

**LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
HIGHWAYS FORUM FOR HARBOROUGH**

10TH MARCH 2010

**BACKGROUND TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF
THE THIRD LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (LTP3)**

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To advise Members of the background to the development of the third Leicestershire Local Transport Plan (LTP3) and to outline work already undertaken and next steps.
2. To indicate when Members will have opportunities to comment on, and get involved in, the development of LTP3.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that the contents of this report are noted.

Background

4. Transport underpins the wider agenda and objectives of the Council and its partners e.g. the environment, health and the economy. An effective transport system supports the economy, facilitates the safe movement of people, gives people freedom of choice, enabling us to get to and from work, education, healthcare, shopping and social activities and minimises the negative impact on people's lives and the environment.
5. Local authorities are required to outline how they plan to deliver an effective transport system by producing a Local Transport Plan. The current Leicestershire Local Transport Plan and Central Leicestershire Local Transport Plan (LTP2s), which overlap in places, cover the period from April 2006 to the end of March 2011. LTP3 must legally be in place by 1 April 2011. There will be two, non-overlapping LTP3s in Leicestershire, one covering the administrative area of the County the other the administrative area of Leicester City. Recognising the important interactions between the County and City, officers are discussing how best to ensure that the two plans align.
6. The Government published final guidance for development of LTP3 in July. The guidance reflects the 'Delivering a Sustainable Transport System' (DaSTS) approach. DaSTS is the government's response to the challenges of delivering economic growth whilst minimising the impacts of transport on climate change and people's lives.

7. There are five DaSTS goals, which are to:
 - support economic growth
 - reduce carbon emissions
 - contribute to better safety, security and health
 - promote equality of opportunity
 - improve quality of life and a healthy natural environment
8. Government requirements for the format and content of LTP3s are much less restrictive than on previous occasions. The guidance provides local authorities with the flexibility to develop transport policies and strategies that meet the economic, social and environmental needs of their areas. LTP3 is therefore expected to play an increased role in ensuring delivery of wider local authority objectives in both the LAA and MAA.
9. The guidance also stresses that LTP3 should be based on robust evidence, and should contain a higher-level and longer-term strategy and be supported by shorter-term plans that explain how the strategy will be implemented (Implementation / Delivery Plans). Engagement of stakeholders and residents in developing LTP3 is also emphasised.

Development of the Leicestershire LTP3

General approach

10. The County Council is currently in the early stages of developing its next Local Transport Plan (LTP3), which must legally be in place by 1 April 2011. It will indicate how Leicestershire's transport system will contribute to the deliver of wider goals and objectives, and will contain:
 - A longer term transport plan to 2026: This aligns with the strategic planning system and the Sustainable Community Strategy.
 - Shorter term Implementation Plans. These may possibly be 3 to 5 years in length and may be area-based e.g. on a district basis or may, alternatively, focus on topics e.g. cycling, increasing bus usage etc.
11. It is important to note that, unlike previous LTPs, LTP3 will be more about setting out our vision for the county's transport system, identifying what it is for and the steps we intend to take to support wider goals, as opposed to talking about solutions and specific schemes. Whatever their format, it is unlikely that even delivery plans will identify specific schemes.

Current work

12. An evidence-base has been produced which has been built around the DaSTS goals, ensuring that the Leicestershire LTP3 is based on robust evidence. Based on the analysis of available information, including previous results from various public surveys, it identifies key issues and challenges for Leicestershire, and this evidence will be used to inform the development of our long-term transport strategy.

13. An Engagement and Communications Strategy has also been produced which sets out our objectives for engagement. It explains when, and with whom, we will consult with during development of LTP3. Our approach will be to engage and consult with existing boards and groups that are already involved in development and delivery of the objectives of both the County Council and its partners, in addition to the public and interest groups. This engagement will provide an opportunity to express views and help shape the development of LTP3. These groups will include Leicestershire Together (LSP), Highway Forums and other bodies, such as town centre partnerships.

Next steps

14. Engagement on the evidence-base followed by review / amendment and production of the final version of the evidence-base by March 2010. This engagement is being targeted on key County Council and strategic partnership officers, who are best placed to ensure that the information it contains and the conclusions drawn from the analysis work provide a robust foundation from which to develop our strategy.
15. Once the evidence-base is finalised, work will concentrate on development of the longer-term transport strategy. It is currently anticipated that we will undertake a wide ranging public consultation and engagement exercise on the draft strategy during summer 2010.
16. Once the longer term transport strategy is approved, we will develop our Delivery Plan(s). It is currently anticipated that we will undertake another wide ranging consultation and engagement exercise on these during autumn 2010.
17. It is intended that Members will be updated on the strategy and delivery plans during the summer/autumn 2010 round of Highway Forums.

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For further information on LTP2

www.leics.gov.uk/ltp