

ENVIRONMENT AND ATTRACTIVE CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18TH OCTOBER 2010

LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2011-2021

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CITY SERVICES

Strategic Priority: SP5 - Attractive and Inclusive City

Corporate Priorities: CI01 – Delivering Customer Focused Services, CI04 – Improving Partnership Working To Deliver ‘One City’

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide background information on the Local Transport Plan process.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The current Local Transport Plan (LTP2) for Tyne and Wear expires in March 2011. Development of the next Local Transport Plan (LTP3) is underway. This report briefly describes the LTP process; sets out the high level strategic objectives; identifies indicative spending priorities and is background to the presentation to be given at the meeting.

3.0 THE LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROCESS

- 3.1 The first Local Transport Plan was a bidding vehicle seeking to attract funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) for transport related expenditure in Tyne and Wear. The subsequent funding award for Integrated Transport schemes was distributed among the plan partners (the five districts of Tyne and Wear and Nexus) according to a locally agreed formula. Maintenance allocations were determined by the DfT according to a nationally agreed formula and paid direct to the districts.
- 3.2 The DfT changed the LTP process for subsequent plans and instead informed the plan partners in advance of the amount of their future funding allocations. The LTP then became a delivery plan setting out what was to be achieved with the money made available. In the former metropolitan areas the districts had the duty to prepare a joint plan. For LTP3, as required by the Transport Act 2008, it is the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) that now has the duty to prepare a Local Transport Plan for its area in full consultation with the districts.
- 3.3 LTP3 consists of a strategy document that sets out the context for transport in Tyne and Wear; the strategies to be adopted for the next

ten years and delivery plans for each of the districts and Nexus that set out the local spending priorities for the next three years.

- 3.4 The development of the LTP3 document is being undertaken by the Tyne and Wear LTP Core Team in consultation with ITA Members, district officers and Nexus. There has also been some external engagement with people who have an interest in transport. The resultant draft document is to be the subject of public consultation which begins on 18th October.
- 3.5 The formal response of the Council to the consultation will be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 12th January 2011 and ratified by full Council on 26th January 2011. Consultation responses will be considered by the ITA and the final draft of the plan will be approved by the ITA in March 2011

4.0 THE TYNE AND WEAR LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2011-2021 STRATEGY

- 4.1 Guidance from the Coalition Government and the results of consultations to date suggests that there are three priority areas for transport investment. They are:-
- Economic Development and Regeneration
 - Climate Change
 - Safe and Sustainable Communities
- 4.2 In order to support Economic Development and Regeneration the plan partners will endeavour to manage congestion on strategic routes, improve accessibility to key employment and regeneration sites and improve integration between national and local networks.
- 4.3 To contribute to a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from transport the plan partners will promote technological change (for example electric vehicles) behavioural change (greater take up of public transport, cycling and walking as modes of travel) and a reduction in the need to travel by better integrating land use planning with transport policy.
- 4.4 The plan partners will contribute to making communities safer and more sustainable by enhancing social inclusion through improved accessibility and security and by reducing the incidence and severity of road traffic accidents.

5.0 THE TYNE AND WEAR LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2011-2021 DELIVERY

- 5.1 Each plan partner is preparing a three year delivery plan that sets out its local priorities for investment within the framework established by the Tyne and Wear strategies. At this stage when the amount of money that will be available in future years is uncertain priorities are expressed as a percentage. Detailed investment programmes will be drawn up following the conclusion of the Comprehensive Spending Review and subsequent announcements on the Local Government Settlement.
- 5.2 Prior to the current year and of available LTP funding typically 32.5% has been spent on maintaining the highway and highway structures, 42.5% on integrated transport schemes and 25% on supporting major highway schemes. Spending in these proportions has allowed progress to be made on all key performance indicators, has kept the highway in reasonable condition and has secured significant external investment.
- 5.3 Such being the case there is no compelling case for change except that the amount of future funding from the DfT is expected to be significantly less than in previous years. Until the decision by the DfT on the future of the new Wear bridge and other major projects is known it is proposed for consultation purposes to split the amount of available funding between maintenance (45%) and integrated transport (55%) The extent to which the LTP could fund major scheme investment without having a major impact on other important areas of investment can only be decided once the funding allocation has been announced.
- 5.4 Within the integrated transport block it is proposed for consultation purposes to allocate 40% to Economic Development and Regeneration, 20% to Climate Change (reflecting the revenue types of activity planned) and 40% to Safe and Sustainable Communities. These proportions match current spending priorities and have produced acceptable outcomes.
- 5.5 The flexibility offered by financial regulations that allows virement between budgets should the need arise will be retained.

6.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 6.1 The consultation draft of LTP3 has now been finalised and will be subject of an open consultation for the next eight weeks.
- 6.2 A presentation will be given by Jessica Anderson, Manager, of the Tyne and Wear Core Team.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The Committee is asked to receive the presentation at Committee delivered by the Tyne and Wear Core Team.

8. RECOMMENDATION

8.1 That Members consider and comment on the information provided.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2021 consultation draft

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