

Cheltenham Borough Council
Cabinet – 14 April 2015
Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan (2015 – 2031) – Consultation Document

Accountable member	Councillor Jordan - Leader
Accountable officer	Tracey Crews – Head of Planning
Ward(s) affected	All
Key/Significant Decision	Yes
Executive summary	<p>The Local Transport Plan (LTP) sets the long term strategy for transport delivery within Gloucestershire from 2015 – 2031. The Plan sets out key policies and priority highway schemes that form the basis for decisions on transport investment in the future. This is a review of the LTP adopted in April 2011.</p> <p>The consultation process seeks comment on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed Link and Place Hierarchy for 2031 • The proposed update to the LTP’s policies; • The proposed prioritisation of transport initiatives in the context of the new Connecting Places Strategies; and • The removal of historic transport schemes from the highways register. <p>It is essential that Gloucestershire’s LTP is updated to support delivery of the Strategic Economic Plan, the emerging Local Plans, including the Gloucester Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy and the Cheltenham Plan, and to maximise the opportunities to attract further levels of investment for transport within the county. It is also important that the LTP reflects the transport infrastructure required to deliver growth in the Joint Core Strategy that is identified through the Joint Core Strategy Transport Modelling evidence.</p> <p>Officers and Members have reviewed the consultation document and proposed comments for formal submission are provided at Appendix 2 of this report.</p>
Recommendations	To agree Cheltenham Borough Council’s representations to Gloucestershire’s Local Transport Plan (2015 – 2031) Consultation Document (appendix 2)

Financial implications	None to note. Contact officer: Nina Philippidis, Business Partner Accountant nina.philippidis@cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242 774121
Legal implications	The Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008, introduced a statutory requirement for local transport authorities to produce a Local Transport Plan. The Local Transport Plan should be kept under review, and altered if considered appropriate. The local transport authority may replace the Local Transport Plan as it thinks fit. The Transport Act sets out the statutory framework for Local Transport Plans, including policies to be developed and consultation requirements. The Local Transport Plan is a material consideration when a Local Planning Authority determines a planning application. Contact officer: Cheryl Lester - Solicitor, legal.services@tewkesbury.gov.uk, 01684 272013
HR implications (including learning and organisational development)	None.
Key risks	The Local Transport Plan is a key strategy for the delivery of essential transport infrastructure to support the delivery of growth identified through the Joint Core Strategy and the Cheltenham Plan. It is essential that the Local Transport Plan is updated to contain the infrastructure schemes required to deliver this development. Without the Local Transport Plan Review there is a risk that the delivery of the infrastructure would be delayed or not achieved and therefore risk the delivery of new development.
Corporate plan Implications	Appropriate delivery of transport infrastructure needed to support new development within a context of connecting places will contribute to supporting objectives of the corporate plan.
Environmental and climate change implications	An independent Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been prepared in support of the Local Transport Plan Review. An Strategic Environmental Assessment is required for Local Transport Plans in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations).
Property/Asset Implications	None.

1. Background

- 1.1** The adopted Local Transport Plan for Gloucestershire (LTP) was adopted in April 2011. The preparation of this plan is a responsibility of Gloucestershire County Council. A full review of the LTP is now underway; this review shifts the emphasis for transport towards one that enables conditions for economic growth by improving the quality of place.
- 1.2** The LTP review has been made available for public consultation for 6 weeks from 16th February to 27th March 2015. Cheltenham Borough Council has agreement with the County Council to formally submit comments following consideration of this report by Cabinet.
- 1.3** The LTP review provides a new strategy for transport delivery in the County from 2015 to 2031. It presents a different to approach to transport than the adopted LTP focusing on the importance of journey time reliability, the promotion of different travel choices, and enabling economic and housing growth. In addition the Local Transport Plan seeks to provide a full range of transport choices for door-to-door journeys.
- 1.4** The LTP review sets out the following 4 objectives; As such, the objectives set out in the consultation document are as follows:
 - Secure conditions for sustainable economic growth in Gloucestershire;
 - Enable communities to benefit from economic prosperity;
 - Conserve and enhance Gloucestershire's unique natural, built and historic environment ; and
 - Create healthy, safe and engaged communities.
- 1.5** The focus of these objectives is to move away from a model where the car is the dominant mode of transport towards the car being one transport choice within a range of realistic options.

2. Connecting Places

- 2.1** The LTP review includes 7 connecting places strategies, these strategies move away from looking at individual districts of Gloucestershire, to looking at transport needs across relevant geographical areas, including considering implications beyond the county boundary of Gloucestershire.
- 2.2** The relevant connecting places strategy for Cheltenham is the 'Central Severn Vale Connecting Places Strategy'. This strategy contains the major urban areas of Cheltenham and Gloucester and identifies a list of transport schemes to be delivered in the area. These schemes have been directly informed by the development strategy set out in the Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy in order to ensure that transport investment supports future growth. The schemes relate to those that have been tested through the Joint Core Strategy transport modelling process.

3. Summary of comments from Cheltenham Borough Council

- 3.1** In general the policies and strategies are supported; however in a number of places across the LTP it is unclear how the positive policy direction, particularly around creating places for people will be implemented. Establishing a link hierarchy – places for traffic – places for people and traffic – places for people is sound, but there is little idea of how the county will reconfigure the management of transport in Cheltenham to reflect these new status' – which implies not only a shift in the type of transport infrastructure provided, but also the creation of decent streets, spaces and transport nodes; plus sensitive management of assets such as tree stock and the streets

themselves.

- 3.2 The Cheltenham Borough Council Walking and Cycling Scrutiny Task Group has been investigating how Cheltenham can be a place for people, this requires significant changes to encourage active travel choices to be facilitated. The work of the group directly relates to the new emphasis set out in the LTP. The findings of this group will not be available until the summer and it is appropriate that any further revision to LTP takes the Group's findings into account. Initial findings from the group have been included within the response to the LTP provided at Appendix 2.
- 3.3 Whilst there are references throughout the LTP to sustainable transport, the Borough Council is disappointed in the lack of analysis in this regard. Sustainability should be a strand which connects all parts of the plan. This seems to be a key missing from the consultation document.
- 3.4 In a number of parts of the LTP, but specifically in respect of the freight advisory map there is a lack of information. The Borough Council reserves its right to comment on this detail when it becomes available.

4. Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 It is important that Cheltenham gives careful consideration to proposed changes set out within the LTP consultation document, once approved the LTP will set strategic transport policy for the county, make commitments to highway schemes and guide funding decisions. Given the agenda set by the Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy together with the emerging Cheltenham Plan and wider contexts set by the Gloucestershire Strategic Economic Plan, it is essential that these are reflected in the LTP to ensure future delivery of transport infrastructure and behavioural change.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1 The purpose of the LTP consultation is to gain feedback on the policies and strategies proposed, this may inform an alternative strategy.

6. Consultation and feedback

- 6.1 Gloucestershire County Council engaged with stakeholders during autumn 2014 to help inform the LTP document now available for consultation. Officers and Members of the Borough Council took part in these stakeholder sessions. Members received a presentation from the County Council providing an overview of the LTP consultation document on 3rd March 2015.
- 6.2 A Walking and Cycling Scrutiny Task Group has been established and has been meeting regularly since December 2014. This Group is collecting evidence from a range of specialists and will be reporting its findings summer 2015. Initial findings of this group has informed the Borough Council's consultation response to the LTP.

7. Performance management – monitoring and review

- 7.1 The Planning Policy Team will closely follow the progress of the review of the LTP and report back to Cabinet any issues which will impact upon the Borough.

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Appendices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Risk Assessment 2. Cheltenham Borough Council - comments to Local Transport Plan Consultation Document
Background information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local Transport Plan – Consultation Document www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ltp3

The risk				Original risk score (impact x likelihood)			Managing risk				
Risk ref.	Risk description	Risk Owner	Date raised	Impact 1-5	Likelihood 1-6	Score	Control	Action	Deadline	Responsible officer	Transferred to risk register
	If the LTP is not updated there is a risk that the delivery of the infrastructure would be delayed or not achieved and therefore risk the delivery of new development.	Mike Redman	25.3.15	4	2	8	Reduce	Planning Policy Team to continue to review changes arising and report back to Cabinet as appropriate.		Tracey Crews	Divisional
<p>Explanatory notes</p> <p>Impact – an assessment of the impact if the risk occurs on a scale of 1-5 (1 being least impact and 5 being major or critical)</p> <p>Likelihood – how likely is it that the risk will occur on a scale of 1-6 (1 being almost impossible, 2 is very low, 3 is low, 4 significant, 5 high and 6 a very high probability)</p> <p>Control - Either: Reduce / Accept / Transfer to 3rd party / Close</p>											