



Community & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Briefing Paper

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Open

Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 3 Update

1. Purpose of Briefing Paper

- 1.1 This paper provides Members with an update in relation to Worcestershire County Council's development of the third Local Transport Plan (LTP3). It also includes details of the proposed consultation stages.

2. Background Information

- 2.1 The Transport Act 2000 set out the statutory requirement for Local Transport Authorities to produce Local Transport Plans (LTPs). The first and second rounds of the LTPs were 5 year documents and were submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) for grading.
- 2.2 The current Worcestershire LTP2 covers the timescale from 2006-11. LTP2 recognises that many of the transport issues faced in Worcestershire will not be resolved within the plan period. Some elements of the strategy are aimed at putting the right conditions in place to meet the longer term needs of the County.
- 2.3 LTP2 includes an area strategy for Wyre Forest. This includes a number of policies relating to the Horsefair Air Quality Management Area; a transport strategy to support the economic regeneration of the Stourport Road Employment Corridor; to undertake improvements at Kidderminster Rail Station and to implement a package of transport measures within Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley.

3. Local Transport Act (2008) – A new basis for delivering LTPs

- 3.1 The Local Transport Act 2008 provided Local Transport Authorities with further flexibility in producing their LTPs. These included increased flexibility over the duration of LTP documents and the requirement for a separate strategy and implementation plans. However, the Act still retains the statutory requirement on Local Transport Authorities to produce and review LTPs and policies.

- 3.2 The DfT also identified that it would no longer formally assess LTPs, impose mandatory targets or require the submission of formal monitoring reports separate from the Local Area Assessment Framework. This acts to shift the responsibility for effective transport planning to local authorities using a method that is most appropriate to the local area.
- 3.3 The DfT expects authorities to consider their contribution to national transport goals as over arching priorities for their LTPs. The department published a set of 5 key goals and related challenges for the development of the UK's future transport policy and guidance. These are as follows:
1. Support economic growth
 2. Reduce carbon emissions
 3. Promote equality of opportunity
 4. Contribute to better safety, security and health
 5. Improve quality of life and a healthy natural environment.
- 3.4 Local authorities are required to consider the relative importance of these five national goals for their area, making use of the available evidence. They may therefore wish to refine the goals to reflect local needs or include local additional objectives.

4. Linking with other strategies

- 4.1 The new LTP Guidance requires closer working between authorities in order for LTPs to reflect and support Local Development Frameworks. There is an opportunity for authorities to develop plans that link transport with an area's wider agenda such as children's services, employment, health, crime, the environment, equality and social inclusion.
- 4.2 Close engagement with the Local Strategic Partnership and other local service providers will help influence the Sustainable Community Strategy and integrate other organisations for services with transport goals. Authorities should ensure that the work involved with developing and implementing a LTP serves to inform the selection of improvement priorities in their Local Area Agreement (LAA). LTP3 must be developed to form the basis for subsequent major schemes and associated bids within Worcestershire. It will have significant influence on the way that LAA funding is selected.
- 4.3 The Wyre Forest District Core Strategy is currently undergoing Independent Examination. It contains a Policy (CP03 – Promoting Transport Choice and Improving Accessibility), which specifies that the Wyre Forest Local Development Framework will help to deliver those measures set out within the Worcestershire LTP. Worcestershire County Council (WCC) as the Local Transport Authority, has been closely involved in the Core Strategy's development.

5. Worcestershire LTP3 – structure and development

5.1 WCC is currently developing the third Worcestershire LTP Compendium (2011-26) in accordance with the provisions of the Local Transport Act 2008. This represents a major exercise in strategic transport planning across the County. LTP3 will set out the processes by which Worcestershire will maintain and enhance its transport assets over the next 15 years. It must be developed in time for the expiration of LTP2 in March 2011.

5.2 The main document will set the scene in terms of national, sub-regional and local policy. It will identify countywide objectives and strategy together with area based transport plans. WCC has indicated that a proposed structure for LTP3 could be as follows:

- Introduction
- National policies and vision
- Local policies and vision – identify local policies and strategies that will influence LTP3 and will make links clear identifying the role of LTP3 to deliver on shared objectives through the LAA.
- Countywide cultural, socio-economic and environmental information.
- Worcestershire County Transport Strategy will refer to the developed sub-strategies where appropriate for additional detail and will set the scene for the area based transport strategies.
- Area based transport strategies to include – Wyre Forest Transport Strategy; North East Worcestershire Transport Strategy and a South Worcestershire Transport Strategy.

5.3 WCC has set out Draft LTP3 Objectives which dovetail with the agreed Worcestershire Sustainable Community Strategy themes. These are as follows:

- 1) To support Worcestershire's economic competitiveness and growth by delivering reliable and efficient transport networks.
- 2) To reduce transport's emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases with the desired outcome of tackling climate change.
- 3) To contribute to better safety, security and health and longer life expectancy by reducing the risk of death, injury or illness arising from transport and by promoting travel modes that are beneficial to health.
- 4) To promote greater equality of opportunity for all Worcestershire citizens, with the desired outcomes of achieving a fairer society.
- 5) To improve quality of life for transport users and non-transport users in Worcestershire and to promote a healthy natural environment.
- 6) To enhance the quality of the Worcestershire Transport Asset through sensitive and appropriate design with the desired outcome of reducing the costs and inconvenience of maintenance works.

- 5.4 The Worcestershire County Transport Strategy will draw on a number of policies, which will provide enhanced detail. Some of these are mandatory requirements, whilst others have been identified in response to locally defined needs. WCC has produced 16 draft policies for initial stakeholder feedback focussing on the Worcestershire Local Authorities.
- 5.5 The policies are generalised across Worcestershire and do not focus on specific schemes, they are as follows:
- Motorcycle Policy
 - Transport Safety Policy
 - Multimodal Freight Policy
 - Smarter Choices Policy
 - Traffic and Parking Management Policy
 - Walking – Public Realm Policy
 - Transport and Air Quality Policy
 - Transport Asset Management Plan
 - Rights of Way Improvement Plan
 - Transport Consultation
 - Integrated passenger Transport
 - Intelligent Transport Systems
 - Cycling
 - Development Control
 - Climate Change
 - Accessibility
- 5.6 Appendix 1 to this report provides a brief summary of the key elements of the Draft policies for Members' information and comment.

6. Wyre Forest Transport Package

- 6.1 LTP3 will include a specific Wyre Forest Transport Strategy. It is recognised that the Wyre Forest area has the most acute socio-economic issues within Worcestershire and therefore resources will be focussed to address these issues within the District.
- 6.2 The strategy will take the form of an area based multi-modal transport strategy. It will consist of a balanced package of measures that will assist in tackling the identified socio-economic objectives in particular focussing on regeneration. The strategy will provide enhanced modal choice particularly for sustainable transport modes whilst producing a long-term strategy for the Wyre Forest area with identified objectives that link firmly into the Worcestershire LTP3 delivery plan.

7. Proposed consultation stages

7.1 LTP3 must be developed by March 2011 (the expiry date for LTP2). WCC is proposing that consultation will take place in two stages as follows:

7.2 Stage One – Key Stakeholder engagement (July/August 2010). This first stage of consultation is targeted at key stakeholders only. It focuses on Strategic Environmental Assessment, the draft policies and a new appraisal framework to assess schemes and projects. The Scheme Appraisal Framework aims to:

- Address inconsistency
- Improve the information needed to support the decision making process
- Help ensure that the scarce funds for transport schemes in Worcestershire:
 - Are targeted at the delivery of agreed objectives (e.g. Economy and environment)
 - Progress schemes which have been optimised and allocated in an open and transparent way.

7.3 The Schemes and projects to be fed into the Appraisal Framework have already been pre-identified as a result of earlier pieces of work across the County and as an issue identification exercise as part of the Stage one consultation. However, additional schemes will be considered for assessment following the consultation process. Responses will help to contribute to the development of Draft LTP3.

7.4 Stage Two – Wider stakeholder and public consultation will take place during October-December 2010. This will include consultation on specific transport measures and gauge public opinion on a pre-determined list of transport interventions which could help to meet the challenges and issues identified.

7.5 The second consultation stage will feed into scheme development as part of the LTP3 package of schemes. Draft LTP3 will be subject to modification following consultation and will be submitted to WCC's Cabinet meeting in early 2011 for final adoption.

8. Options for the Committee

8.1 That the Committee notes the contents of this report and the summary of LTP3 Policies outlined at Appendix 1 as context to the wider public consultation that will take place on LTP3 in October 2010.

9. Next Steps

- 9.1 Worcestershire County Council will undertake wider public consultation on LTP3 in October 2010. This will inform the final version of LTP3 which will be adopted by March 2011.

10. Appendices

- 10.1 Appendix 1 – Summary of LTP3 Draft Policies

11. Background Papers

- Guidance on Local Transport Plans (July 2009) – Department for Transport
- LTP3 (2011-26) Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report (June 2010) Worcestershire County Council
- LTP2 (2006-11) Worcestershire County Council

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