

## WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**CABINET MEETING**  
**THURSDAY 28<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

### **Draft Integrated Passenger Transport Strategy for Worcestershire - Consultation**

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME</b>	<b>A Better Environment</b>
<b>CORPORATE PLAN THEME</b>	<b>Enabling Community Wellbeing</b>
<b>KEY PRIORITY</b>	<b>Transport Infrastructure</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER</b>	<b>Cllr Stephen Clee</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	<b>Mike Parker</b>
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<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>1 Draft Worcestershire Integrated Passenger Transport Strategy (March 2007).</b> <b>2. Proposed response to consultation.</b> <i>(The Appendices to this report have been circulated electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request (see front cover for details).</i>

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval for the proposed response to the Draft Integrated Passenger Transport Strategy for Worcestershire.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

The Cabinet is asked to **DECIDE** to:

- 2.1 **Approve the proposed response to the Integrated Passenger Transport Strategy for Worcestershire.**
- 2.2 **Authorise the Head of Planning Health & Environment to undertake the necessary arrangements to submit the responses to Worcestershire County Council's Passenger Transport Unit.**

## **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The previous Bus & Information Strategy was produced in 2003 and in 2005 Worcestershire County Council, in liaison with the six Worcestershire districts and other partners, made a commitment to replace this strategy with a new Integrated Passenger Transport Strategy (IPTS) which would run until March 2011. This brings it in line with the five year cycle of the Local Transport Plan (LTP).
- 3.2 The existing LTP at Policy ITP1 states that the County Council will, “review the Bus & Passenger Information Strategy and replace it with an Integrated Passenger Transport Strategy, which will then be implemented across the county in partnership with the Integrated Passenger Transport Joint Members Forum.
- 3.3 The Passenger Transport Network within Worcestershire has undergone a significant amount of change in recent years, demanding a fundamental review of how the network will meet the aspirations and needs of the public at present and in the foreseeable future.

## **3. KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The overarching vision of the IPTS is to provide: “An affordable, accessible, convenient, environmentally sustainable and integrated passenger transport network, capable of attracting an increasing market share for public transport, thereby contributing to the achievement of the objectives in Worcestershire’s LPT2”.

The aim is to develop an effective transport network in order to give people in both the urban and rural areas of Worcestershire, access to opportunities and benefits that contribute to the enjoyment of a better of quality of life. Public transport needs will continue to be met by Bus Passenger, Rail, Community Transport Services or similar initiatives, or a combination of modes. Each of these activities and modes have interlinked strategies and common aims and their provision will be integrated to provide the most effective transport service.

- 4.2 Much of our past transport planning has been reactive, primarily due to the demands placed on provision through the deregistration of commercially operated bus services, resulting in the replacement of subsidised socially necessary services where justified by demand. This strategy takes the opportunity to look at a single core network, rather than reacting to gaps left by discontinued, non profit making commercial services and the inefficient use of resources subsidising social car transport.
- 4.3 The purpose of the strategy is to set out the process and approach required to establish the best possible passenger transport network facilities which address the needs of both current and future passengers in Worcestershire and which delivers the transport objectives of central government and the County Council.
- 4.4 The strategy addresses the four main LTP2 themes of accessibility, congestion, safety and air quality, based on a “modular approach” ensuring that the strategy is holistic and comprehensive. The modules are as follows:
- Module 1: Identification and definition of Integrated Passenger Transport Network
  - Module 2: Integrated Passenger Transport Strategy Schemes: Development & Design
  - Module 3: Establish the delivery process and programme
  - Module 4: Procurement and Funding
  - Module 5: Implementation

- Module 6: Evaluation and review process
- 4.5 At the Prosperity Panel Meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> April, Panel Members received a presentation from Andy Baker, head of Passenger Transport at Worcestershire County Council on the Draft Strategy. At the meeting Members raised the following concerns and issues:
- Would the strategy be needs led or budget led?
  - Increasing the number of buses that serve Kidderminster Rail Station.
  - Lack of information about public transport
  - No buses available locally
  - Direct bus routes to the hospital
  - No evening bus services.
  - Too many changes to bus times and routes confuses people as to what services are available. In particular there have been many changes in the rural areas and problems are worsening. There is a need for regular and reliable services.
  - People could not rely on public transport to get to and from work as there were no buses available early in the morning or in the evening.
  - Constant government pressure to reduce the use of cars but there are no transport alternatives.
- 4.5 Officer comments on the strategy are included at Appendix 2 to this report and are proposed for the Cabinet to endorse. Worcestershire County Council has extended the closing date for consultations until the end of June 2007 due to Council elections and to allow reasonable time for responses. This be presented to the Joint Members Forum which Wyre Forest District is part of, for approval prior to WCC's Cabinet final approval in September 2007.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this consultation.

#### **5. LEGAL & POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The development of this strategy meets LTP2 policy.

#### **6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 There are no direct risk management issues for the Council as part of this consultation.

#### **7. CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 This new strategy document is a welcome update of the previous Bus & Information Strategy, providing clarity and comprehensive delivery of integrated passenger transport for Worcestershire for the foreseeable future.

7.2

8. **CONSULTEES**

None.

9. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Draft Integrated Passenger Transport Strategy for Worcestershire 2007