



Buckinghamshire County Council

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Clerk to District/Town/Parish Council

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Ref: Network Hierarchy
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Dear Sir/Madam

Buckinghamshire Network Hierarchy – A Reference Document

Buckinghamshire County Council's Policy and Strategy Team are carrying out this consultation to seek your views on a proposed reference document.

The document has been produced as part of the Network Management Duty placed on the Transportation Authority by the Traffic Management Act 2004.

It brings together into one reference point an overview of existing key policies and functions of the transport network in the County. The primary audience for the document are transport and planning practitioners but it may be of general interest to the wider general public who are also being invited to comment through the County Council "Have Your Say" web page - http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/about_your_council/Have_your_say.page?

The executive summary is attached and the full document can be found at http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/assets/content/bcc/docs/transport/Draft_BCC_Network_Hierarchy_Document.pdf. If you would like a printed copy please contact your Local Area Coordinator who will be happy to provide one for you on request.

I welcome your comments and look forward to receiving these by no later than 24th July 2009 at stwatson@bcc.gov.uk or by post to the above address if you would prefer.

Yours faithfully

Steve Watson
Project Manager
Transport for Buckinghamshire Policy & Strategy Team

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. Commissioned by the statutory Traffic Manager for Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC), this document seeks to bring into one reference point the key policies and features of the transport network within Buckinghamshire.
- 1.2. The primary purpose of the document is to support the Traffic Manager and other transportation professionals in developing and delivering effective, efficient and co-ordinated transportation services in the County. This can for example range from prioritising maintenance arrangements to better co-ordination of hedge cutting and sweeping of key cycleways.
- 1.3. It builds on the published work within the Second Local Transport Plan (LTP2) by cross referencing existing policies and initiatives into a structured format. The document also points up the potential to bring together network maps into one Geographic Information System (GIS) based resource that can be more readily accessed. If taken forward this would be via the existing MAPviewer and Bucks Maps facilities in the short term. The longer term aim would be to make map based transport network information more easily available via the BCC web site in due course when the corporate infrastructure is in place as part of a wider BCC GIS strategy.
- 1.4. A transport network is a complex and dynamic resource. It is different things to different people in different locations and settings. It can range from a rural Right of Way for a rambler to a section of high volume motorway for an inter city heavy goods delivery vehicle. As such, different considerations are needed for different users, for different aspects of the network. This is where the use of an appropriate hierarchy is helpful. Drawing on existing national and local policies and guidelines, the situational nature of the network is reflected within the document and provides a building block towards the development of a more detailed Network Management Plan.
- 1.5. The primary audience for this product are local authority and other public service officials seeking to integrate transport network considerations into their particular service portfolio. It may also be of interest to the general public to provide them with a helpful overview of the entire network and alternative ways of getting about – be that walking, cycling or making greater use of public transport.

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