

Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

12 April 2023

Local Transport Plan Consultation Review and Recommendation for Adoption of LTP4

Recommendation

That Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the analysis of the consultation feedback on the proposed new Local Transport Plan (LTP4) as provided in the appendices and the proposed Plan itself at Appendix A, and provides its comments to Cabinet as part of the decision making process.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Warwickshire County Council is in the process of updating its Local Transport Plan and has consulted widely on the proposed strategies and policy positions which will form the revised version (LTP4), available at Appendix A.
- 1.2 This report summarises the headline findings of the consultations that have been carried out and recommends putting forward LTP4 for consideration by Cabinet and adoption by Warwickshire County Council at Full Council.
- 1.3 A previous round of consultation with Warwickshire stakeholders found that the four key themes, namely Environment, Well-being, Economy and Place were the correct foundations on which to build our new LTP. These themes had been identified following work to identify issues and opportunities. In September 2021 Cabinet acknowledged the results of the consultation exercise and approved the drafting of LTP4 on these four themes.
- 1.4 In response to this earlier round of consultation, seven strategy documents were drafted in line with public feedback to shape the next decade of transport in Warwickshire towards a network that is fit for purpose, provides transport options and contributes towards a sustainable future and carbon net zero. These documents contain some thirty-five policies intended to provide transport outcomes which deliver one or more of the four key themes listed above. Further consultation was undertaken on these draft documents. A full description of the consultation methodology and results is available at Appendix B.
- 1.5 Communications went out at the start of the consultation period from all WCC social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and NextDoor). Social media messages and graphics were shared with partners across all sectors

including transport (Midlands Connect), economy (Chamber, Growth Hub, BIDs and Federation of Small Businesses), local authorities including the district, borough, parish and town councils, and smaller local community facebook groups. Newsletter communications included Warwickshire Means Business and Warwickshire Matters (town and parish council newsletter). A mid-consultation communications push was also carried out.

- 1.6 Feedback from this consultation shows broad stakeholder agreement with the approach that has been taken so far. The Core Strategy and six key strategies were supported, with values for those offering agreement or strong agreement ranging from a value of 64% support on the Motor Vehicles Strategy to 75% on the Safer Travel and Public Transport strategies.
- 1.7 Alongside this process of consultation, WCC has run a parallel exercise of public engagement using a representative cross-section of thirty Warwickshire residents forming a 'Citizens Panel'. The results of the deliberations of the Citizens Panel are available in Appendix D.
- 1.8 Interestingly, the findings of the Citizens Panel and those of the most recent round of public consultation align well. The Core Strategy, Safer Travel and Active Travel strategies receive support in the region of 75 to 80% positive response while, at the lower end, our Motor Vehicles and Managing Space strategies achieve a still healthy rating of approximately 64% in favour.
- 1.9 In addition to broad overall support for the contents and themes of LTP4, respondents provided a number of consistent messages which are reproduced from the report in Appendix B below:
 - improving active travel facilities for walking and cycling to support active lifestyles
 - general improvements in/encouragement to use sustainable (public) transport
 - planning to reduce the reliance on private cars and to enable electrification where possible
 - concerns around the pressures of housing developments and/or increasing populations on the existing transportation network(s)
 - clear and measurable action plan(s) to implement strategies and methods for monitoring progress (success and/or failures)
 - current frustration around implementation and time taken to see progress
 - importance of consultation, engagement and communication with residents and stakeholders throughout the process
- 1.10 As a set of documents, LTP4 is intended to form the strategy and policy foundation that provides the basis for Warwickshire County Council's transport direction over the coming decade. It is recognised from stakeholder and community engagement that more detail of individual, localised schemes is required, and this is the intention.

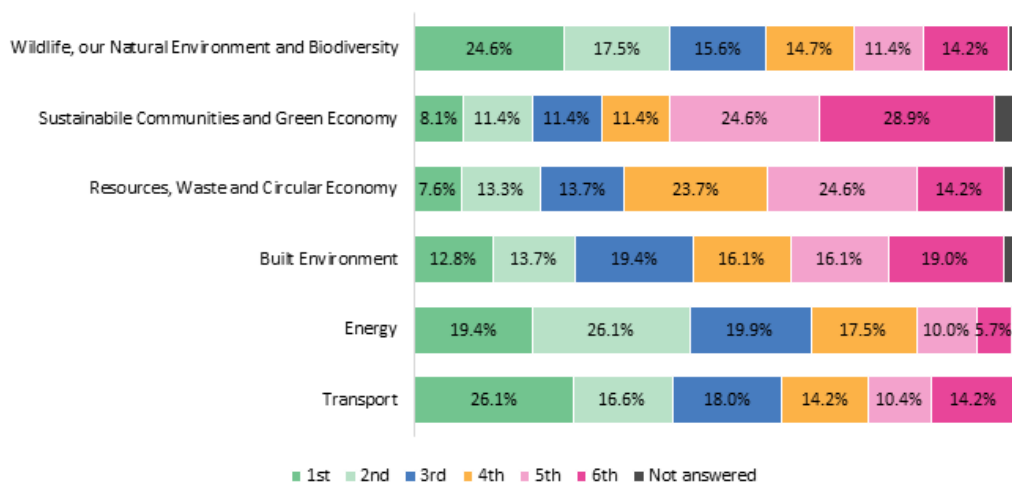
- 1.11 It is therefore anticipated that an annual programme of action planning and monitoring will take place to provide regular updates on the delivery of schemes and transport interventions.
- 1.12 In addition to this approach, it is recognised that, despite using all the usual channels of communication, feedback from certain groups was not representative of the population of Warwickshire as a whole. In response, the intention is to strengthen our engagement processes in the delivery phase of LTP4, working with colleagues in Communications and Equalities to ensure as broad a reach as possible.
- 1.13 The development of LTP4 has been overseen by a members' working group throughout its production. These stages of development have included the initial work to identify issues and opportunities, the establishment of the four key themes and the final drafting of the main LTP document itself, which includes its Core Strategic vision and the six key strategies which underpin the County Council's approach to transport in Warwickshire over the next decade.
- 1.14 The working group recognised the various consultation exercises that have been carried out during the drafting of LTP4, including the creation and on-going involvement of the Citizens Panel. Consultation feedback has helped to shape the current document throughout its production. The group endorsed the development of Warwickshire County Council's new local transport plan and recommended that LTP4 should be put forward for further member and senior officer consideration with the intention to adopt at Full Council in summer 2023.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 Costs will be incurred during the delivery of individual schemes and transport interventions derived from LTP4 strategies and policies, but these are unquantifiable at the present time. Costs are likely to become more evident during the development of annual Action Plans, which will provide details of specific schemes, together with information on the relevant funding streams, timescales, intended outcomes, key themes and policy positions supported and how progress will be monitored. Ability to deliver the plan will be dependent on the available funding ultimately secured.
- 2.2 Similarly, there are no direct financial benefits arising purely from the adoption of LTP4 itself. Associated savings during implementation are likely to include reduced healthcare and sickness costs as people switch to more active travel options and air pollution reduces, fewer injury collisions and the associated costs of investigation from our adoption of the Safe Systems approach to road safety and economic benefits from a reduction of congestion and road maintenance outlay.

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 There are substantial environmental benefits expected to arise from the adoption of LTP4.
- 3.2 In response to the legally binding carbon reduction targets enshrined in the Climate Change Act and in recognition of the strong support from Warwickshire’s residents, both during the Citizens Panel process and the most recent online consultation survey, a focus on environmental and individual health and well-being has underpinned the policies that run through the new Plan.
- 3.3 LTP4 is intended to deliver better air quality, less congestion and cleaner, more attractive places which are less dominated by vehicles. This will be achieved through increased uptake of active travel and public transport options and a switch to electric vehicles.
- 3.4 The strategies and policies in LTP4 are intended to complement the approach towards carbon net zero that has been identified in Warwickshire County Council’s Sustainable Futures Strategy (SFS). Transport is one of the six key themes within this strategy. Moves towards net zero will include a transition to alternative fuels and the implementation of a more efficient staff travel plan. Additional measures in the SFS highlight plans to support further emission reduction through the promotion of integrated and place-based transport planning, supporting the uptake of active travel and zero-emissions vehicle ownership and transitioning to more sustainable fuel sources for commercial and freight transport.
- 3.5 Engagement carried out on the Sustainable Futures Strategy provided feedback which underlines the importance of tackling climate change through transport-related interventions. Of the six key themes in the SFS, transport was ranked highest by respondents in terms of what they felt should be Warwickshire County Council’s priorities.



- 3.6 LTP4 has been subject to an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA), including assessment against environmental objectives and habitats regulations. It has been found that the LTP4 strategies and policies perform well overall against these ISA objectives. Respondents to the LTP4 consultation broadly agreed with the contents of the ISA.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The analysis of the most recent round of public consultation is available in Appendix B. The executive summary of this report provides the headline findings of the consultation.
- 4.2 A wealth of supporting information, including both the Equality Impact Assessment and Health Impact Assessment, which were produced for the recent public consultation exercise, remains available at ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/insights-service/local-transport-plan

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 Subject to scrutiny by OSC and its endorsement of the development of LTP4 to date and the findings of public consultation, it is proposed to put LTP4 to Cabinet and from there to Full Council for adoption in summer 2023.
- 5.2 Thereafter it is anticipated that an annual programme of action planning and monitoring will take place to provide regular updates on the delivery of individual schemes and transport interventions.

Appendices

Appendix A – Draft Local Transport Plan 4

Appendix B – Consultation on Draft Local Transport Plan (LTP4) consultation analysis report

Appendix C – Additional online consultation submissions (anonymised for as appropriate and for the purposes of the pre-election period)

Appendix D – Citizens Panel feedback on LTP4 strategy documents

Background Papers

None

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): n/a as county wide report

Other members: