

REPORT OF THE CABINET

The Cabinet met on 26 April 2011.

Present Councillor Jones (Chairman)
Councillors Bentley, Elkin, Glazier, Lock, Maynard,
Reid and Mrs Stroude and B. Tidy

1. Local Transport Plan 2011 - 2026

1.1 As the Local Transport Authority, the County Council has a statutory duty to produce its third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) to take effect from April 2011. The LTP sets out the strategy for delivering both the County Council's and Government's transport objectives, with priority towards improving economic competitiveness and growth, improving safety, security and health, and sets the context for identifying and seeking funding to maintain and improve the local transport network. It strengthens the place shaping role of the County Council and links directly into strategies to support the local economy and deliver housing. The LTP relates to three transport planning elements:

- Integrated transport – small scale transport schemes and initiatives delivered through the Integrated Transport Capital Programme together with revenue funding streams for public transport, community transport and road safety education;
- Maintenance – effective and efficient management of the highway network, bridges and structures and overall life asset management delivered through our Highways Maintenance Capital Programme by our term contractor, May Gurney; and
- Major Schemes – transport improvement schemes over £5m.

1.2 The proposed LTP3 comprises two elements, a long term Strategy for the period 2011 to 2026, to be reviewed every five years or as necessitated by changing circumstances, and shorter term Implementation Plans which will cover a rolling 4/5 year period and be reviewed annually. The first LTP Implementation Plan will include the capital programme for Integrated Transport improvements for 2011/12 approved by Lead Member for Transport and Environment in March 2011.

1.3 The Implementation Plan for the remainder of the 2011/12 to 2015/16 period will be developed over the next twelve months setting out planned programmes of investment in transport improvements according to indicative funding levels identified by the County Council.

1.4 Throughout the development of LTP3 we have worked closely with the East Sussex Strategic Partnership (ESSP) and the Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee; developing a vision and objectives, describing the issues and challenges, identifying strategies to address the challenges, appraising the strategies in terms of their impact on the LTP objectives, the environment and different groups in the community, and agreeing a preferred strategy and priorities for delivery. A further workshop

will be held with members of the ESSP to discuss how they can contribute to the delivery of the LTP3 strategy and its objectives.

1.5 The LTP3 Strategy, which has previously been circulated to all members, acknowledges that transport is an essential part of the economic and social life of our communities and important in enabling other outcomes. The LTP3 vision and objectives have been influenced by the Sustainable Community Strategy, *Pride of Place*, the Council Plan objectives and the national transport priorities. It also reflects other priorities including reducing congestion, tackling climate change, access to jobs, education and services and improving people's overall quality of life. The Strategy has been informed by an initial programme of evidence gathering, an Equalities Impact Assessment, a Strategic Environmental Assessment incorporating a Health Impact Assessment and a Habitats Regulations Assessment.

1.6 A full public consultation on the draft LTP3 was carried out between 4 October 2010 and 4 January 2011. It was publicised widely, and direct notifications were sent to Members and to over 300 individuals and organisations. 132 responses were received of which 64 were from organisations or businesses. A full analysis of all the responses has been undertaken and the key issues emerging from the consultation have previously been circulated to all members. Responses to all the consultation comments have been published on the website as a background paper to LTP3. In response to the key consultation issues, a number of actions/changes were made to the LTP3 document.

1.7 The Cabinet recommends the County Council:

- ☆ to approve the draft East Sussex Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2026

2. South East Seven Partnership

2.1 As the County Council is aware, the South East Seven (SE7) Councils have committed to explore collaborative opportunities to improve the quality of services and to achieve efficiency savings. Building on their physical proximity and the pre-existing relationships between the member Councils, the SE7 is working together in a number of key areas. Each area of activity, or 'workstream', has a lead Authority that has taken responsibility to scope the collaborative opportunities and to develop action plans for the delivery of mutual benefits. Cabinet Members and Chief Officers represent the Council at SE7 meetings and are working deliver maximum benefits for the County Council.

2.2 At the meeting of Leaders, Deputy Leaders and Chief Executives in December 2010 a number of additional workstreams were added to the original four, including flood management and property asset management. Updates on all workstreams were provided at the SE7 meeting on 23 February 2011. A summary of the workstreams, their objectives and progress are set out below.

ICT - Led by Brighton & Hove City Council

Workstream purpose - identification of collaborative opportunities is taking place. There is focus on different ICT aspects including Network Development, Procurement, Data Centres, Desktops/Mobile and Flexible Working and Customer Contact.

Workstream update - the activity relating to the Network of Networks is the main focus for the workstream. Consideration will be given to the potential areas for joint team working and the propensity of each Authority to participate, as this has the potential to deliver high levels of savings.

Highways - Led by Surrey County Council

Workstream purpose - creation of a strong joint Client group to share information, identify opportunities and develop sustainable solutions to the maintenance and construction of Highways.

Workstream update - initial benchmarking has identified areas for shared procurement. Long term investments in skills such as staff training and the development of a degree programme are also being scoped.

Waste - Led by Kent County Council

Workstream purpose - creation of a long-term vision for waste and the scoping of both short and long-term savings. Consideration will be given to opportunities for two tier working, planning for regional infrastructure and monitoring and maintenance of closed landfill sites. It seeks to achieve waste prevention and minimisation by changing views of waste so that waste materials are regarded as a resource, an economic opportunity and an opportunity for social enterprise.

Workstream update - the Environment Agency is interested in the work of the SE7 in relation to waste. At the Leaders and Chief Executives' meeting on 23 February 2011, it was agreed that Councillor Paul Carter, Leader of Kent County Council, should sit on behalf of the SE7 on the Environment Agency's board for Environmental Waste.

Special Educational Needs (SEN) - Led by East Sussex County Council

Workstream purpose - to work collaboratively in pursuit of value for money efficiencies and service improvements by developing proposals to reform the SEN system and to build a closer operational partnership between the SE7 Councils.

Workstream update - the SE7 Councils submitted proposals to the Secretary of State for Education for a radical redrawing of the SEN system to support young people with SEN and their families, to improve the system and to drive out inefficiencies. A number of discussions with Ministers and officials from the Department for Education (DfE) followed, with focus the preparation of the Green Paper on SEN and Disability.

The Green Paper on SEN and Disability was published in March 2011. The SEN workstream is analysing the Paper and considering a collective consultation response. Elements of key SE7 proposals are in the Paper, including personalised budgets and a more holistic assessment process (an 'Education, Health and Care Plan' replaces the Statement of SEN).

The work of colleagues in the Children's Services department of East Sussex County Council was singled out as a case study of good practice. Pilot programmes set out in the Paper will begin in September 2011 and Directors of Children's Services agree that the group should bid to participate (with the engagement level of each SE7 Council decided at a later stage). Further detail on the pilot programmes is expected over the coming months.

In relation to the development of a closer operational partnership, proposals are being considered for a number of activities with a view to collaboration.

The Green Paper does not appear to call for change to ongoing SE7 proposals for 'operational' collaboration and a full analysis is underway.

Commodities Procurement - Led by Hampshire County Council

Workstream purpose - to identify areas for potential joint commodity procurement within the SE7 Councils where the strength of the 'single voice' can provide enhanced negotiation powers.

Workstream update - a number of potential collaborative procurement opportunities have been identified across the partnership (in addition to the joint procurement activity that already exists regionally and nationally). This workstream is in its developmental stage and further details will be provided when available.

Flood Management - Led by West Sussex County Council

Workstream purpose - to share best practice and resources and to explore the potential for the development of shared services. Also, opportunities will be considered for the partnership to bid to take on new functions where there is scope for SE7 to generate savings.

This is a new area of work and an update will be provided in subsequent reports.

Claim Centres/ External Audit/ Pension Administration - Led by Kent County Council

Workstream update:

- Claim Centres work has progressed well in relation to a SE7-wide approach to managing insurance claims;
- The External Audit work will explore how combined procurement can create savings, but is currently on hold until December 2012 as a result of national developments; and

- Work to look at how Pensions Administration can be combined into one SE7 sub-regional team will be explored once the announcements of the Hutton Review have been considered fully.

This is a new area of work and an update will be provided in subsequent reports.

Property Asset Management - Led by Hampshire County Council

Workstream purpose - opportunities to improve efficiency are being explored in relation to reducing buildings, associated costs and re-thinking work practices.

Workstream update - suggested examples of cost saving work practices include hot-desking, working from home and Park & Ride schemes.

Value for Money (VFM)/ Effective Service Reviews - Led by Medway Council

Workstream purpose - VFM activity and Service Reviews that are taking place across all SE7 Councils are being shared in order to identify areas where collaboration may lead to savings and improved service provision.

Workstream update - at the SE7 meeting in February 2011, it was agreed that the workstream would now be seen as embedded into the other SE7 workstreams rather than a separate area of work. This is to avoid duplication of work, especially in relation to procurement.

Further areas of shared ideas:

In addition to the formal workstreams, SE7 are sharing knowledge regarding services which may be required to support any collaborative developments. Consistent legal advice for each of the workstreams and SE7 as a whole is essential to ensure compliance with legislation and regulations. Colleagues from Kent County Council have agreed to lead on this activity.

2.3 SE7 specific East Sussex County Council intranet pages are being developed for both Members and officers with a provisional launch date of early May 2011. The pages are aimed at promoting a shared understanding of the activities of the partnership and awareness and transparency of SE7 developments and commitments.

Next steps

2.4 The workstreams are continuing to develop their detailed action plans. Action plans (including detail on what can be achieved, timelines for delivery and anticipated financial savings) are to be presented at the next full SE7 meeting on 18 May 2011.

2.5 As the current lead Authority for the SE7, the County Council is taking a more directive role in supporting the work and the planning of the workstreams in order to maximise on the available opportunities.

2.6 It has been agreed that European Union funding streams will be considered, where they would complement the work of SE7, to support and facilitate the activities of the partnership.

2.7 A commitment has been made to look to engage with and influence Central Government, where appropriate, to progress wider activities and objectives of the SE7. Baroness Hanham, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government, will attend an SE7 meeting in December 2011 as part of SE7's commitment to be at the vanguard of Local Government policy development.

2.8 Where decisions need to be made which impact on service delivery across the Council, formal endorsement will be sought through Reconciling Policy and Resources and other relevant governance mechanisms. The work of the SE7 continues to progress well and the quantification of potential collaborative activity and anticipated savings will highlight the importance of this strategic partnership in achieving service improvements and delivering efficiency savings.

3. Hastings Highway Management Agreement – delegation of highway functions to Hastings Borough Council

3.1 A report was presented to Cabinet on the 5 July 2010 on the Highway Management Agreements with Eastbourne and Hastings Borough Councils that were in place at that time. Following the Cabinet's decision a notice rescinding the Agreements was served on Eastbourne and Hastings Borough Councils on the 4 August 2010. A mutually acceptable termination date was agreed of the 24 March 2011 following negotiations with the borough councils.

3.2 Negotiations were undertaken with Hastings Borough Council on the retention of the traffic and development control functions. Hastings resolved not to retain development control but indicated its agreement to retain the traffic management function. The Cabinet has therefore considered a proposed delegation through a new contract arrangement (the Highway Management Partnership Agreement). This will be a formal agreement between the County Council and the Borough Council setting out what is to be delegated and the reimbursement arrangements. The key delegations were set out in the report considered by the Cabinet (previously circulated to all members) and include the determination of Traffic Regulation Orders (and Notices), and the implementation of traffic management schemes (with approval from the County Council). The agreement is to be reviewed annually and may be terminated by either side with twelve months notice, or at a mutually agreed shorter period.

3.3 The new Highway Management Partnership Agreement will allow Hastings Borough to continue to perform the traffic management function. It will also have the benefit that the Borough can promote and fund its own traffic management initiatives, (including on-street parking enforcement, for example). Providing they are not at variance with any County policies, it would allow Hastings to proceed on the basis that there is no additional cost to the

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County. The Cabinet has therefore agreed to the formal delegation of the functions to Hastings Borough Council through the new Highway Management Partnership Agreement.

3.4 The decision in relation to this item was taken as a matter of urgency and the call in procedure was therefore dispensed with. This decision was taken following a request from Hastings Borough Council in order to ensure that there was no disruption to the service and public expectation in relation to the processing of traffic management items which were expected to reach the decision stage at the Borough Council's Cabinet meeting on 9 May 2011. The Group Leaders and Chairman of the Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee were consulted prior to the Chairman agreeing to this item being treated as a matter of urgency.

Peter Jones
Chairman

26 April 2011

