

Cabinet

2nd March 2021

Dorset and BCP joint Local Transport Plan development

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr R Bryan, Highways, Travel and Environment

Local Councillor(s): all

Executive Director: J Sellgren, Executive Director of Place

Report Author: Wayne Sayers
Title: Transport Planning Team Leader
Tel: 01305 224161
Email: wayne.sayers@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

That Cabinet agrees to the commitment of resources within existing budgets to take forward the revised LTP, associated area transport strategies and other supporting strategies.

Reason for Recommendation:

Seeking support to review and refresh the joint Local Transport Plan jointly with BCP to align with the emerging Local Plans. The new plan will steer the future transport strategy for Dorset and how we spend our £1.9M Local Transport Capital Block Funding allocation from DfT.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Local Transport Plan contains the principles and policies that will guide investment in transport within Dorset. A refresh is required to make the plan fit for purpose in the current context so that it is able to serve Dorset as a great place to live, work and visit.

- 1.2 The adopted Bournemouth, Poole & Dorset Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2011-2026 covers the geographical area of Dorset Council (formerly East, West and North Dorset, Purbeck, and Weymouth and Portland Councils) and BCP Council area (formerly Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Councils). The LTP consists of a strategy document, a series of local area strategies and a range of supporting strategy documents including road safety, walking and cycling, freight, buses/rural transport, accessibility, sustainable tourism and intelligent transport systems (ITS).
- 1.3 The annual Government funding allocations for highways maintenance and improvement schemes are calculated for each LTP area based upon local need. The formula used for allocations includes elements such as road safety, public transport, congestion, tackling pollution, accessibility and is calculated upon population.
- 1.4 As the geographical areas of Dorset and BCP are interrelated in terms of transport e.g. travel to work areas we should continue to work on a joint plan in addressing cross-administrative boundary transport matters. The joint LTP area also reflects the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (DLEP) area in terms of geographical coverage. The DLEP is important for securing Government funding for delivering major transport schemes within the LTP area.
- 1.5 The LTP is a statutory document and the current plan period runs until 2026, so Dorset Council is not statutorily obliged to refresh it now. However, with the Local Government Reorganisation in 2019 and the development of a Dorset-wide Local Plan (for the Dorset Council area), it is beneficial to align these two important policy documents, using an updated transport evidence base. The relationship between land-use planning and transport is fundamental in delivering sustainable development. The LTP also needs to be updated with current national, regional and local guidance and policies, as there have been many changes since the LTP was published in 2011 including Brexit, Health and Well-being, Active Travel, Climate and Ecological Emergency, Covid19.
- 1.6 There is a need to provide a shorter and more succinct strategy that provides a modern and accessible document that can be actively used to direct transport investment.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The cost of this exercise will depend on the resources used to revise the LTP document. It is likely that the process will involve a balance of Dorset

Council officer time supported by external consultants where necessary. This can be accommodated within existing budgets.

- 2.2 Having an up to date and clear LTP which aligns with government policy will enable Dorset Council to maximise income from external bidding opportunities.

3. Well-being and Health Implications

- 3.1 Improving well-being and health through the promotion of active travel will continue to be a key objective of the LTP.

4. Climate implications

- 4.1 Reducing Dorset's carbon emissions through transport will continue to be a key objective of the LTP.

5. Other Implications

N/A

6. Risk Assessment

- 6.1 Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:
- Current Risk: LOW
 - Residual Risk: LOW

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 7.1 An EQIA will be undertaken as part of the LTP refresh process.

8. Appendices

N/A

9. Background Papers

- 9.1 Bournemouth, Poole & Dorset Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2011-2026

The current over-arching LTP vision is:

A safe, reliable, and accessible low carbon transport system for Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset that assists in the development of a strong low carbon economy, maximising the opportunities for sustainable

transport and respects and protects the area's unique environmental assets.

9.2 The current LTP goals are:

- Support economic growth
- Tackling climate change
- Better safety, security and health
- Equality of opportunity
- Improved quality of life
- Value for money

9.3 The core strategy document will be likely to include a greater emphasis on economic growth, climate change, carbon reduction, active travel, health and well-being, sustainable travel, and public transport. The supporting strategy documents will include updates and action plans on emerging policy work areas e.g. Area Strategies for key growth areas, Electric Vehicle Charging Points, Active Travel, Health and Wellbeing, Public Transport, Parking, Technology, Road Safety, Accessibility, Strategic Transport vision, Behaviour Change/Travel Planning/Modal Shift.

9.4 The overarching LTP vision and goals are unlikely to change significantly and this is intended to be a 'light-touch' review of the strategy document.

9.5 The intension is not only to update the LTP strategy document, but also to significantly streamline the document to provide a clear and accessible document with a maximum of around 50 pages.

Reasons for a refresh

9.6 In 2019 Dorset Council declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency and has since been acting upon this by developing the Climate Emergency and Strategy Action Plan which is currently out for public consultation. Transport has a significant part to play in reducing carbon emissions in Dorset and this will continue to be a core theme of the refreshed LTP.

9.7 Since the LTP was adopted, there have been significant changes in Government policy. The current strategy document requires updating to align with new and revised government policy and other changes in the local and regional transport context. This includes, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (DLEP), the formation of the Western Gateway Sub-national Transport Body (STB), the Major Road Network (MRN) and Large Local Major Schemes investment programmes, Transforming Cities Fund (TCF), and the Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

- 9.8 Both Council areas have gone through a local Government review since the LTP was written. This changes the context within which some of the plan actions were written and developed. For example with parking provision no longer shared between District and County council.
- 9.9 The current document is very detailed and comprehensive but is also somewhat inaccessible for the majority of audiences. The intention is to create a short and concise strategy document that is accessible and clearly indicates the transport vision for Dorset Council
- 9.10 A revised Local Transport Plan will be needed to support and align with the emerging Dorset Local Plan.
- 9.11 The Highways and Transport Board Task and Finish group will be looking at the LTP as part of policy review.

Transport Evidence

- 9.12 Since 2019, Dorset Council has been working in partnership with BCP and the DLEP on updating the transport evidence base for South East Dorset in the South East Dorset Multi Modal Transport Study (SEDMMTS). This Transport Study not only covers the Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch conurbation, it also includes the travel to work areas in East Dorset and Purbeck, providing evidence on the close inter-relationship between the Dorset Council area and the South East Dorset conurbation. Further transport evidence and local area strategies will be produced to support the emerging Dorset Local Plan.

Public Engagement

- 9.13 There will be public engagement on revised LTP although this will be proportionate given that the LTP vision and goals are unlikely to change significantly from the existing strategy. We will utilise digital technology for engagement depending upon the situation with face-to-face events in the future with Covid.
- 9.14 Engagement across the Dorset Council area will be likely to include the following:

Who:

- Joint working with Dorset Local Plan officers where appropriate;
- Liaison with Dorset Council Councillors;

- Engagement with Town Councils and Parish Councils through the Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils;
- Transport Action Groups;
- Neighbourhood Plan Groups.
- Industry and other stakeholders

How:

- Digital engagement – same or similar to other Dorset Council consultation platforms;
- Local Transport Plan website - link from Dorset Council and BCP websites to the LTP website showing progress with the plan and inviting contributions during the development of the plan;
- Your Dorset magazine distributed to all households in the county.
- 'Virtual' and face-to-face events where possible.

9.15 Draft Timetable

- 9th Feb 21 – Dorset Council report to Cabinet setting out the reasons for refreshing the LTP, the process, and timescale and seeking approval to work on this strategy.
- Spring 21 –Dorset Council officers to scope work on supporting area strategies and documents. Dorset Council officers meeting with BCP officers to review existing work and agree/define any discrete pieces of work and allocate tasks/establish governance.
- Summer 21 – Workshops to agree LTP content in principle and therefore content for public engagement. Public and stakeholder engagement. Produce Draft strategy document
- Autumn 21 - Consult on revised LTP
- Winter 21/22 - Formal adoption of revised LTP

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.