

Transport and Highways

Item No. 09

Local Transport Plan (LTP) Scheme Selection Process

Purpose of announcement

To ask the Area Boards to set up a Community Area Transport Group to identify schemes they wish to progress using the discretionary highway budget that has been allocated to the Boards.

Background

The establishment of Area Boards presents an opportunity for decisions on small-scale transport and highway improvement schemes to be taken locally.

In response to this there are plans for the Area Boards to be allocated a discretionary budget to assess and select small-scale transport schemes to be progressed in their community areas. The amount of funding available to the Area Boards will be confirmed in due course.

The allocation will be for capital funding and can only be used to provide new and improved infrastructure. It is to be used for schemes that improve safety, increase accessibility and sustainability by promoting walking, cycling and public transport, and improve traffic management. It cannot be used to fund maintenance schemes or to pay for revenue functions such as passenger transport.

Due to the complexity of assessing and selecting a scheme from the many requests, and the potential time that such an agenda item would take, it is proposed that recommendations are made to the Area Board by a Community Area Transport Group (CATG).

Members of the CATG will be identified by the Community Area Manager in conjunction with the Chairman, and agreed at the Area Board. It is requested that the number on each Group should not exceed ten and that the meetings take place during the day. Meetings will be attended by relevant officers from Wiltshire Council and will be chaired by the Area Board Chairman.

It is envisaged that the first meeting of the CATG would include a half day workshop covering the following matters:-

- Background to the Council's transport policies and transport funding.
- Review of requests received in the community area.
- Assessment of schemes.
- Discussion on the need for a feasibility study
- Discussion on future funding
- Selection of scheme(s)
- Recommendation to Area Board.

Review of Local Transport Plan Car Parking Strategy

What is a Local Transport Plan (LTP)?

LTP's aim is to steer the development and implementation of national transport policies at the local level. The third Wiltshire LTP is currently being developed for final publication in March 2011.

What's the role of a car parking strategy?

A strategy that deals with the supply and management of car parking can be one of the most useful tools available to local authorities in helping them achieve their economic, social and environmental objectives. In particular, a car parking strategy can:

- support the local economy and the vitality of town centres;
- encourage sustainable travel modes and help reduce reliance on the private car;
- enhance the look of streetscenes and the built environment;
- meet residents' needs for car parking near their homes;
- improve journey time reliability for road users by reducing on-street parking contraventions;
- reduce wasteful competition between towns based on parking charges;
- raise revenue for the Council to reinvest in transport services and measures;
- make Wiltshire a safer place through well designed and managed car parks;
- provide essential access for special needs groups and the mobility impaired; and
- improve the efficiency of the Council's parking service.

Why review the car parking strategy?

The Council's current car parking strategy dates back to 2000 and now needs to be reviewed to reflect changed circumstances. Not least of these changed circumstances is the move to Wiltshire Council and the need for parking charges and standards to be broadly consistent across the whole of the county.

What's in the reviewed car parking strategy?

The Council commissioned its consultants Mouchel to undertake the review and their main report includes chapters on parking policies, parking charges, residents' parking zones and parking standards.

Making comments

Our preferred method of communication is for comments to be submitted online at <http://consult.wiltshire.gov.uk/portal>.

Alternatively, comments can be emailed to transportplanning@wiltshire.gov.uk or in writing to: Sustainable Transport Group, Wiltshire Council, County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 8JD.

Paper copies of the questionnaire and a reference copy of Mouchel's main and technical report are also available from all libraries.

The consultation is open from **12 July to 3 September 2010**.

Following steps

The Council will feedback to Area Boards between late September and mid November 2010 prior to a formal decision being made by the council's Cabinet in December 2010. Any changes to parking charges and standards will be implemented from the beginning of April 2011.

Reducing Unnecessary Street Lighting in Wiltshire

Wiltshire Council has been approached by a number of communities seeking to reduce their carbon footprint, reduce light pollution of the night sky and reduce energy costs. Street lighting and illuminated signs have been identified as a major use of energy by the Council in a recent review.

A start has been made with a project to replace the lighting units in the county's 1,600 illuminated bollards with new low energy units. Dimming and turning off unnecessary lighting for part of the night have already been successfully introduced in trial sites at Urchfont and Tidworth.

The Council has set aside £5,000 for each Area Board to introduce schemes in their areas this year. The Area Board is asked to solicit interest from Town and Parish Councils and other interested parties to take part in the scheme. The Area Board will then decide on which submissions will go ahead in their area.

The Area Board is also asked to nominate an individual to act as Project Leader, to liaise with the community and resolve any issues with the public (the Project Leader should be appointed by the Board, but does not need to be a member of the Board). The Council's staff and specialists will be available to advise on technical aspects, including the viability of the proposals, and will arrange the installation of the schemes. If successful more cash will be made available for schemes next year.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the scheme, please contact a member of your Area Board or the Community Area Manager.