

**GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
17 SEPTEMBER 2012**

LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 3 - REVIEW

Report by Deputy Director for Strategy and Infrastructure Planning

1. Context

- 1.1. The Local Transport Plan 3 (2011-2030) was adopted by the County Council in 2011 as a 20-year strategy for Oxfordshire's transport system. Owing to the long-term nature of the strategy it was agreed as part of the approval process that the Plan would be regularly reviewed in order to keep it up to date and relevant. Such an approach enables the Plan to take into account changes in policy (both nationally and locally). It also enables the County Council to keep the investment priorities up to date.
- 1.2. The first review of the Plan was undertaken in the first half of 2012, culminating in a report to the County Council's Cabinet on 17 April. That review consolidated amendments that had been made during the course of the preceding twelve months, including amendments driven by changes in the policy environment. The majority of changes made were procedural, clarifying the Council's position and reflecting changes that had been previously considered by the Cabinet.
- 1.3. The light touch approach to the review enabled the updating of the Plan to be completed quickly. However, it is important that substantive changes to the Plan are subjected to scrutiny.
- 1.4. This report provides the Committee with the opportunity to comment on the amendments made to date. It also affords the Committee with the opportunity to comment on the scope of subsequent reviews and in particular to identify issues that it may wish to be considered within them.

2. Annual Review 2012

- 2.1. The report agreed by the Cabinet in April, and which was adopted by Council in July, updated the Plan in three main areas:
 - a) Formalising changes previously agreed by the Cabinet Member for Transport (as per the approved approach for allowing interim changes to the Plan to be made and then confirmed as part of the annual review process). This included the work that had been undertaken to develop the strategy for Science Vale UK subsequent to the initial preparation of the Plan.

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- b) Updating County Council policy in key areas, notably:
- Strengthening the strategic context provided by the Plan, including the 'Oxfordshire Growth Arc': specifically strengthening the role that the transport system has in supporting economic growth and highlighting the linkage with the Local Enterprise Partnership
 - Inclusion of additional text to reflect the Council's rail strategy
 - Updating the local area transport strategies to reflect more recent information
 - Identification of a lorry routing strategy
 - Setting out the Council's policy on road classification following devolution by central Government.
- c) Updating the Transport Capital Programme and associated monitoring framework.

3. Future Reviews

- 3.1. It is essential that the Local Transport Plan continues to set out the longer term ambitions and aspirations for the transport system in Oxfordshire. The framework set out in the Plan provides the context within which detailed 2-5 year implementation plans need to be prepared.
- 3.2. Looking ahead there are three key drivers of change the consequences of which will need to be considered as part of the next review:
- a) Ensuring that the local area transport strategies within the Plan are updated to reflect work currently underway or planned, including
- Work to review the Oxford Transport Strategy, taking into account the opportunities provided by major development opportunities
 - The emerging masterplan for Bicester
 - The emerging masterplan for Banbury
 - The emerging movement strategy for Witney
 - The emerging infrastructure delivery plan for Science Vale UK and in particular proposals required to support delivery of the Enterprise Zone.

Ensuring these strategies are up to date will be important in informing the development of core strategies for the Local Plans: it is those core strategies that then form the context within which the District/City Councils

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develop their proposals for the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy.

- b) Updating the Plan to reflect specific policy issues, including:
- The publication of the Government's High Level Output Specification for the rail network which included commitments to deliver Great Western Main Line electrification, reinstatement of East West Rail and enhanced capacity at Oxford Station
 - Proposals by the Government to include greater local input into future rail franchise specifications
 - Greater consideration of the role of bus services as part of the transport system.
- c) Updating the Plan to take into account issues of prioritisation and funding availability, including:
- Identification of the County Council's expectations of national delivery agencies, including the Highways Agency and Network Rail
 - Identification of the implications arising from the Government's proposed devolution of funding for major transport schemes, including consideration of the issues arising from the establishment of a Local Transport Board
 - Taking into account the work (led by the Spatial Planning and Infrastructure Partnership) to update the Local Investment Plan, including the work on prioritisation
 - Reviewing the investment priorities set out within the Plan in order to identify specific schemes for inclusion within the Schedule 123 lists of infrastructure required as part of the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1. As was this case in the preceding 12 months, it is proposed that minor amendments to the Plan will be approved by the Cabinet Member for Transport under delegated powers, with major issues considered more formally as part of the annual review process
- 4.2. The extent and nature of the drivers for change are substantial and likely to require a more fundamental review of the Plan in the coming months. As part of the review process it is proposed that members of this scrutiny committee are actively engaged in the work. The views of the Committee are sought on the preferred approach for ensuring an appropriate level of engagement.

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RECOMMENDATION

1. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to:**
 - (a) Note this report and provide comment on the amendments made to date on the LTP3
 - (b) Comment on the scope of subsequent reviews of LTP3 and in particular to identify issues that the Committee may wish to be considered within them
 - (c) Provide a steer on the Committees preferred approach for ensuring an appropriate level of engagement in future reviews

MARTIN TUGWELL
Deputy Director for Strategy and Infrastructure Planning
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Background papers: Cabinet Papers LTP3 Review, April 2012, Council Papers LTP3 July 2012.

Contact Officer: John Disley, Planning and Transport Policy Service Manager (interim) T: (01865) 810460, john.disley@oxfordshire.gov.uk