

# Cabinet

8 October 2020

## Local Transport Plan Refresh

### Recommendations

- 1) That Cabinet endorses the proposals in this report regarding democratic oversight and decision making, timescales, and financing of the Local Transport Plan refresh project.
- 2) That Cabinet approves the further development of the Issues and Opportunities that the next Local Transport Plan could address and authorises the Strategic Director for Communities, in consultation with the Portfolioholder for Transport & Planning, to approve materials for public consultation at the earliest opportunity in 2021.
- 3) That Cabinet establishes a Cross-Party Working Group to be consulted on the refresh, chaired by the Portfolioholder for Transport & Planning and with other members nominated by the Group Leaders, in accordance with the Terms of Reference attached as **Appendix B**.

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The current iteration of Warwickshire County Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP3) has become outdated despite having an intended life up to 2026.
- 1.2 A refresh of the Local Transport Plan has been commissioned and will be overseen by Warwickshire County Council's Place Programme Board.
- 1.3 Officers propose to carry out further work with external partners to develop "dashboards" to present the Issues and Opportunities around LTP to the public. This is with a view to carrying out a formal public consultation on them early in 2021. This will determine the relative priorities of the refreshed Local Transport plan and inform how the final document is drafted. A sample dashboard is included in **Appendix A**.
- 1.4 This consultation will determine the relative priorities of Warwickshire's next Local Transport Plan before further approval is sought from Cabinet to draft a new plan following formal consultation.
- 1.5 Officers seek approval from the Cabinet to proceed with this approach and then report back to Cabinet on the findings of the formal consultation in due course.

- 1.6 Officers also seek approval to form a Cabinet Working Group to be consulted on the progress of the LTP throughout its life. The proposed Terms of Reference for the group are attached as **Appendix B**. It is not intended that the Group will operate as a formal committee and the access to information framework will not be applicable. Whilst the political balance requirements do not formally apply, the membership of the Group would approximate to those requirements.
- 1.7 The group will be chaired by the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Economy. Nominations for the remaining members will be sought from party leaders following approval from Cabinet.

## 2. Supporting Information

- 2.1 The Local Transport Plan is a key policy document for Warwickshire County Council and our partners. Section 108 and 109 of the Transport Act 2000 require the County Council to prepare the plan, keep it under review and alter or replace it when appropriate (consulting with relevant authorities, transport organisations and other appropriate people). It governs the majority of work within Communities Group that takes place on or near to the public highway; plays a key role in the deployment and maintenance of millions of pounds of County owned assets and is a relevant document in the planning process which therefore determines the County Council's ability to respond to planning applications as the local Highway Authority.
- 2.2 In a number of areas, the policies and strategies contained in LTP3 have become outdated. This is in terms of current practice within WCC and wider considerations, particularly the increased focus on climate change and the response to COVID-19.
- 2.3 In its current format it is not possible to amend one part of the LTP without going through a significant consultation process to replace the document in its entirety.
- 2.4 This project offers an opportunity to incorporate several new and emerging issues at local, regional and national levels into the Local Transport Plan. These include;
  - 2.4.1 The reorganisation of the County Council and the new organisational priorities that have emerged from that process,
  - 2.4.2 The County's declaration of a climate emergency,
  - 2.4.3 The inception of the West Midlands Combined Authority, particularly its transport arm Transport for West Midlands,
  - 2.4.4 National efforts to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 with numerous impacts on transport,
  - 2.4.5 The County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2.5 In its current form the LTP is not considered to be a very accessible document. In order to make the next LTP more accessible and manageable in

terms of length officers propose to explore a modular approach to the next iteration of the LTP. A modular document could,

- 2.5.1 be tailored for different audiences
- 2.5.2 have sections or modules updated at different times without the need to renew the whole LTP.

### **3. Financial Implications**

3.1 The project will be funded from existing revenue budgets.

### **4. Environmental Implications**

4.1 The Local Transport Plan sets out the County Council's policies and strategies for maintaining and developing the transport network within Warwickshire and for interacting with wider regional, sub-regional, national and international transport connectivity. The document is also a material consideration within the planning process and has a role in defining infrastructure requirements to support housing and employment growth.

4.2 The document therefore has significant scope to aid the County Council in its efforts to address the climate emergency by driving decarbonisation in both public and private modes of transport whilst also contributing to the achievement of the Council's wider plans and objectives. The new plan will be accompanied by a Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment (assuming no change in legislation).

### **5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps**

5.1 Anticipated timescales for this project are as follows,

5.1.1 Refinement of Issues and Opportunities “dashboards” for public consultation – October – December 2021

5.1.2 Public consultation on the relative priorities of LTP Issues and Opportunities – Q1 2021

5.1.3 Analysis of results Q2 2021

5.1.4 Seek Cabinet approval to draft a new LTP Q2/3 2021

5.1.5 Public consultation on a draft LTP Q3/4 2021

5.1.6 Seek Full Council approval of new LTP Q4 2021

5.1.7 Publication of the Local Transport Plan is anticipated for late 2021 or early 2022

## Appendices

1. Appendix A Sample dashboard for further development prior to consultation
2. Appendix B Proposed Cabinet Working Group Terms of Reference

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Report Author	Garry Palmer	garrypalmer@warwickshire.gov.uk
Assistant Director	David Ayton-Hill	
Lead Director	Strategic Director for Communities	
Lead Member	Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning	

The report was not circulated to members prior to publication: