

**West Wiltshire District Council**

**Cabinet**

**13 December 2004**

**Local Transport Plan II**

**1. Purpose**

To inform the Cabinet of the proposed Local Transport Plan II consultation and to suggest the District Council's response.

**2. Background**

The District Council has been a key stakeholder in the development of Local Transport Plan (LTP) I, giving particular support to the objectives of the Western Wiltshire Sustainable Transport Strategy (WWSTS), which is one of the principle programmes within LTP I.

Earlier this year the Government published draft guidance for the preparation of replacement local transport plans. The guidance has introduced a number of fundamental changes to the way local transport plans are to be prepared. The most significant is a cap of £5 million has been placed upon new transport schemes. The exception to the cap are those schemes already submitted as part of LTP I, namely, the Westbury Bypass and Codford/ Heytesbury improvement.

In terms of funding for integrated transport, 75% of future funding will be calculated by a formula. The remaining 25% will be dependent upon the quality of LTP II. The quality will be assessed on the area's importance to the delivery of the Government's shared priorities for transport, which are congestion, accessibility, safety and environmental impact. Of these four themes, congestion is effectively eliminated for Wiltshire since it is only applicable to towns with a population in excess of 250,000. The County Council requests that the District Council's response be based upon these remaining themes.

The County Council is using the government guidance as the basis for consultation on LTP II, which will cover the period 2006-07 to 2010-11. Initial consultation with a wide range of individuals, stakeholders, organisations and community groups began in September and ran until mid-October. Currently, the County Council is conducting a further round of consultation with individual groups and agencies, including all four Wiltshire district councils. As part of this consultation stage, the District Council has been asked to provide a list of priorities. A further, final round of consultation is set for February 2005, with a public

examination of the Plan by an independent panel scheduled to take place during May 2005.

**3. Key Issues**

Set out in Appendix 1 is the draft response to the County Council, based upon the above mentioned three themes. The response has been structured to reflect the District Council's Corporate Priorities, the District Plan 1<sup>st</sup> Alteration and the Transport Strategy. The Corporate Team has supported the draft response.

In summary, the proposed list of priorities is:

*Accessibility to employment opportunities*

The delivery of the WWSTS remains a key priority for the District Council. In particular, improving accessibility to the district's employment opportunities and providing the infrastructure necessary for sustainable growth. This includes improvements to the A350 and the retention of key rail services, such as the Waterloo link. These are addressed in detail within Appendix 1.

*Improving air quality*

Addressing the identified Air Quality Action Areas. The District Council highlights the air quality problems in Bradford on Avon and Westbury and seeks a comprehensive solution urgently.

*Maintaining and enhancing the district's market towns*

The environmental enhancement of the district's market towns is a key corporate objective for the District Council. LTP II is an appropriate mechanism to implement improvements to the townscape and general street scene of the five towns, including traffic management and pedestrian priority schemes.

*Safety*

Providing the residents of West Wiltshire with safe and easily accessible travel options.

**4. Options**

At this stage, Cabinet can choose to agree or amend the list of priorities as appropriate before submitting it to the County Council as the District Council's formal response.

**5. List of Background Papers**

File Ref: Local Transport Plan

File Location: Planning Policy and Conservation Section

**6. Recommendation**

The Cabinet approves the response of the District Council as set out in Appendix 1.

Councillor Michael Mounde

Councillor Richard Wiltshire

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