



EXECUTIVE 12th July 2023

Report Title	North Northamptonshire Local Transport Plan Development Timetable
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Lead Member	Councillor Matt Binley, Executive Member for Highways, Travel & Assets

Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there public sector equality duty implications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972	

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To update the Executive on the timetable for the preparation of North Northamptonshire's Local Transport Plan (LTP).

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Transport Act 2000 requires all Local Authorities to publish statutory plans, known as Local Transport Plans (LTPs), for maintaining and improving all aspects of local transport. The Act does not set a timescale for updating an LTP, but authorities must keep their LTP under review and alter it if they consider it appropriate to do so.
- 2.2. The current Local Transport Plan for North Northamptonshire is the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan, adopted by the former Northamptonshire County Council in 2012. This plan consists of a main

transportation plan; thematic plans such as walking and cycling plans as well as town transport strategies.

- 2.3. North Northamptonshire’s LTP must reflect the needs of the community, priorities and investment plans for the next five years. It will be developed in line with other strategic policies such as the Corporate Plan and Local Development Framework whilst being coordinated with emerging policies, for example the Greenway Strategy and Local Walking and Cycling Investment Plans.
- 2.4. In developing a new LTP, the Council has a statutory duty to follow guidance issued by Government. The most recent guidance was published in 2009. New government guidance on LTPs is currently being drafted and is expected to be published, following consultation, in Autumn 2023. It is expected that the Government will require updated plans to be produced by the end of this parliament.
- 2.5. The Local Transport Plan is listed in part 3.1 of the Council’s constitution as forming part of the Policy Framework. Part 3.3 of the constitution, states that the authority must publish a timetable to produce the LTP.
- 2.6. The LTP will be developed in six key stages, summarised below.

Stage	Key tasks	Timeframe
One	Preparation of baseline report and consultation and engagement plan	Summer 2023
Two	Public engagement on a ‘learnings, challenges and opportunities’ report and the preparation of the Integrated Sustainability Assessment scoping report.	Late Summer 2023
Three	‘You said’ report, update baseline report and setting of LTP vision, objectives, and principles.	Late Autumn 2024
Four	Develop and test a range of policies through a policy assessment and supported and informed by the Integrated Sustainability Assessment	Winter 2024
Five	Prepare and test a range of measures and ambition, development of an evaluation framework. Undertakes the formal consultation of all relevant documentation.	Spring 2024
Six	Adoption of the LTP	Autumn 2024

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. It is recommended that the Executive adopts the timetable for producing the North Northamptonshire's Local Transport Plan as set out in Section 5.9.
- 3.2. Reason for Recommendations – The timetable provides flexibility in allowing for the preparation of baseline information ahead of the anticipated revised DfT guidance. The timetable proposed a series of engagement opportunities to support community ownership of the plan and its preparation.
- 3.3. Alternative Options Considered:
- To undertake formal consultation only.
 - To pause preparation of the LTP until the Department for Transport release guidance.

Neither of these options are recommended because this would delay the start, and continuation of, the preparation of the LTP.

4. Report Background

- 4.1. The Transport Act 2000 requires Local Transport Authorities (which include all non-metropolitan unitary authorities such as the Council) to publish a statutory plan setting out their transport policies, known as a Local Transport Plan (LTP). In developing their LTP, authorities must consult key stakeholders and involve local communities in local decision making and service provision. Authorities also have a statutory duty to implement their LTP, once adopted.
- 4.2. The Transport Act 2000 does not set a timescale for updating an LTP, but authorities must keep their LTP under review and alter it if they consider it appropriate it. The current Local Transport Plan for North Northamptonshire is the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan, adopted by the former County Council from 2012. This plan consists of a main transportation plan; thematic plans such as walking and cycling plans as well as town transport strategies.
- 4.3. In developing a new LTP, the Council has a statutory duty to follow guidance issued by Government. The most recent guidance was published in 2009. New government guidance on LTPs is currently being drafted and is expected to be published, following consultation, in Autumn 2023. It is expected that the Government will require updated plans to be produced by the end of this parliament.
- 4.4. It is expected that the new LTP guidance will require authorities to consider government policies such as Gear Change, Decarbonising Transport Plan, Levelling Up White Paper and Bus Back Better when preparing LTPs.

- 4.5. The Decarbonising transport plan (2021), requires that authorities embed decarbonisation within LTPs through calculating, evaluating and quantifying carbon impacts through a measure known as Quantifiable Carbon Reductions (QCR). The QCR should reflect local transport requirements and the ambition set out the net zero by 2030 ambition and delivered alongside the Carbon Management Plan.
- 4.6. Plans currently under development such as (Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIP) and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP)) will become part of a suite of support documents to the LTP.
- 4.7. The Local Transport Plan is listed in part 3.1 of the Council's constitution as forming part of the Policy Framework, which means that approval of an LTP is a matter for Council. Part 3.3 of the constitution, states that after consulting with the relevant Executive Advisory Panel, Executive must publish a timetable setting out the timetable to produce the LTP, together with the arrangements for consultation. The relevant Scrutiny Committee may respond to Executive as part of that consultation. Executive is responsible for agreeing draft LTP documents before they are referred to Council for formal adoption.
- 4.8. Once developed, the North Northamptonshire Council LTP will replace the Northamptonshire Local Transport Plan (2012).

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1. Given the age of the current LTP, it has been evident since before the Council's formation that it needed to be updated once the Council had its own transport strategy team in place to undertake the necessary work.
- 5.2. Although publication of the new Government guidance for consultation is still awaited, experience with past guidance is that this will concentrate on issues which the Government wishes to see considered, integration with wider policy areas and who should be consulted, rather than the process to be followed in drawing policy proposals together.
- 5.3. Public consultation is a necessary component of the plan's development. The plan will also be subject to an Integrated Sustainability Assessment (ISA) which carries its own statutory consultation requirements.
- 5.4. Stage one of the LTP development is proposed to be a preparatory stage with the formulation of a baseline report drawing together a review of the existing Northamptonshire LTP and its implementation, a contextual policy review, a summary of previous views captured and evidence base. An engagement and consultation plan will also be prepared to support the development of the plan.
- 5.5. Stage two will encompass the first stage of public engagement on a 'Learnings, challenges and opportunities' report and the preparation and consultation of the Integrated Sustainability Assessment scoping report.

- 5.6. Stage three will summarise and capture the views obtained in stage two through a ‘You said’ report and update the baseline report accordingly. Focussed workshops will be undertaken in stage three to develop the vision, objectives, and principles for the new LTP.
- 5.7. Stage four will be a substantial phase of work taking the outcomes from the previous stages with the vision, objectives and principles in Stage three to develop a range of policies. These will be tested through a policy assessment and supported and informed by the Integrated Sustainability Assessment.
- 5.8. Stage five will consider the interventions required to meet vision and policies set previously. It is expected that a range of measures and ambition will be tested considered to test for future uncertainties. This stage will include the draft of the ongoing evaluation framework. All the previous work will be drawn together into a consultation draft LTP and a formal consultation undertaken.
- 5.9. Stage six will involve reviewing the outcomes of the consultation on the draft LTP to produce a final draft which will be taken initially to Executive for approval and then to Council for final adoption.

Stage	Key tasks	Public engagement	Timeframe
One	Preparation of baseline report and consultation and engagement plan	None	Summer 2023
Two	Public engagement on a ‘Learnings, challenges and opportunities’ report and the preparation of the Integrated Sustainability Assessment scoping report.	Engagement	Late Summer 2023
Three	‘You said’ report, update baseline report and setting of LTP vision, objectives, and principles.	Engagement	Late Autumn 2024
Four	Develop and test a range of policies through a policy assessment and supported and informed by the Integrated Sustainability Assessment	Engagement	Winter 2023
Five	Prepare and test a range of measures and ambition, development of an evaluation framework. Undertakes the formal consultation of all relevant documentation.	Formal consultation	Spring 2024
Six	Adoption of the LTP	Opportunity for the public to speak at Executive and Council meetings.	Autumn 2024

- 5.10. The proposed timetable sets out how we can meet the duties of the Transport Act 2000 in preparing the plan with the local community, whilst meeting the timetable set by the government guidance.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1. Work will progress on implementing developing the Local Transport Plan in accordance with the timetable set out in section 5 above.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1. Resources, Financial and Transformation

- 7.1.1. The Local Transport Plan will be developed from using staff funded from existing budgets together with £178,541.43 of Local Transport Authority Capacity Grant funding provided by the Department for Transport in March 2022 to assist the development of Local Transport Plans.

7.2. Legal and Governance

- 7.2.1. As explained in section 4 above, the Council has a statutory duty to have a Local Transport Plan. The proposals in this report provide for implementing that duty.

7.3. Relevant Policies and Plans

- 7.3.1. The proposal will assist the Council in meeting the priorities in the Corporate Plan around:
- Safe and Thriving Places
 - Enable people to travel across North Northamptonshire and beyond
 - Green, Sustainable Environment
 - Promote sustainable, active travel
 - Embed low carbon technology, sustain and improved green infrastructure, and sustainable forms of transport fit for the future.

7.4. Risk

- 7.4.1. Not supporting the LTP timetable would prevent the progression of the LTP development and will prevent the Council fulfilling its duties under the Transport Act 2000 or complying with statutory guidance.
- 7.4.2. There is a risk that if the Government's guidance is delayed or is more extensive or substantially different to what is expected that this will affect the timetable laid out above.
- 7.4.3. There is a risk that if the LTP is not prepared in accordance with DfT guidelines, considering both time and content this could impact access to future funding. This can be mitigated by following the guidance, once it has been published.

7.5. Consultation

- 7.5.1. Public engagement and consultation are a necessary component of the plan's development and will involve comprehensive engagement, including four rounds of public consultation, capturing the views of our partners, stakeholders, interest groups, businesses and residents.
- 7.5.2. Given the initial stages of the LTP development, no formal consultation has been undertaken. This timetable set out in this report allows for two stages of public engagement and two formal consultation periods.
- 7.5.3. Each stage of engagement builds and facilitates a conversation about current and future mobility in the authority. It also ensures the more effective development, adoption, and delivery of the plan.
- 7.5.4. Engagement will be in line with the council's engagement principles, as set out below and best practice. We will deliver meaningful engagement through being:
- Simple and accessible
 - Clear, positive, and informative
 - Responsive
 - Identifying relationships to other initiatives
- 7.5.5. To ensure people know how their involvement will shape the plans development after each public consultation a 'we asked, you said, we did' report will be prepared and published. This report will collate and summarise the main issues raised and recommend how these should be addressed. This will include identifying if and how the emerging plan should be amended. Additionally, a log of engagement activities to demonstrate how stakeholders have been involved and informed.
- 7.5.6. The plan will also be subject to an Integrated Sustainability Assessment (ISA) which carries its own statutory consultation requirements.

7.6. Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel

- 7.6.1. The Sustainable Communities Executive Advisory Panel, at their meeting on 11th May 2023, considered the Local Transport Plan programme and indicative timetable. The key issues raised by the panel included ensuring a strong relationship to the Strategic Plan, ensuring the needs and views of the rural community are represented and setting an appropriate long-term ambition for the plan.

7.7. Consideration by Scrutiny

- 7.7.1. Any requests from the Scrutiny Commission will be responded to, and formal engagement or presentations required will take place.

7.8. Equality Implications

- 7.8.1. The LTP will be assessed via an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal inclusive of an Equalities Assessment. This will be included in the supporting documentation and undergo public consultation as part of the preparation of the LTP.

7.9. Climate and Environment Impact

- 7.9.1. The government's Transport Decarbonisation Plan, Levelling Up White Paper and Bus Back Better all lay the groundwork for strengthening the role that transport can play in reducing environmental harm. It is expected that central to the DfT LTP guidance will be the requirement for the authority to assess the LTP considering the Quantifiable Carbon Reductions of included policies and interventions to drive decarbonisation at a local level.

7.10. Community Impact

- 7.10.1. The timetable set out for the preparation of the LTP will support effective policy and decision-making and scrutiny, making a significant difference to the delivery of transport infrastructure and services and, therefore, have an equally significant impact on the local communities.

7.11. Crime and Disorder Impact

- 7.11.1. There are no specific impacts relating to the recommendations in this report.

8. Background Papers

- 8.1. None