

Report to: Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment

Date of meeting: 14 March 2016

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Local Transport Plan draft Implementation Plan 2016/17 – 2020/21

Purpose: To advise the Lead Member of the consultation outcomes on, and seek approval to adopt, the East Sussex Local Transport Plan draft Implementation Plan 2016/17 – 2020/21.

RECOMMENDATION: The Lead Member is recommended to approve the final draft Local Transport Plan Implementation Plan 2016/17 – 2020/21.

1 Background Information

1.1 The East Sussex Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2011 – 2026, approved by East Sussex County Council in May 2011, identifies the Council's strategy for transport investment over a 15 year period. The Strategy is complemented by a series of LTP Implementation Plans (IP), setting out delivery proposals in line with the priorities set out in the LTP Strategy document of supporting sustainable economic growth and improving safety, health and security for five year time periods over the lifetime of the plan. The first IP covered the period from 2011/12 to 2015/16. The second IP will cover the period from 2016/17 to 2020/21 and will be used to inform the development of the annual Local Transport capital programmes.

1.2 The delivery of the IP's is dependent on the level of funding available over the five year time period and this Plan has been developed with maximum flexibility to reflect this. Funding towards local transport improvements comes from a variety of sources. Capital funding comes from central government to the County Council in the form of an allocation for maintenance and integrated transport schemes. The Department for Transport (DfT) has informed the County Council of its grant allocations for integrated transport and maintenance for 2016/17 and 2017/18 with indicative sums for 2018/19 and 2019/20. These monies are not ring-fenced and the County Council decides on the investment levels for transport through its Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) process each year.

1.3 In addition, development contributions are also used to invest in transport infrastructure identified in the IP. The way in which development contributions are collected is changing; previously financial contributions towards infrastructure to support developments including transport improvements were solely negotiated and delivered through a legal agreement (Section 106) between the Local Planning Authority, Highway Authority and the developer. Section 106 agreements will continue for site specific requirements such as access, however strategic infrastructure which supports several developments such as a local transport improvement will potentially be funded or part funded through a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) collected by the local planning authorities.

1.4 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) now play the major role leveraging in funding from Government for local areas to invest in infrastructure to support economic growth. East Sussex is one of the four federated areas of the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SE LEP), with Lewes District also part of the Coast to Capital (C2C) LEP. Through the first round of the Local Growth Fund (LGF) Deal, East Sussex was awarded £71.4m in LGF monies for spend by 2020/21. A significant proportion of this funding is available to enable key strategic transport projects and packages of local transport improvements identified in the IP to be prioritised and delivered following the development and approval of robust business cases by the respective LEPs.

2 Supporting Information

2.1 The draft second LTP IP comprises a programme of measures and initiatives to be undertaken across the whole County, together with separate programmes of potential measures for eight areas - the priority investment areas of Bexhill; Hastings; Eastbourne and south Wealden; Newhaven and Uckfield, and the three wider areas of Lewes and the South Downs National Park; Battle, Rye and rural Rother; and north Wealden and north Lewes districts. These programmes have been developed to reflect the highest priorities in each area and the potential measures to address them as well as the priorities identified in the Local Plan Infrastructure Delivery Plans (IDP) and in both LEP's LGF Deals.

2.2 A public consultation on the draft IP was carried out during November/December 2015 and in total we have received over 100 responses. Overall there was general support for the content of the draft LTP IP, however a number of main points arose from the consultation:

- The need to address congestion bottlenecks on the network to support business in particular the improvement of the A27 east of Lewes
- The need for rail service and infrastructure improvements to improve local and strategic access to East Sussex
- Greater emphasis should be placed on investing in walking and cycling particularly with Government developing its National Walking and Cycling Investment Strategy
- Improvements are required to the infrastructure on the 'Coastal Cultural Trail' between Eastbourne, Bexhill and Hastings
- The need to improve the quality of bus waiting facilities and support for the introduction of real time passenger information (RTPI) across the county
- The need to discourage use of the C7 between Newhaven and Lewes and in turn encourage traffic to use the A26/A27

2.3 All the consultation comments and responses are available in the Members Room and will be made available on the County Council's website. Where appropriate, the final draft IP has been amended to reflect these consultation comments and is attached at Appendix 1. The Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) has also been reviewed and updated as part of the process to ensure that the Plan promotes equality and no group is disadvantaged by the plan proposals; a summary of the EqIA is attached at Appendix 2.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The final draft second LTP IP sets out our plans for investment in transport infrastructure to support economic growth in the county over the next five years to 2020/21 and has been shaped by the comments received through public consultation. Our ability to deliver the measures identified in the IP will be dependent on the level of funding available from a range of sources and as such has been developed with maximum flexibility to reflect this. The Lead Member is therefore recommended to endorse the Local Transport Plan Implementation Plan 2015/16 to 2020/21 for approval.

RUPERT CLUBB

Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Contact Officer: Tessa Sweet Escott

Tel. No. 01273 482281

Email: tessa.sweet-escott@eastsussex.gov.uk

LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Local Transport Plan Implementation Plan 2016/17 – 2020/21 - Consultation Responses

<https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/economy-transport-environment/local-transport-plan-implementation-plan-2016-17-2>