

Highways and Transport Committee

Date of Meeting:	19 July 2021
Report Title:	Local Transport Delivery Plans
Report of:	Andrew Ross, Director of Infrastructure and Highways
Report Reference No:	HT/03/21-22
Ward(s) Affected:	All wards

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1.** Following a period of consultation the Council adopted a new Local Transport Plan (LTP) in October 2019. The strategy considers all forms of transport over the period of 2019-2024 and outlines the role transport will play in supporting the long-term goals of Cheshire East.
- 1.2.** To complement these strategic actions, the Council is developing Local Transport Delivery Plans to identify priority schemes to support towns and surrounding areas. Plans are being developed for the two principal towns (Crewe and Macclesfield) and nine Key Service Centres (Alsager, Congleton, Handforth, Middlewich, Nantwich Knutsford, Poynton, Sandbach, Wilmslow). This also includes surrounding areas to ensure all parts of the borough are included in at least one Delivery Plan.
- 1.3.** This report outlines progress towards developing Local Transport Delivery Plans. The plans will identify how a coordinated and integrated transport network can be delivered, covering all forms of transport including walking, cycling, buses, rail and road traffic.
- 1.4.** The Local Transport Delivery Plans will build on the Council's current highways and transport investment programmes into active travel, public transport and local road networks and guide future investment at a local level. The plans will also act as an enabling document to help secure additional external funding opportunities.
- 1.5.** Critical to the success of the Local Transport Delivery Plans is ensuring integration with other investment programmes to support delivery of the

Council's Corporate Plan 2021-2025. The report contributes to the following priority outcomes identified in the Corporate Plan:

- 1.5.1. GREEN** – through proposals that would improve sustainable travel across the Borough, the Council will further encourage the uptake of walking, cycling, public transport and electric vehicles. This will positively contribute both to our response to the climate emergency and also to reducing the incidence of air quality problems, especially in urban areas.
- 1.5.2. FAIR** – the proposals are intended to create improved accessibility to schools, employment, key services and leisure opportunities. The plans are considering how accessibility can be improved in both urban and rural areas across the Borough.
- 1.6.** Close attention is being paid to ensuring transport improvements are complementary to regeneration plans in Crewe and Macclesfield, including investment coming forward through the Crewe HS2 Hub, Future High Streets Fund and Town Investment Plan programmes. Transport improvements are also being closely aligned to Town Vitality Plans being developed across the borough.
- 1.7.** The plans are being developed in collaboration with Town and Parish Councils with a strong focus on supporting delivery of Neighbourhood Plans and other local priorities.
- 1.8.** A review of key evidence and issues has been conducted for each Local Transport Delivery Plan area. Following this a public consultation on a range of scheme options for improving the transport network took place between December 2020 and March 2021.
- 1.9.** Feedback from stakeholders is being reviewed and technical assessments are being conducted to understand whether options:
 - Align with boroughwide and local objectives for transport;
 - Are locally supported;
 - Are likely to be deliverable; and
 - Are likely to offer value for money.Following this assessment, packages of scheme options will be identified for delivery in the short, medium and longer term.
- 1.10.** Further targeted engagement with Cheshire East Councillors and Town / Parish Councils is planned during 2021 to shape the final Local Transport Delivery Plans for each area. The final set of Delivery Plans is planned to be submitted to the Highways and Transport Committee for consideration in March 2022.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1.** That the Highways and Transport Committee:

- 2.1.1. Notes progress made towards developing an evidence base and options for the Local Transport Delivery Plans;
- 2.1.2. Approves the methodology in Sections 1.9 and 1.10 to shape the Local Transport Delivery Plans.
- 2.1.3. Notes that the final set of Local Transport Delivery Plans will be presented for approval at a future meeting of this Committee.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1. The 11 Local Transport Delivery Plans will provide locally specific priority schemes to support towns and surrounding areas. This will complement the strategic actions set out in the adopted Local Transport Plan 2019-2024.
- 3.2. The Local Transport Delivery Plans will directly support delivery of the 'a council which empowers and cares about people' and 'a thriving and sustainable place' priorities identified in the Council's Corporate Plan 2021-2025.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. The option of not progressing Local Transport Delivery Plans has been considered. This has been discounted on the basis that local transport requires a coordinated and integrated plan to support boroughwide and local objectives.

5. Background

- 5.1. The Council adopted a new Local Transport Plan (LTP) in October 2019. The strategy considers all forms of transport over the period of 2019-2024 and outlines the role transport will play in supporting the long-term goals of Cheshire East. The LTP strategy includes a comprehensive set of actions to address strategic transport challenges for Cheshire East including:

- Protecting and improving our environment;
- Supporting growth and economic strength through connectivity;
- Ensuring accessibility to services;
- Promoting health, wellbeing and physical activity;
- Maintaining and managing our network assets; and
- Improving organisational efficiency and effectiveness.

- 5.2. Local Transport Delivery Plans are now being developed to complement these strategic actions, setting out priority schemes to support towns and surrounding areas.

6. Consultation and Engagement

- 6.1. A public consultation on a range of scheme options for improving local transport networks took place between December 2020 and March 2021.

This consultation set out the Council's understanding of objectives for improving local areas, issues, and options to improve the transport network. The consultation used an interactive mapping system to present information in a user-friendly format. Materials were made available to stakeholders in alternative formats where requested including printed materials posted to stakeholders. To enable all interested stakeholders to view materials and comment given the pandemic restrictions, the consultation period was extended by two months from the end of January to the end of March 2021. Full details of the consultation material can be viewed by following [this link](#).

- 6.2.** In total, 1,041 responses were received, including 881 online survey responses, 31 paper survey responses, and 129 email responses.
- 6.3.** An executive summary setting out the consultation methodology and high-level outputs of the consultation is included in Appendix 1.
- 6.4.** Consultation feedback is now being reviewed to inform assessment of options and shaping the final Local Transport Delivery Plans.

7. Implications

7.1. Legal

- 7.1.1.** As the statutory Local Transport Authority, the Council is required to maintain an up-to-date Local Transport Plan that provides a strategic framework for planning and delivery of improvements in local transport provision. It must develop and implement policies for the promotion and encouragement of safe, integrated, efficient and economic transport to, from and within Cheshire East. The Local Transport Delivery Plans will form part of the Local Transport Plan framework and in part discharge this legal duty.
- 7.1.2.** In developing and implementing Local Transport Delivery Plans, the Council must have regard to the transport needs of disabled persons and of persons who are elderly or have mobility problems. Development of plans will need to be in accordance with statutory and legal requirements for Community Engagement, Equalities Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Appraisal.
- 7.1.3.** Members must be fully aware of the equalities implications of the decisions they are taking. This will ensure that there is proper appreciation of any potential impact of any decision on the Council's statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. As a minimum, this requires decision makers to carefully consider the content of any Equality Impact Assessments produced by officers.
- 7.1.4.** There is no statutory duty to consult on proposals to change the way in which a local authority carries out its duties but there is an expectation enshrined in case law that any local authority making

decisions affecting the public will do so fairly and in a way that cannot be said to be an abuse of power.

7.2. Finance

- 7.2.1.** Upon adoption by the Council, the new Local Transport Delivery Plans will provide a framework to inform the annual capital programme for transport and highways. The Delivery Plans will be implemented utilising funding from a range of sources including: LTP Integrated Transport Block funding; Community Infrastructure Levy; Section 106 & 278 Agreements; the Council's capital and revenue funding, one-off funding programmes and external funding.
- 7.2.2.** All funding approvals for schemes identified in Local Transport Delivery Plans will be made through the Council's existing budgetary procedures.

7.3. Policy

Development of the Local Transport Delivery Plans is being undertaken to ensure there is a consistent policy-fit with all relevant adopted and emerging local policies including: the Local Transport Plan, Corporate Plan 2021 – 2025; regeneration masterplans for Crewe and Macclesfield; Town Vitality Plans; Cycling Strategy 2017; Education Travel Policy; Sustainable Modes of Travel to School Strategy; Speed Management Policy; and Car Parking Strategy.

7.4. Equality

- 7.4.1.** An Equality Impact Assessment (Appendix 2) has been completed for the LTP to ensure that the needs and impacts on all residents are understood, especially individuals or groups with identified protected characteristics.

7.5. Human Resources

- 7.5.1.** There are no direct implications for Human Resources.

7.6. Risk Management

- 7.6.1.** A Project Board has been established chaired by the Head of Strategic Transport to ensure appropriate project governance and strategic direction. A project risk register is maintained detailing mitigation measures.

7.7. Rural Communities

- 7.7.1.** The Local Transport Plan includes detailed consideration of transport issues in rural areas throughout the Borough. In principal, the objectives and issues highlighted in the Plan apply throughout

the Borough, including all of our rural areas. However, it is also recognised that there can be specific challenges that are of heightened importance in rural areas. Consideration of these is aided by the place-based approach to the planning process. This has put greater emphasis on how our key towns act as service centres which must be accessible to residents of rural areas. As part of the place-based approach, Delivery Plans consider rural areas surrounding towns.

7.8. Children and Young People/Cared for Children

- 7.8.1.** Specific transport issues relating to children and young people are incorporated into the Local Transport Plan. Development of the Local Transport Delivery Plans has taken full account of the Sustainable Modes of Travel to Schools (SMOTS) strategy and identified options to improve journeys to schools and education.

7.9. Public Health

- 7.9.1.** The Local Transport Plan and Delivery Plans have been aligned with the Council's stated policies and action plans relating to Air Quality management. They consider the impact of transport on issues affecting public health, most notably air quality and the contribution that walking and cycling can make to health & wellbeing. The Local Transport Plan has been coordinated with the Council's wider strategic approaches to addressing public health outcomes.

7.10. Climate Change

- 7.10.1.** The Council has committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2025 and to encourage all businesses, residents and organisations in Cheshire East to reduce their carbon footprint. The Council's Environment Strategy 2020-2024 includes a commitment to produce an Electric Vehicles Infrastructure Strategy and supports the strategic objective to increase sustainable transport and active travel. The Local Transport Plan and Delivery Plans have been aligned with wider Council strategies and includes the key objective 'protecting and improving our environment'. The Local Transport Plan includes a wide range of actions to reduce the need to travel and to promote greater reliance on sustainable travel including walking, cycling, public transport and zero emission vehicles. The Local Transport Delivery Plans have a strong focus on identifying sustainable travel improvements that are required to decarbonise the transport system including encouraging walking and cycling, improving local buses and public transport, and transitioning vehicle fleets to electric vehicles.

Access to Information

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Appendices:	Appendix 1: Consultation Executive Summary Appendix 2: Equalities Impact Assessment
Background Papers:	None