

Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 08 October 2019

Report Title: Local Transport Plan and South East Manchester Multi-Modal Strategy

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Craig Browne – Deputy Leader and Portfolio-holder for Strategic Transport

Senior Officer: Frank Jordan – Executive Director – Place

1. Report Summary

- 1.1. As a 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.
- 1.2. This report outlines post-consultation changes to the draft Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Cheshire East and recommends adoption of the document.
- 1.3. Following a Cabinet resolution in March 2018, the draft LTP was subject to public consultation and a comprehensive consultation report was prepared. Revisions to the draft LTP have been made to take account of the key issues highlighted through the consultation process.
- 1.4. In March 2019, the Environment & Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report on the outcomes of consultation. In addition, a Members' Briefing was held on 26th July 2019 with elected members invited to make any further comments on the revised draft LTP.
- 1.5. This report outlines the changes made to the draft LTP in response to the consultation and engagement with members. Subject to Cabinet approval of these changes, it is recommended that the LTP is adopted by Council.
- 1.6. The LTP provides a set of strategies and policies affecting local transport provision in Cheshire East. In particular, the LTP reflects emerging policy

developments including the Council's climate change declaration plus work on wider corporate strategies including the Corporate Plan, the draft Economic Strategy and the draft Environment Strategy.

1.7. The LTP strategy includes a comprehensive set of actions to address the strategic transport challenges for Cheshire East which are:

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

1.8. Although the LTP primarily profiles transport and infrastructure needs within the Borough, the strategy also proposes actions in respect of sub-regional, regional and national infrastructure programmes where these relate to the Borough. Key examples of this include HS2; Highways England and Network Rail investment programmes; and Transport for the North and Midlands Connect investment programmes.

1.9. In parallel with development of the LTP, the Council has been working collaboratively with Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council to update the South East Manchester Multimodal (SEMMM) Strategy. The original SEMMM Strategy, published in 2001, outlined a 20-year transport plan for the South East Manchester area, incorporating neighbouring areas in Cheshire East. The SEMMM Strategy is currently being finalised and is awaiting approval from partners. This also reflects the revised 2019 draft of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and adopted Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy.

1.10. During the development of the LTP, there has been active engagement with Town and Parish Councils representing the key local service centres throughout the Borough. This has informed preparation of a set of Local Area Profiles which detail specific transport challenges and opportunities for each locality.

1.11. The public consultation sought views on:

- 1.11.1. The overall strategic approach required to meet the transport challenges facing the Borough, as informed by the evidence base.

1.11.2. The draft SEMMM strategy in order to address future transport challenges in the North of the Borough.

1.11.3. The challenges and issues that have been identified for each of the principal towns and key service centres.

1.12. Following consideration by Cabinet and subject to approval by Council, the LTP will become an adopted Plan for Cheshire East over the period 2019-2024 outlining how transport will contribute to and support the longer-term aspirations of the Borough.

1.13. This updated LTP will provide a framework for the development of Area Plans. Area Plans will be produced for the two principal towns and nine key service centres in the Borough. The Plans will set out the potential schemes that will be planned or delivered throughout the lifetime of the LTP.

2. Recommendations

2.1. That Cabinet:

2.1.1. Recommends to Council that the Local Transport Plan (as outlined at Appendix 1) be adopted.

2.1.2. To note the development of the emerging South East Manchester Multi-Modal Strategy document.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

3.1. The revised Local Transport Plan reflects current national, regional and local policy change and takes account of local issues identified through the consultation process.

3.2. In addition, the original SEMMM Strategy was adopted in 2001. In order to properly plan for key 'cross boundary' transport challenges in the future this work is currently being updated to take account of the schemes delivered by the original SEMMM Strategy and the context of new and emerging development pressures. The draft executive summary is included as Appendix 3.

4. Other Options Considered

4.1. As the LTP is a statutory document, no options other than to approve a new policy document have been considered.

5. Background

- 5.1. The LTP brings together strategies for all modes of transport to ensure there is a coherent approach to meeting the Council's wider objectives for the economic, environmental and social well-being throughout Cheshire East.
- 5.2. To inform development of the LTP, the public and stakeholders were engaged as part of an 8-week consultation period from the 1st May to the 25th June 2018 that included:
 - 5.2.1. Borough-wide circulation of consultation materials through libraries, customer contact centres and other key venues.
 - 5.2.2. Web-based consultation questionnaires to enable feedback on the draft document.
 - 5.2.3. Staffed drop-in sessions for face-to-face discussion in each of the 12 main towns and local service centres.
 - 5.2.4. Media releases, including social media, to publicise the consultation.
- 5.3. A table of the main changes to the LTP following the consultation are included in Appendix 2. Key themes from the consultation feedback include:
 - 5.3.1. Buses – reliability/efficiency, lack of services and reduction of supported services.
 - 5.3.2. Poor punctuality of rail services.
 - 5.3.3. Pollution and air quality issues.
 - 5.3.4. Congestion and traffic problems.
 - 5.3.5. Car parking for access to services.
 - 5.3.6. Road maintenance and condition of road surfaces.
 - 5.3.7. Importance of sustainable travel.
- 5.4. The feedback from the consultation has been analysed and changes have been reflected in the LTP strategy.

6. Implications of the Recommendations

6.1. Legal Implications

- 6.1.1. 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. "Transport" includes transport to meet the needs of people living, working, visiting or travelling through Cheshire East, the transportation of freight and facilities & services for pedestrians.
- 6.1.2. In developing and implementing its LTP policies, the Council must have regard to the transport needs of disabled persons and of persons who are elderly or have mobility problems. Development of the new LTP will need to be in accordance with statutory and legal requirements for Community Engagement, Equalities Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Appraisal.
- 6.1.3. 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.
- 6.1.4. 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.
- 6.1.5. The responses to the consultation need to be taken into account when Cabinet makes any decisions on the Local Transport Plan.

6.2. Finance Implications

- 6.2.1. Upon adoption by the Council, the new LTP will provide a policy framework to inform the annual capital programme for transport and highways. The LTP 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. All funding approvals for LTP schemes will be made through the Council's existing budgetary procedures.

6.3. Policy Implications

- 6.3.1. Adopting the LTP will ensure that the Council maintains a current statement of Local Transport Strategy in accordance with its responsibilities as the Local Transport Authority.
- 6.3.2. Development of the LTP has been undertaken to ensure there is a consistent policy-fit with all relevant adopted and emerging local policies including: Education Travel Policy; 'Sustainable Modes of Travel to School' Strategy; and Car Parking Strategy.

6.4. Equality Implications

- 6.4.1. An Equality Impact Assessment 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.
- 6.4.2. The Equality Impact Assessment notes that the LTP has been designed to support delivery of the Council's outcomes stated in the Corporate Plan, which aim to achieve the best outcomes for all local residents.
- 6.4.3. The LTP strategy provides a strategic framework for a range of schemes and investment for the future. As such future work will be conducted to implement schemes and investment programmes. Further Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken for specific schemes and investment programmes as they come forward.

6.5. Human Resources Implications

- 6.5.1. There are no direct implications for Human Resources.

6.6. Risk Management Implications

- 6.6.1. A Project Board has been established chaired by the Director of Infrastructure and Highways to ensure appropriate project governance and strategic direction. A project risk register is maintained detailing mitigation measures.
- 6.6.2. Officer steering groups from both the Place and the People Directorates have been convened to inform the production of the new LTP. This approach ensures that relationships with policies in other service areas are fully understood.

6.7. Rural Communities Implications

- 6.7.1. The LTP has been aligned with the Rural Action Plan for Cheshire East. 57% of the Cheshire East highway network is classed as rural serving over half of our population. The quality and availability of the rural transport network is vital to the local economy, not just in rural areas. Rural transport provision needs to take account of the needs of

rural residents and visitors, enabling rural areas to be well-connected to services and opportunities. The extent of rural connectivity has a direct impact on the Borough's overall 'Quality of Place'.

6.7.2. The LTP includes detailed consideration of transport issues in rural areas throughout the Borough. In principal, the policy 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, we have prepared a specific Local Area Profile within the plan focussing on the challenges and opportunities arising in our Rural Areas.

6.7.3. As part of the development of Area Plans, rural areas in the Borough will also be covered and any issues and opportunities will be identified.

6.8. Implications for Children & Young People/Cared for Children

6.8.1. Specific transport issues relating to children and young people are incorporated into the LTP. Strategy development has taken full account of the Sustainable Modes of Travel to Schools (SMOTS) strategy.

6.9. Public Health Implications

6.9.1. The LTP has been aligned with the Council's stated policies and action plans relating to Air Quality management. The LTP considers the impact of transport on issues affecting public health, most notably Air Quality and the contribution that Active Travel – walking and cycling – can make to health & wellbeing. The LTP has been coordinated with the Council's wider strategic approaches to addressing public health outcomes. A Sustainability Appraisal has been completed for the updated LTP.

6.10. Climate Change Implications

6.10.1. 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 LTP has been aligned with wider Council strategies and includes the key objective 'protecting and improving our environment'. The LTP 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 LTP is closely aligned with the Council's draft Environment Strategy to ensure effective delivery of actions to address climate change.

7. Ward Members Affected

- 7.1. All wards in Cheshire East.

8. Consultation & Engagement

- 8.1. From the 1st May to 25th June 2018 the LTP went through a public consultation, as agreed at Cabinet in March 2018. The consultation sought the views of residents and stakeholders on the strategic framework for local transport, to inform further development of both the strategy and associated delivery plans. The approach to community engagement was informed by the Council's best practice guidance from the Corporate Research and Consultation Team.
- 8.2. The consultation was publicised through the Cheshire East Council website, direct emailing, information brochures, press releases and questionnaires. The questionnaires were available online and also at libraries in key service centres and information points. Brochures were also available and posters displayed at these locations. Town and Parish Councils were emailed at the beginning of the consultation and ahead of their local drop-in event. The consultation was also publicised through social media such as Facebook and Twitter. Two all member briefings were also undertaken.
- 8.3. Twelve drop-in sessions were also held throughout Cheshire East. Paper copies of the questionnaire and brochure were made available at these events. Staff were also in attendance to answer questions on the strategy. Additional posters were distributed at local shops, information points and bus stops on the day of the drop-in events.
- 8.4. The LTP consultation overlapped an additional consultation which was also held alongside Stockport Borough Council on the SEMMM Strategy. This was held for for 8 weeks between the 21st May to the 16th July 2018.
- 8.5. A Member Briefing was held on 26th July 2019 with members invited to make any further comments on the revised draft LTP.
- 8.6. Appendix 2 outline the changes made to the LTP in response to these consultations.

9. Access to Information

- 9.1. The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer.

Documents are held on file at:

\\ourcheshire.cccusers.com\East\LTPEast\LTP Rewrite 2017\Briefing Notes

Sustainability Appraisal – Available on Request
Equality Impact Assessment - Available on Request

10. Contact Information

10.1. Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

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List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Local Transport Plan Strategy

Appendix 2 – LTP Strategy Changes

Appendix 3 – SEMMM Strategy Executive Summary