

## **Scrutiny Update Report**

**Title:** Local Transport Plan 4  
**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016  
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### **The role of the Local Transport Plan:**

The Council is responsible for producing and maintaining a Local Transport Plan. This is a statutory responsibility under the Local Transport Act 2008. The plan sets out the Council's overarching strategy for transport across the County. The current plan expires in April 2016.

The proposed Local Transport Plan covers all types of transport and looks ahead to 2036, in line with the timescales Buckinghamshire's local planning authorities are using for their Local Plans. The policies in Local Transport Plan 4 set out a high-level approach to transport in Buckinghamshire, we will develop additional documents to support it and provide more detail as necessary (including strategies for key growth areas, and issues like development management and freight). It includes a number of case studies to help people to understand what policies could mean on the ground.

### **The consultation:**

The second phase of consultation on Local Transport Plan 4 was held between 7<sup>th</sup> December and 29<sup>th</sup> January. This followed an initial 'snapshot' phase of consultation which helped us to understand individuals' priorities for the Plan. The second consultation allowed us to understand what people (and stakeholder organisations) think of the proposals for the Plan. A consultation on the Strategic Environmental Assessment was also held during the consultation period, in January.

The eight week consultation successfully engaged the public and stakeholders (including Members, District Councils, Town Councils, Parish Councils, businesses, and other organisations). It was designed to reach as wide a range of people as possible in an affordable way. Consultation materials and a questionnaire were available on the BCC website's 'Have your say' portal. The consultation was promoted: on the BCC internet homepage; on BCC's Facebook and Twitter accounts; with press releases; in 'My Bucks'; at libraries; by emailing known stakeholders; to Local Area Forums; in lunchtime learning sessions for BCC officers and TfB staff; and at two drop-in sessions for members and officers, in the lift lobby

### **Who responded:**

Over 600 responses were received, a good response for a policy consultation (significantly higher than for Local Transport Plan 3 and recent policy consultations). The large response provides a good sample of views. Whilst there are (inevitably) some biases in who responds to consultations, the response was in some ways more representative than is often the case in exercises like this. For example, typically, consultation responses predominantly come from over 65's but we have seen a greater proportion of responses from people between 35 and 64. This makes the data more representative and more helpful to us. The majority of responses were made using the online questionnaire. A small number were received by email and post.

### **What respondents told us:**

The key findings from the consultation were:

- ‘Maintaining our roads’ was felt to be the most important of the specific policies, with the ‘maximising our rail network’ and ‘total transport’ (buses) policies also being seen as particularly important. This supports the findings of the initial ‘snapshot’ consultation.
- A range of additional ideas were proposed, covering a range of issues including disability, bus transport, technology, walking and cycling.
- Suggestions for inclusion in the map in Policy 2: ‘Beyond Buckinghamshire’.
- It is important to consider the cumulative impacts of new development.
- There was a desire for more detail than the (high level) plan provides.
- District Councils were keen to see further engagement with them in the development of the more detailed area specific policies proposed to support the Local Transport Plan.
- Respondents were keen for local expertise to be listened to.

### **Proposed changes to the Local Transport Plan:**

The key amendments proposed based on the findings are:

- Measures to clarify the Local Transport Plan’s role as the Council’s highest level transport policy and to explain the more detailed policies which will be developed to support it. Including:
  - An improved diagram showing the relationship between the Local Transport Plan and the more detailed policies.
  - Highlighting parts of the plan that are ‘live policies’, which will be updated and published online as our understanding develops.
  - Clarifying the role of the Plan’s objectives.
- Expanding Policy 2: ‘Beyond Buckinghamshire’ to include a series of maps that show key challenges *and* current options for addressing them. Improving the existing map. This will form one of the ‘live policies’ described above.
- Changes to help the Council’s Development Management team secure mitigation measures and funding from developers.
- A range of more detailed changes addressing new issues and responding to information provided by respondents.
- Sharing information from responses with other parts of the Council, especially the team conducting the Public Transport Review.

### **Next steps:**

An amended draft of the Local Transport Plan, based on the consultation results, is scheduled to come to Cabinet and then Full Council to be considered for adoption:

7th March	Cabinet to consider adoption of a revised LTP4
28th April	Full Council to consider adoption of a revised LTP4

### **Further information:**

The consultation draft Local Transport Plan 4 is available [online](#) and copies of the questionnaire are available on request. A revised draft Local Transport Plan will be published alongside papers for the Cabinet meeting detailed above.