

County Council

25 July 2023

A New Local Transport Plan for Warwickshire (LTP4)

Recommendation

That Council adopts the Local Transport Plan for Warwickshire (LTP4) at Appendix A which supersedes and replaces the existing Plan (LTP3)

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report follows on from the Cabinet meeting on 15 June 2023 at which it was resolved to put LTP4 forward to Full Council for consideration for adoption and, as such, contains much of the same information as the Cabinet report. Additional material is included at para 1.12 giving details of the indicative action plan that was consulted upon and at 1.16 which recognises that Cabinet considered LTP4 as part of its agenda for that meeting.
- 1.2 When published, it was anticipated that LTP3 would run from 2011 to 2026. However, during that period there have been significant changes to the way we work, live and travel, including increased home-working, more virtual meetings, and a greater proportion of shopping being carried out online.
- 1.3 In addition to these changes, there is a heightened awareness of the need to tackle climate change in order to reduce its potential consequences. In July 2019, Warwickshire County Council declared a climate emergency and pledged to put environmental considerations at the heart of its policies.
- 1.4 Central to Warwickshire County Council's vision for delivery is its wish to involve Warwickshire residents: a community powered Warwickshire approach. Accordingly, the production of LTP4 has seen several rounds of consultation with stakeholders, partner organisations and the wider public.
- 1.5 An initial round of consultation established that there was broad support for our proposed four key themes, namely Environment, Well-being, Economy and Place and that these themes should provide the foundation for the development of LTP4. Environment and Well-being regularly came top of priorities for most respondents.
- 1.6 Drawing on these four key themes, seven strategies have been produced and, together, these make up the new local transport plan. The Core Strategy provides the overarching vision for LTP4 and provides links into WCC's Council Plan, identifying how the new Plan supports the Council's three strategic priorities. The Core Strategy is supported by six key strategies:

Active Travel, Public Transport, Motor Vehicles, Managing Space, Safer Travel and Freight.

- 1.7 A further round of consultation took place in Autumn 2022 on the above strategies. Feedback was largely supportive, with broad stakeholder agreement with the approach taken so far.
- 1.8 Running in parallel with the online consultations that have taken place and to build on the Council's commitment towards engagement with communities, a Citizens Panel was put together, containing a representative cross-section of Warwickshire residents. The volunteers who made up the Citizens Panel have been heavily engaged in the evaluation and assessment of LTP4 throughout most of its development and, alongside the feedback from the various consultation exercises, have contributed significantly to the evolution of the new Plan.
- 1.9 Support for the inclusion of the various strategies in LTP4 ranges from a low of approximately 65% favourable for the Motor Vehicles Strategy to circa 75% favourable for the Safer Travel and Public Transport strategies. These findings are quite consistent between the Citizens Panel and online consultations.
- 1.10 Key themes that have emerged from the consultation processes include:
 - 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
- 1.11 Taking this feedback into account, it is the intention to provide more detail on individual transport interventions in the form of annual action plans and monitoring plans which will flow down from LTP4 and provide the link from strategy and policy into action on the ground.
- 1.12 In addition to LTP4 itself and its supporting documentation, public opinion was sought on the development of these action plans. An indicative action plan was prepared, providing an indication of the type of action plan details that might be used to inform anyone wishing to scrutinise LTP4 delivery. This was included in the consultation documents both for wider public consultation and by the Citizens Panel. The public's understandable desire for action rather than words and greater council accountability underpinned the largely positive

response to this indicative action plan. This feedback is now informing the development of actual action and monitoring plans which will provide information on individual schemes, more general transport interventions and their outcomes, and provide evidence for the delivery of LTP4. The indicative action plan that was available as part of the consultation documents is provided additionally as Appendix H.

- 1.13 Throughout the production of LTP4 and the various consultation exercises that have accompanied its development, Warwickshire County Council has strived to reach out to all communities. However, it is recognised that there is some under-representation from some ethnic groups. To address this area, and to comply with its Public Sector Equality Duty, the Equality Impact Assessment has been updated and it is further intended to strengthen our engagement processes in the delivery phase of LTP4, working with colleagues in Communications and Equalities and, where feasible, with external organisations, to ensure as broad a reach as possible.
- 1.14 The development of LTP4 has been overseen by a members' working group throughout its production. The working group recognised the various consultation exercises that have taken place during the drafting of the new Plan, including the creation and involvement of the Citizens Panel, and the role of public feedback in shaping LTP4 to date. The group wished to endorse the development of the Plan and, at its final meeting, recommended that it be put forward for additional consideration at Communities Overview and Scrutiny, Cabinet and Full Council.
- 1.15 Communities Overview and Scrutiny considered the production of LTP4 at its meeting on 12 April 2023. The minutes are reproduced as Appendix E.
- 1.16 Cabinet considered LTP4 at its meeting on 15 June 2023 and the minutes are available as Appendix G. Cabinet resolved to recommend that it be put forward for consideration for adoption by Full Council in July 2023.

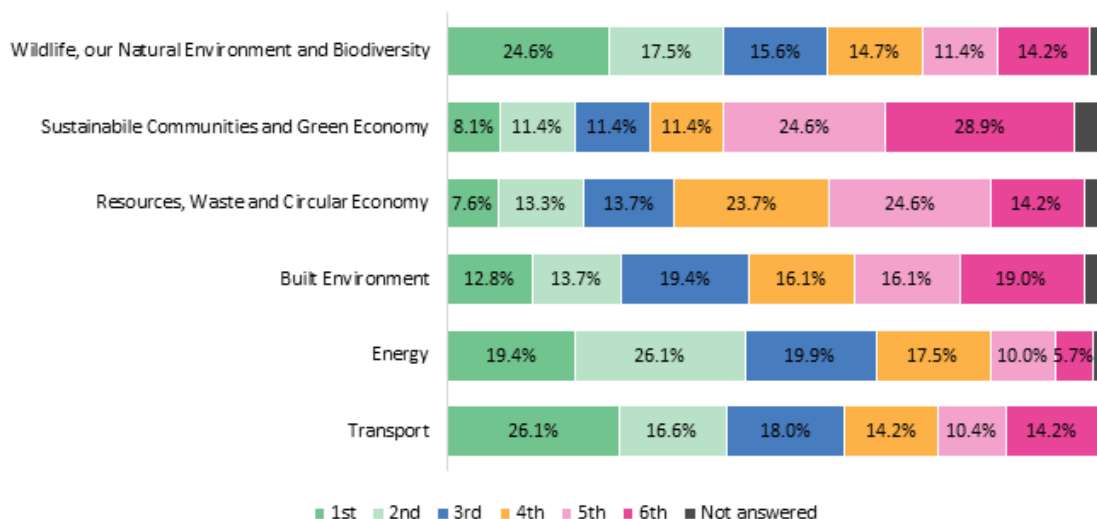
2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The adoption of LTP4 will incur costs associated with the delivery of the individual schemes and transport interventions which derive from the strategies and policies in the new Plan. The intention is to provide information, where possible, of the funding routes, timescales, intended outcomes, key themes and policy positions for each item in the Action Plan and any other relevant information which provides greater accountability and transparency. Ability to deliver the Plan will be heavily dependent on the available funding ultimately secured.
- 2.2 Financial savings arising from the implementation of LTP4 are likely to be reflected in reduced healthcare and sickness costs as people switch to more active travel options and air pollution from exhaust gases reduces. It is anticipated that there will be a reduction in personal injury collisions and their associated costs of investigation, as a result of moving towards a Safe

Systems approach to road safety, and economic benefits from a reduction in congestion and road maintenance costs.

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 Environmental protection and personal well-being were priorities for respondents to our consultation exercises on the new local transport plan, both during the Citizens Panel process and the online consultation approach. To reflect this, a focus on environmental and individual health and well-being run through LTP4.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 In addition to recognising the legally binding carbon reduction targets enshrined in the Climate Change Act, 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.
- 3.4 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.



4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 A wealth of supporting information, including the Integrated Sustainability Assessment and Indicative Action Plan which were produced for the public consultation exercise in Autumn 2022, remains available in the closed consultations section at ask.warwickshire.gov.uk/insights-service/local-transport-plan

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 Subject to adoption by Full Council, LTP4 will supersede and replace the existing local transport plan, LTP3.
- 5.2 Thereafter, it is anticipated that an annual programme of action planning, monitoring and reporting will take place to provide regular updates on the delivery of individual schemes and transport interventions.

Appendices

1. Appendix A – LTP4
2. Appendix B – Draft LTP4 Consultation report
3. Appendix C – Additional consultation submissions
4. Appendix D – Citizens Panel feedback on LTP4 strategy documents
5. Appendix E – Communities Overview and Scrutiny minutes 12 April 2023
6. Appendix F – LTP4 Integrated Sustainability Appraisal EqIA Revision 2
7. Appendix G - Cabinet minutes 15 June 2023
8. Appendix H – Indicative Action Plan prepared for consultation

Background Papers

None

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

Local Member(s): none

Other members: Members of Communities OSC and Cabinet