

## AGENDA ITEM 6

### Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the Environment of Buckinghamshire

**Title:** Second Local Transport Plan (2006-2011)  
**Date:** 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2005  
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#### 1.0 Background information

- 1.1 The County Council is working to develop its Second Local Transport Plan for 2006 to 2011. The First Local Transport Plan, covering the period 2001 to 2006 was assessed as 'well above average' by the Department for Transport and assessment of the Plan's delivery demonstrates that the County Council is consistently among the top five performing Local Transport Authorities in England.
- 1.2 The Department for Transport has revised the timetable for submission of the second Local Transport Plan. The deadline for provisional plans is 29<sup>th</sup> July 2005 and full plans are to be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006.
- 1.3 The County Council has worked with stakeholders and partners (both internal and external) to develop the key themes. The attached papers, summarise the Tackling Congestion and Air Quality Themes that will be circulated on the day of the Committee.
- 1.4 The detailed themes are still being developed and revised, and will be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to ensure that proposed objectives, schemes and projects do not have negative environmental impacts. There are two particular areas, detailed below, where the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Environment for Buckinghamshire are sought and welcomed.

#### 2.0 Key Themes

- 2.1 It is recognised that LTP2 can play a significant role in meeting both local and national objectives. This has been formalised in the 'shared priority for transport', developed by the Department for Transport in conjunction with the Local Government Association, which is included within LTP2 guidance. The shared priority requires local authorities to identify policies and strategies for air quality, congestion, safety and accessibility.
- 2.2 The attached papers summarise the Tackling Congestion and Air Quality themes that will form a significant part of our work on local transport issues in the coming years.

2.3 Details of the 'Tackling Congestion' and 'Air Quality strategy' are summarised below;

- Tackling Congestion

Tackling congestion has been a key element of the County Council's first Local Transport Plan, primarily under the theme of 'Tackling the Adverse Effects of Traffic'. Traffic growth has been successfully slowed in the main urban areas thanks to our actions, but further work is required to address both the reality and perception of traffic congestion.

The strategy for congestion during the Second Local Transport Plan will be based on four key areas that will collectively enable congestion to be managed or reduced by:

- i) Optimising the use of existing infrastructure to maximise travel capacity and keep traffic moving;
- ii) Achieving modal shift from private car use towards more sustainable modes
- iii) Managing demand and reducing need for travel
- iv) Where appropriate, increasing or building new capacity

The Council will measure its success through three primary outcome performance indicators;

- Measured levels of traffic growth in the three major urban areas (Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Chesham/Amersham) and at key locations on the strategic inter-urban road network
- Measured journey time reliability for defined journeys over this network
- Measured levels of customer satisfaction about congestion across the county and the County Council's management of it.

- Better Air Quality

Buckinghamshire already has two designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in Wycombe and South Bucks. It is anticipated that further AQMAs may be declared in Chiltern and Aylesbury in the near future.

Air pollution is an environmental consequence of, amongst other things, high levels of motorised transport use, with impacts at local, regional and global levels. It is therefore, not a surprise to learn that the existing AQMAs have been declared along motorway corridors in Wycombe and South Bucks.

The County Council's objectives for air quality are to;

- Ensure the achievement of prescribed health-related local air quality standards throughout the County, where it is within our power as local authority to do so.
- Seek to improve local air quality in particular areas where significant clusters of respiratory disorders and high levels of traffic volumes and congestion coincide.

The specific actions that the County Council and its partners will take to improve air quality are on pages 16-18 of the report. These actions focus on;

- Tackling air quality in general
- Reducing the effects of vehicle congestion and air pollution on human health and encouraging sustainable travel
- Addressing air quality issues through targeting and the application of penalty charges, with the intention of modal shift
- Using a combination of controls and plans to encourage sustainable transport modes for the public and local businesses
- Promoting the use of cleaner fuels to improve air quality and advance the county's transport methods
- Increasing the use of public transport and alternative modes with incentives and healthier lifestyle options
- Increasing public education and awareness of air quality issues

#### **2.4 Bearing in mind the importance of these two themes as part of the “shared priority for transport”**

- o **Does the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Environment for Buckinghamshire consider that the objective and measures outlined will enable the County Council and its partners to successfully and adequately tackle congestion and improve air quality?**

### **3.0 Future programme for developing the second Local Transport Plan**

3.1 The following sets out the proposed programme of work to develop LTP2:

Feb 05 - March 05: Completion of themes (Part 2)

March 05 – April 05: Development of Area Action Plans (Part 3)

April 05: Area Committees

April 05 – May 05: Completion of “Vision” (Part 1)

May 05 – June 05: Further drafting

July 05: Provisional Local Transport Plan to Cabinet (Mid July)  
Submission to DfT and GOSE (End July)

**3.2 The views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Environment for Buckinghamshire are sought on the programme outlined above.**