment within Stourport town centre.
 - WF.6 – To support the Wyre Forest Bus Quality Partnership by helping develop a fully integrated, affordable public and community transport network for Wyre Forest.
 - WF.7 – Work with the Highways Agency to develop the future strategy for the management of the A449 and A456 Trunk Road routes.
 - WF.8 – Undertake a review of all aspects of school transport provision, including School Travel Plans, as part of the Wyre Forest Schools review, particularly to identify opportunities for better integration of school bus services.
- 4.3 The Wyre Forest Strategy and particularly the section on Kidderminster Railway Station, appears to be more coherent and has taken account of some of the comments submitted by the District Council at the draft consultation stage in April.
- 4.4 With regard to the Stourport Relief Road the Provisional LTP2 states that the total scheme costs at £47 million, are considered too great to justify promoting the scheme at this stage. Government has clearly indicated that no new bids for Major Scheme funding are anticipated with LTP2 and this would clearly come into this category. However, the County Council considers that a strong case for such a scheme has been demonstrated, and would wish to retain the option for promoting the scheme in the future should funding sources become available.
- 4.5 Appendix 1 to this report summarises WCC's consideration of the District Council's comments submitted at the Consultation Draft stage of LTP2. It provides an assessment as to whether the comments have been incorporated into the Provisional LTP2.
- 4.6 Appendix 2 to the report sets out the Head of Planning Health & Environment's comments on the key points and strategy areas contained within the Provisional LTP2 document and puts forward a number of recommendations for the support of LTP2 policies and proposals for amendments.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The District Council may be asked to contribute towards the implementation of the LTP2 strategy through partnership working and officer and Member representation at meetings and forums. In addition, it is likely that the District Council will need to contribute some match funding towards feasibility studies and the implementation of proposals within the District. Any such funding would be met from existing budgets or from Section 106 Contributions.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report. The recommended policy responses are in accordance with the Council's established priorities.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There are no direct risk management implications arising from this report. Risks may arise through the failure to implement proposals outlined in the LTP2 e.g. the elimination of Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) within the District.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Provisional LTP2 Consultation Draft sets out WCC's proposed transport strategy for the County, including a five-year plan for implementation covering 2006-11. It has been developed against a backdrop of reduced funding allocations and has therefore been streamlined to focus on core requirements.
- 8.2 A number of proposals have been included for the Wyre Forest District. Officers have set out their initial responses, including an assessment of WCC's consideration of the District Council's comments submitted at the Consultation Draft stage, to the Provisional LTP2 at Appendices 1 and 2 for consideration by the Cabinet. The Cabinet may also wish to add further representations on the Provisional LTP2 for submission to WCC by the 31st October 2005.

9. CONSULTEES

CMT
E&ER Policy & Scrutiny Panel (12th October 2005)

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Local Transport Plan 2 2006/2011 Consultation Draft (February 2005)
Provisional Local Transport Plan 2 2006/2011 (July 2005)
LTP2 Consultation Report (WCC)
Cabinet Agenda Item 9.2 (14/04/05) Worcestershire LTP2 2006/11 Consultation Draft.
E&ER Policy & Scrutiny Panel Briefing Paper (12th October 2005)