

Report to	Scrutiny Committee for Transport and Environment
Date	24 November 2010
Report By	Director of Transport and Environment
Title of Report	Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3)
Purpose of Report	To update Scrutiny Committee on progress made in the development of Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. To note the progress made to date and the emerging themes coming forward from the consultation**
- 2. To provide officers with their comments on the draft LTP3 consultation document to help shape the final document which will come into effect on 1 April 2011**

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 As part of the restructure of financing for transport, the DfT have reduced the number of funding streams from 26 down to 4 – Integrated Transport, Maintenance, Major Schemes and the Local Sustainable Transport Fund.

1.2 Following the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), the recommended levels of capital investment for Integrated transport and Road Maintenance programmes will be set out by Central Government in December 2010. These funding allocations will not be ring fenced and the actual level of investment in the County Council set out in the County Council's capital programme will be determined through the reconciling policy and resources process in accordance with the relative priorities for investment across all council services.

1.3 The Local Sustainable Transport Fund will be a mix of capital (£210m) and revenue (£350m) funding available over the CSR period. Guidance on the bidding criteria for this funding is still awaited from DfT although its focus will be particularly towards single or packages of schemes that deliver economic growth and reduce carbon emissions.

2. Background

2.1 As the Local Transport Authority, the County Council has a statutory duty to produce a further Local Transport Plan to follow on from LTP2 which is in place until March 2011. Our third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) will comprise two elements, a long term strategy for the period between 2011 and 2026 and a shorter term implementation plan which will cover a rolling 3 year period and be reviewed annually.

2.2 The LTP3 will be an important component in planning and provision of strategic and local transport infrastructure through:

- the emerging Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) for East Sussex, Kent and Greater Essex; and
- the delivery of housing growth by the Borough and District Council's through their emerging Local Development Frameworks (LDFs)

3. Progress

3.1 Since the Scrutiny Committee meeting in March 2010, the draft strategy approaches have been appraised in order to identify a preferred strategy approach. I have also engaged with various key groups including the East Sussex Strategic Partnership, the Parish and Town Councils, Climate Change Board and the Youth Cabinet during the summer on the vision, objectives and this preferred strategy approach.

3.2 The broad aims of LTP3, outlined below, take into account local priorities and the national transport goals, recognising that transport contributes towards the delivery of wider agendas, including the economy, the environment, safety, health and the delivery of new housing:

Appendix 1 – Summary of Freight Strategy and Community Transport Strategies

Both the Freight Strategy and Community Transport Strategy will be daughter documents to the emerging 3rd Local Transport Plan. The documents are currently out to consultation and are available online at:

Freight Strategy -

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/consultation/2010/freightstrategy/default.htm>

Community Transport Strategy -

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/consultation/2010/communitytransportstrategy/default.htm>

Freight Strategy

The revised Freight Strategy updates the previous version which was published in July 2004. The Strategy provides a framework for addressing freight issues and includes an action plan through which the strategy will be delivered. Since the most predominant mode of transporting freight in East Sussex is currently by road, much of the strategy looks at road freight and the ways in which this can be improved.

The main objectives of the Freight Strategy are to support the local economy by enabling and improving access to a wide range of goods and produce, to address areas of conflict arising from the transportation of freight and to promote the sustainable transportation of freight where appropriate.

The following policies are designed to address these objectives.

- Provide better (more accessible) locations for new business
- Encourage goods vehicles to use the advisory strategic Freight Route Network
- Develop a Freight Quality Partnership in East Sussex
- Work in partnership with Ordnance Survey and the freight industry to help alleviate satellite navigation systems problems
- Educate and raise awareness of freight distribution
- Support, develop and implement transport schemes which enable operators to make safe and efficient deliveries
- Encourage and promote the sustainable transportation of freight where feasible
- Positively encourage sustainable minerals/waste movement

Key actions:

- Focus on address freight issues in the following priority order – education, enforcement and engineering
- Provide businesses with a copy of the advisory freight route network to ensure they use the appropriate routes, where possible,
- Establish a county wide Freight Quality Partnership which will develop the approach to prioritising and addressing county wide and localised issues,
- Provide a freight incident form to enable local communities to record lorries using unsuitable routes, allowing investigation of whether the vehicle had a legitimate reason for using that route, and if not, resolving the issue where practicable, and

Community Transport Strategy

Community transport describes transport services provided by local people for local people. It can be used by anyone, but is particularly aimed at people who find it difficult or impossible to use standard public transport, or who do not have public transport available to them for the journey they wish to make. It is usually supported by voluntary organisations, parish and district councils and community transport operators.

The community transport strategy shapes what community transport services in the county will look like in future.

Key actions:

- establish a comprehensive and up-to-date database of all community transport services in East Sussex
- establish a way to monitor to what extent this strategy is helping us achieve our vision for transport in the county
- help communities to maintain existing community transport services, while identifying and developing new schemes and opportunities for extra funding
- improve the way we work with communities, as well as district, borough and parish councils, on developing new schemes
- share good examples of similar work from within East Sussex and elsewhere
- widely promote the availability of community transport services to all residents of the county, while working with our partners to market specific services to potential users
- work with our partners to make sure community transport services are affordable for everyone.