



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 4

Date: 19th July 2023

Title: Buckinghamshire Local Transport Plan 5

Author: Hannah Joyce, Head of Transport Strategy and Funding

A local transport plan (LTP) is a statutory requirement of the Transport Act 2000. It sets out the long-term priorities for transport and is normally supported by a 5-year implementation plan. We are currently awaiting guidance from the Department for Transport on how they would like us to develop our next LTP but we are aware there will be a requirement to show how our policies and implementation plan will reduce carbon emissions.

Preparations for developing Buckinghamshire's new LTP5 have involved internal engagement with relevant highways, public transport, planning teams and members, and a review of available evidence to develop a draft central vision and three key objectives.

Our draft over-arching Vision for LTP5 states:

"In 2040 Buckinghamshire will have substantially tackled its transport related carbon emissions and be on target to net zero by 2050. We will have done this by prioritising sustainable growth locations as well as maximising alternative fuel opportunities; offering viable, inclusive and attractive public transport; encouraging healthy and active travel for shorter local trips; and greening our highway network.

We will have delivered high quality, future proofed and sustainable transport links to our local economic centres and housing sites as well as ensuring our economy is supported by fast connections to the Midlands, London and the South-East.

We recognise the continuing importance of the car in supporting individuals' freedom and independence in our rural setting and we will have focused on minimising the impacts of car travel on communities. We will have done this by focusing investment on congestion hotspots and key corridors, ensuring through-traffic is routed away from residential areas, and delivering people-focused public realm schemes in town and village community centres."

To achieve the vision for 2040, we have created 3 draft objectives: **Connecting our economy, decarbonising our transport system and building places for people**, and under each there will be specific policy themes. These are set out below:

Connecting our economy

This objective focuses on maximising the benefits of investment into transport for the benefit of local residents and businesses. Suggested policy areas include:

- a. Manage our highway assets, with focus given to schemes that reduce people's and delivery's time lost to congestion.
- b. Focus investment on our key road corridors to improve productivity. The A421, Aylesbury Orbital Network, A404, A4010 have already been identified as priorities as well as 'placemaking' to reduce traffic impacts in Wing & Rowsham, Waddesdon, Stone & Hartwell.
- c. Deliver faster, easier transport connections to London, the Midlands and the South-East, such as via East West Rail with the Aylesbury link, faster Chiltern services, or a direct link to Old Oak Common
- d. Facilitate sustainable travel options to our town centres and high streets, visitor attractions and leisure facilities, Enterprise Zones and key employment centres.
- e. Ensure developers forward fund and deliver transport infrastructure ahead of occupancy.
- f. Prepare and provide for increasing freight vehicle movements.
- g. Continue to be a living lab for transport innovation.

Decarbonising our transport system

This objective focuses on meeting the requirements for setting Quantifiable Carbon Reduction (QCR) goals. Some suggested policy focuses in this area include:

- a. Support location and design of new housing and employment sites to minimise the need for travel by car, for example centred on 20-minute walkable neighbourhoods.
- b. Utilise the transport network to improve digital connections which will reduce the need for travel.
- c. Improve alternative options to encourage 'mode shift' and reduce car dependency, for example: buses, demand responsive services, taxis, e-scooters and e-bikes.
- d. Make it realistic and safe for more people to walk, wheel, and scoot for shorter local journeys.
- e. Maximise opportunities to use and normalise alternative fuels.
- f. Prepare our highway network for climate change impacts, such as increased extreme weather events.
- g. Utilise the highway network to support biodiversity and reduce carbon, such as the Wilder Verges project.

Building places for people

This objective focuses on aligning our transport ambitions with other aspects of Council services, such as town planning and regeneration, public health, and environmental health. Suggested policy focuses include:

- a. Directing non-essential motorised journeys away from residential areas and community centres/high streets
- b. Optimise traffic signals along corridors to 'smooth' traffic flow through residential areas, improving overall journey times for drivers, and reducing air quality and noise impacts for local residents.

- c. Encourage transition away from combustion engine through policies such as emissions-based parking management and ease of access to alternative fuel options.
- d. Design walking and cycling-friendly neighbourhoods, for people and goods
- e. Deliver high quality public realm improvements which meet the needs of all users of the street space (put the emphasis on people rather than vehicles)
- f. Where appropriate, build on the transport improvements made because of HS2 and EWR projects, for example laybys, roundabouts, and cycleways.
- g. Improve road safety for pedestrians, cyclists and motorcycles, our most vulnerable road users.

Whilst the LTP5 is a very high-level strategy, we have attempted to ensure that these complement the Rights of Way Improvement Plan in addressing the various challenges faced by users of our rights of way: encouraging walking and cycling, supporting health and wellbeing, and protecting our vulnerable road users such as horse riders and disabled people.

The draft LTP5 vision and objectives have been aligned with those of the Local Plan for Buckinghamshire (LP4B) to ensure land use and transport planning are integrated from an early stage. A public consultation was carried out on the Vision and Objectives from 19th April – 4th June 2023, alongside the LP4B Vision and Objectives. Early consultation analysis results have shown support for the overall vision and proposed policies; and further details will be provided to the Forum in a PowerPoint presentation.

The consultation results will be used to inform the development of the policies that will be set out in the main LTP5 document.

We are aiming to conduct a further consultation on the draft core LTP5 document and implementation plan in Winter 2023. Alterations based on any feedback from this consultation will follow, with an estimated completion date of Summer 2024 for formal adoption by the Council.

The Local Access Forum are encouraged to provide feedback to influence the LTP5 policies and this will be included within the analysis mentioned above.