

# **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

## **REPORT TO: CABINET**

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**Date of Meeting:** 11 April 2011  
**Report of:** Strategic Director, Places  
**Subject/Title:** Local Transport Plan – Implementation Plan  
**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Jamie Macrae & Cllr Rod Menlove

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### **1.0 Report Summary**

- 1.1 This paper outlines the outcomes of the Local Transport Plan (LTP) implementation plan consultation and recommended changes to the final implementation plan, which will be aligned with the Government's four year spending review period (April 2011 to March 2015).
- 1.2 The implementation plan contains details of the schemes and measures which will be delivered in order to meet the objectives and priorities for transport, as set out in the approved 15 year LTP strategy, as well as how we will measure our progress.

### **2.0 Decision Requested**

- 2.1 Approve the LTP implementation plan (see Appendix 1).

### **3.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 The transport priorities reflect wider aspirations for the area contained within the SCS and Corporate Plan, as well as emerging corporate objectives within the Local Development Framework (LDF), Economic Development Strategy and Climate Change Strategy.
- 3.2 Future investment in highways and transport will be directed towards the policies and interventions which support the priority themes of "Ensure a Sustainable Future" and "Create Conditions for Business Growth".

### **4.0 Wards Affected**

- 4.1 All

### **5.0 Local Ward Members**

- 5.1 All

### **6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change, Health**

- 6.1 The LTP Strategy is a statutory document that must be prepared by the Council by April 2011 – the implementation plan forms a supporting part of this document.

## **7.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)**

- 7.1 Traditionally, LTP funding has been linked to the quality and delivery of the plan. However, in future the funding settlement will not be linked to performance and will be significantly reduced.

## **8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)**

- 8.1 Under the Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008, the LTP is a statutory document that must be prepared by all local transport authorities in England. Cheshire East Council is a local transport authority. LTPs must contain policies for the promotion and encouragement of safe, integrated, efficient and economic transport to, from and within their area, as well as proposals for implementation of those policies. The legislation also sets out provisions for taking into account Government guidance on environment and climate change, and for making the final plan available for inspection by the public.

## **9.0 Risk Management**

- 9.1 Challenges include the need to effectively manage the transition from current in-house provision of highway services to an external contractor, whilst maintaining service provision. Further challenges include the extremely difficult economic climate, as well as meeting the needs of an increasingly ageing population and the imperative to adapt and respond to climate change.
- 9.2 LTP guidance makes clear that the overall quality and delivery of an authority's LTP will be taken into account by the DfT in decisions on bids for challenge funding and/or major projects. It is therefore vital that Cheshire East is able to demonstrate how the strategy has been translated into delivery through the implementation plan, in line with local priorities representing the highest possible value for money.

## **10.0 Background and Options**

- 10.1 Cheshire East's first LTP implementation plan will cover a four year period from April 2011 until March 2015, in line with the Government's spending review period. The implementation plan contains details of the schemes and initiatives which will be delivered in order to meet the objectives and priorities for transport set out in the 15 year strategy.
- 10.2 Following approval of the draft implementation plan by Cabinet in January 2011, a four week long public consultation exercise was undertaken, concluding on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2011; this followed on from the extensive consultation already undertaken for the LTP Strategy.
- 10.3 The implementation plan is structured to reflect the priorities of the strategy – the emphasis on the two thematic areas of Ensuring a Sustainable Future and Creating the Conditions for Business Growth.

- 10.4 Within these two priority areas, the consultation response on the measures to implement and pursue was very favourable. For policy initiatives contained in 'Ensuring a Sustainable Future' – 81% agreed, 14.3% neither agreed nor disagreed, 4.7% disagreed. For policy initiatives to 'Create Conditions for Business Growth' – 79.5% agreed, 17.8% neither agreed nor disagreed, 2.7% disagreed
- 10.5 Policy initiatives contained within the other thematic areas were also positively received with almost 70% of respondents supporting the initiatives proposed in the draft document.
- 10.6 There was also overall support for our approach to measuring our performance and achievements against our implementation plan - 61.4% agreed, 29.8% neither agreed nor disagreed, 8.8% disagreed.
- 10.7 A review of the consultation responses and elected Member feedback showed significant support for the inclusion of actions aimed at targeting improvements at M6 Junction 17. Accordingly, measures to begin to address this have been included in the final version of the plan.
- 10.8 Other feedback received from the consultation has, where possible, also been reflected in the final implementation plan document. This has included adding support for promotion and publicity campaigns for cycling in addition to improving cycling infrastructure.
- 10.9 Three additional performance indicators have also been added to measure our performance against the plan. These reflect feedback from the consultation and also the need to provide information for the Government's recently announced single data set. Performance Indicators will be reviewed regularly to ensure that they are fit for purpose and add value.
- 10.10 Appendix 1 contains the final implementation plan, highlighted as appropriate to show where changes have been made from the draft document.

## **11.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues**

- 11.1 The LTP is a statutory document that must be prepared by the Council.

## **12.0 Access to Information**

- 12.1 The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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