

**GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
– 10 MARCH 2010**

**GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE SCRUTINY OF LOCAL
TRANSPORT PLAN 3**

REPORT FROM THE WORKING GROUP

Introduction

1. In July 2009 the Growth & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee commissioned a working group of its members to take a closer look at the Council's Local Transport Plan¹ (LTP3) as it is being developed. The group, made up of Councillors Greene, Nimmo-Smith, Gibbard, Mathew, Purse, and Tanner, supported by transport officers and an officer from the Policy Unit, has been meeting regularly since September 2009.

Purpose

2. Scrutiny has an important role in influencing the shape of plans, policies and performance across the Council. The remit of the LTP3 working group is to scrutinise the Plan as it progresses. As such, the group's focus is less on producing a 'backward glance' report of their findings at the end of the review process, so much as contributing their comments at all major stages of the LTP3's development.
3. Many of the working group's suggestions have already been taken into consideration for the plans, procedures and policies which will form the foundation of the LTP3. This report focuses on these outcomes.

The Working Group's Contribution

4. Discussions with transport officers have proved fruitful, the outcomes of which are summarised below. The list is not exhaustive but covers the main areas where members' comments have been incorporated into the work of the LTP3.

(a) **Objectives**

In the first meeting of the working group, transport officers presented the overall objectives of the LTP3. One of the objectives was 'Improve air quality and enhance the street environment'. The working group suggested that reducing other environmental impacts such as noise pollution should be incorporated as one of the goals.

¹ Hereafter referred to as 'LTP3', or the 'Plan'

Officers accepted the recommendation and changed the objectives accordingly (see annex 1). Along with other changes, this was agreed by Cabinet when they approved the Plan's Objectives.

(b) **Consultation on a "Long List" of Schemes**

Transport officers produced a "long list" of potential schemes to be considered for inclusion in the LTP3. Stakeholders and members of the public were invited to contribute to the list and the working group considered the list as part of this consultation process.

The working group reinforced the need to manage public expectations around this consultation. They recommended that those who made suggestions for inclusion on the list of possible schemes were given feedback or explanation if their schemes were rejected.

Officers accepted the recommendation.

(c) **Policy Development**

The working group kept an overview of the policies being developed to form the basis of the LTP3, and chose to examine five in more detail. These were:

- (1) Highways asset management
- (2) Public rights of way and access to natural green space
- (3) Road safety
- (4) Network management
- (5) Travel planning

Recommendations were made to change the specific wording of some of the policies and policy statements. For example:

- The wording of Network Management Policy 3, relating to the effective operation of junction and crossings of the network, was felt to be too general, and that there was a need to identify an approach that would help identify which user groups this would apply to and under what circumstances;
- A similar issue was raised in terms of Policy 1 for Public Rights of Way and the importance of understanding who the Council maintaining this network for;
- It was felt that the approach to introducing further 20mph limits in Oxfordshire was too restrictive in focusing on urban areas and that other considerations should be taken into account, e.g. rural schools

It was also felt that there was an opportunity to make better links between Council / LTP Objectives and Policies, which annex 1 is designed to show.

All suggestions are currently being considered by transport officers and will be included in an addendum to the report to Cabinet.

In the main, the working group reinforced the need for the Plan to reflect that: -

- Highways are one of the most visible County Council services; resources need to be targeted to reflect this
- They agreed with an ‘invest to save’ approach to highways management
- Policies need to give a stronger steer for future decision making, in terms of identifying priorities.
- Congestion is a real problem which needs attention, particularly relating to school runs
- The implications of demographic change need to be considered as part of an LTP3 which is designed to cover the next 20 years

It was also underlined that hearing local voices is important, amidst the need to take a strategic view.

Officers accepted the advice of the working group, and will use it to inform the development of the Plan over the coming months.

Scrutiny Next Steps

5. To date, the working group has been involved at all major stages of LTP3 development, bringing regular updates to the Growth & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee. This is due to continue until Council adopts the final plan in 2011, with further meetings of the working group being timetabled at key points. An overview of the group’s work programme is outlined below:

Date	Stage	Objective
September 2009	Objectives & local differentiation stage	Consideration ahead of Cabinet decision
October/ December 2009	Consultation on “long list” of transport schemes	Overview of the approach to public consultation
Jan/Feb 2009	Policy development & review stage	To scrutinise the policies which will be developed for inclusion in the Plan
March 2010	Growth & Infrastructure Scrutiny	To give input on the working group’s current and planned work, and comment on the Cabinet report
April 2010	Scheme identification and scenario development stage	Consideration of the results of the scheme prioritisation process and the development of Scenarios for Stakeholder consultation

Summer 2010	Public consultation stage	Preparation for potential roadshows/events to launch or support public consultation on the draft Plan.
Autumn/ Winter 2010	Public consultation on draft transport Plan	Public engagement in roadshows/ events
February/ March 2011	Preparation of final Plan	To scrutinise final Plan ahead of Cabinet approval

6. The next major stages in the LTP3's development, as shown above, are:
- (a) Prioritisation of schemes
 - (b) Development and presentation of proposed scenarios
 - (c) Public consultation on the draft Plan, potentially in the form of 'road shows' or events
7. The working group will be involved in these stages, and welcome the views of the Committee to inform their future work. Particularly with regard to 'road shows' as part of public consultation and engagement with the Plan, this is an opportunity to hear local voices. The input of the working group is vital to form the bridge on which 'top down' policies and 'bottom up' consultation will meet.

RECOMMENDATION

8. **The Growth & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:**
- (a) note the work conducted by the working group over the past six months;**
 - (b) advise on planned work, particularly with regard to how road shows could be carried out.**

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LTP Objectives & Policies

Council Strategic Objectives	Local Transport Plan Objective	LTP Policies
Better Public Services Environment & Climate Change	Improve the condition of local roads, footways and cycleways, including resilience to climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways Asset Management
World Class Economy Healthy and Thriving Communities	Reduce congestion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network Management • Highway Network Development • Travel Planning (TP1) • Parking • Freight & Distribution
Healthy and Thriving Communities	Reduce casualties and the dangers associated with travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Safety • Motorcycling
Better Public Services Breaking the Cycle of Deprivation	Improve accessibility to work, education and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Transport Services (PTS2, 10) • Disability • Taxis / Private Hire
World Class Economy Healthy and Thriving Communities	Secure infrastructure and services to support development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Transport Infrastructure (PTI 4) • Highway Network Dev't (ND1) • Travel Planning (TP2)
Environment & Climate Change	Reduce carbon emissions from transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel Planning (TP3) • Air Travel
Environment & Climate Change Healthy and Thriving Communities	Improve air quality, reduce other environmental impacts and enhance the street environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street Environment & Public Realm • Public Transport Services (PTS11)
World Class Economy Environment & Climate Change	Develop and increase the use of high quality, welcoming public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Transport Infrastructure & Services • Rail • Network Management (NM2)

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Environment & Climate Change Healthy and Thriving Communities	Develop and increase cycling and walking for local journeys, recreation and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cycling• Walking• Public Rights of Way• Waterways
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