

Wiltshire Council

Full Council

18 July 2023

Item 10 – Wiltshire Local Plan Review

From Colin Gale

To Cllr Nick Botterill – Cabinet Member for Finance, Development Management and Strategic Planning

Question (P23-22)

Page 165, Policy 70 – Sustainable Transport – The policy states: “influencing the routing of freight within and through the county to ensure appropriate use of the Strategic and Primary Road Network” There is no evidence that Wiltshire Council has had any influence over the routing of freight in the last 5 years plus. Wiltshire Council withdrew/cancelled its ‘Freight Management Strategy’. Wiltshire Councils Freight Management Policy review was placed on hold whilst National Highways considers their own Policy on the trunk road network for the Southwest. There is nothing in this Local Plan advising how this element of Policy 70 is going to be achieved. Please advise what definitive actions are being proposed for implementation within the local plan?

Response

Key actions will be set out as part of the Council’s Freight Strategy - currently being reviewed as part of the wider review of the Council’s Local Transport Plan.

Question (P23-23)

Page 169, Para 5.45 – Movement of Goods – This paragraph states: “Further details of the Council’s approach to freight management are contained in the Wiltshire Local Transport (LTP) Plan Freight Strategy”. The Local Plan has a dependency on the Local Transport Plan for some critical information ie Freight Strategy etc. Please advise why the Local Plan is being pushed through in advance of Local Transport Plan 4 which is not expected to go to public consultation till October – December 2023 and without the LTP4 input the LP could be quickly outdated?

Response

The Local Plan covers many land use planning issues, of which freight is just one part. The council has a statutory duty to maintain an up-to-date Plan and with the current Wiltshire Core Strategy now 8 years old, it is particularly important that we continue to progress the Plan to provide a policy framework for the sustainable development of Wiltshire and to meet the needs of communities.

It is regrettable that reviews of the Council's Local Plan and Local Transport Plan are not able to be carried out in parallel. We rely on guidance being issued by Department for Transport relating to Local Transport Plans - that guidance is still awaited and our ability to make any significant progress is compromised as a result.