



Local Transport Plan 4

Report from Cabinet Member for Transportation

Purpose of this Report

1. The Council has a statutory responsibility to produce and maintain a Local Transport Plan. The Plan sets out the Council's overarching strategy for transport across the County. The current plan expires in April 2016 and a replacement is required. This report asks the Council to consider agreeing a replacement Local Transport Plan.
2. The proposed Local Transport Plan 4 (the Plan) sets out a high-level approach to transport in Bucks until 2036. The proposed Plan forms Appendix 1 to this report.

Background

3. The Transport Act 2000 introduced a statutory requirement for local transport authorities to produce a Local Transport Plan. The Local Transport Act 2008 retained the requirement to produce and maintain a Local Transport Plan but introduced more flexibility for local transport authorities to produce plans that work for them. As such it was important to consider what the Local Transport Plan should do for Bucks:

A - Make sure growth works for Bucks:

4. Local Planning Authorities are preparing local plans and face significant growth pressure. Central Government imposed an accelerated timetable which requires them to prepare local plans by Spring 2017. An up-to-date Local Transport Plan will set out the high level policies which inform and give weight to our transport responses to local plan proposals and applications for development. It will be supported by more detailed documents, including area strategies for key growth areas. This approach allows us to respond to the accelerated timetable for local plan preparation. To understand and identify the mitigation measures necessary to address the impact of local plan proposals, we need to develop area strategies quickly. The Plan gives the Council the framework it needs to do this.

B – Secure investment in the transport improvements Bucks needs by:

- Supporting bids for funding: to the Department for Transport; to the Local Enterprise Partnership; to European funds; and to a range of other funders.
- Ensuring the transport investments the Council makes meet its objectives.
- Empowering interested people to deliver transport improvements or services.

5. Due to these two vital roles, the Plan (and area strategies) has been prioritised in Transport Economy and Environment business plans. However, considerable pressure remains due to the extremely tight timescales and the capacity required to do the work.

The Plan proposed

6. The Plan covers all types of transport and looks ahead to 2036 (in line with the local planning authorities' developing Local Plans). It is an innovative and accessible plan that sets out a high-level approach to transport. It will be accompanied by additional documents: area strategies for key growth areas; and strategies for specific issues (the diagram in Section 1 of the Plan shows the additional documents anticipated). This is proposed as the best solution for Bucks because:
 - A. It allows us respond to the accelerated timetable for local plans described in Section 4A of this report and to understand their transport implications.
 - B. It allows us to develop only the policies Bucks needs.
 - C. It allows us to deliver the Plan and those other policies within available resources.

Consultation, assessments and other engagement that informed the proposed Plan

7. Consultation: The initial 'snapshot' phase of consultation, between 24th August and 7th September 2015, used a bespoke online tool to understand individuals' priorities. Its innovative online format helped it reach a large audience (615) and engaged groups that don't usually respond. It shaped the draft Plan used in the second phase of consultation.
8. The second phase of consultation was held between 7th December and 29th January. It allowed us to understand what people (and stakeholder organisations) thought of the draft Plan. It successfully engaged over 600 individuals and stakeholder organisations (significantly more than previous plans at a lower cost, illustrating how digital solutions can offer efficiencies). Consultation materials and a questionnaire were available on the BCC website's 'Have your say' portal. The consultation was promoted using a range of methods (see Appendix 2). It suggested a range of improvements, which have been included in the Plan now proposed (see Appendix 2).
9. Assessments: The Plan was subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitats Regulations Assessment, and Equalities Impact Assessment. No significant negative issues were identified by these assessments: with their main effects being assessed as positive, neutral or to be explored later by individual projects that may arise from the Plan.
10. Other engagement: The Plan was discussed at Scrutiny and officers provided a further written update on the consultation results. Cabinet Members were engaged on a number of occasions (resulting in changes to make current aspirations for schemes clearer). Two drop-in sessions were held for members and officers, in the New County Offices lift lobby, during the second consultation period.

Recommendation

Council is asked to:

1. Agree that 'Buckinghamshire's Local Transport Plan 4' (Appendix 1) (the Plan) is adopted as the Council's Local Transport Plan for the period to 2036.
2. Agree that the approval of any minor amendments to the Plan required based on experience with its application is delegated to the Director of Growth & Strategy, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transportation.
3. Agree that any decision to review the Plan before 2036 is delegated to the Cabinet Member for Transportation.

CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORTATION

Appendix 1: The proposed Local Transport Plan 4

Appendix 2: Consultation Report: <http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport/more/local-transport-plan-4>

Appendix 3: Strategic Environmental Assessment:

<http://moderngov/documents/s77775/Appendix%203%20for%20Local%20Transport%20Plan%204.pdf>

Appendix 4: Habitats Regulations Assessment:

<http://moderngov/documents/s77776/Appendix%204%20for%20Local%20Transport%20Plan%204.pdf>

Appendix 5: Equalities Impact Assessment:

<http://moderngov/documents/s77777/Appendix%205%20for%20Local%20Transport%20Plan%204.pdf>

Appendix 6: Report to Cabinet Member: Local Transport Plan 4 (Ref T05.16):

<http://moderngov/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5319>