

**USER GROUP BULLETIN****INSIDE THIS  
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**Funding for 2007/08**

The County Council has now agreed its budget for the coming financial year giving the green-light to the draft programmes considered by the Highways & Transport Panel on 22 February 2007. Detailed lists of schemes to be taken forward from 1<sup>st</sup> April can be found in the panel papers which are available on : [www.hertsdirect.org/ltp](http://www.hertsdirect.org/ltp).

The County Council has committed substantial funding to the maintenance programme including a second year of the Highways Extra contract aiming to extend the life of local roads. In terms of other highway improvements approximately £7.8m has been allocated to meeting the LTP targets for accessibility, cycling, speed limit compliance, passenger transport patronage etc. These are further described in the table below:

LTP targets	Budget 2007/08 (£000's)
Casualty Reduction	2,245
Tackling Congestion	866
Increasing Speed Limit Compliance	750
Improving Accessibility	700
Increasing Cycling Trips	730
Sustainable Transport to school	1,274
Passenger Transport	750
Accessible Rail Network	222
Abbey Line patronage	261
Rights of Way	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,848</b>

In this bulletin you will be able to find out more about a number of these programmes.



## Reviewing County Transport Policy

It is now a full year since the publication of the second Local Transport Plan and the County Council is now beginning a review of all current transport policy that underpins the objectives set out in the plan. The County Council has policy ranging from high level strategy statements about how we work with stakeholders to specific operational policy governing the installation of traffic signs or roadside emergency telephones. The review will make an assessment of the overall effectiveness of individual policies since they were introduced, and an assessment of its

continuing relevance. The outcomes of the review will be the opportunity to refresh, rewrite or revoke policy and finally to publish all current policy in an accessible location on hertsdirect. Members of the user group will be invited to participate in this debate over the coming months. If you have any views or comments about County Council Transport Policy that we should consider as part of this review please let the Transport Policy team know by email (addresses are listed on the back page)

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## User Group Meeting and Workshops

There was some feedback from members of the User Group regarding future meetings and therefore we are proposing, provided there is enough interest, to run an evening event on July 11th 2007 from 18.30 pm, in order for you to meet the policy team and contribute your thoughts to current areas of debate. The event will provide you with an overview of progress

on the second Local Transport Plan and a practical opportunity to engage in debate on a number of current issues through a series of workshops likely to include tackling congestion, responding to climate change, addressing social inclusion (accessibility) and pedestrian priority.

Please contact the office if you would like to attend this session.

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## Tackling the Causes and Impacts of Congestion

The County Council has identified congestion as one of the key challenges facing Hertfordshire. In a recent paper to the Highways and Transport Panel (15<sup>th</sup> March 2007) members were updated on the work currently being undertaken by the authority to tackle congestion, and were invited to discuss what more could be done and what that might be. It is currently proposed that wider stakeholders (including the User Group) will be invited to contribute to this debate later this year as we explore these questions further.

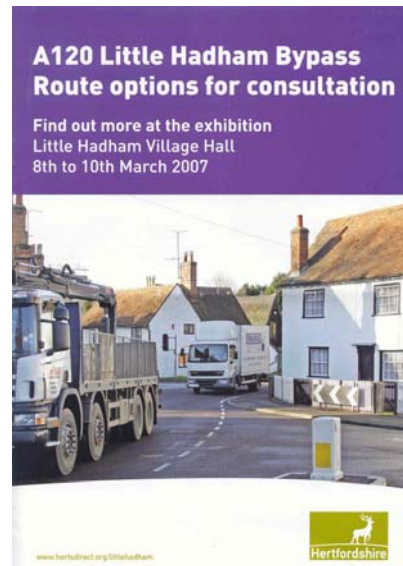
## Responding to Climate Change

Members of the User Group will have noticed the increasing emphasis on tackling climate change that is coming from government and through the media. There is wide acceptance throughout the scientific community that something needs to be done to reduce the impact that our lives have on the environment as a whole. Herts County Council has recently signed up to the Nottingham Declaration which demonstrates the authority's commitment to do its part and will be preparing a

climate change strategy over the coming months. The contribution of transport, however its impact may be measured (i.e. whether by nitrogen oxides, particulate emissions, or CO<sub>2</sub>), is one of the key contributors where action must be taken. We are currently undertaking some research in order to inform what options might be available to reducing the impact of the transport sector across Hertfordshire.

## A120 at Little Hadham

There was significant interest in the recent consultation events regarding the proposed routes for a local bypass to Little Hadham. The consultation, which closed on 23 March 2007 attracted many comments from local residents eager to share their views. A series of roadshows were held in the village hall and were well attended. The results of the consultation will be reported to the Highways & Transport Panel on 5 July 2007 when members will be asked to agree a preferred option.



## Clutter Challenge

Members of the User Group may remember that the County Council signed up to the CPRE's Clutter Challenge aimed at reducing the proliferation of road signs alongside the county's roads. Whilst the principles have been applied as part of significant improvement schemes, e.g. St Peters Street, St Albans limited progress has yet been made.

The Transport Policy Team is currently trying to establish a process for embedding the principle of de-cluttering into the way we work. As you will no doubt appreciate

there is a cost associated with proactively consolidating highway signs and many are there for legal reasons. However we are keen to avoid clutter appearing in the first place through guidance for highway engineers. To help us with this, members of the User Group are invited to send in photographs of good and bad practice that they have spotted in their travels around the county. You can email your pictures (one or two at a time due to the size of these files) with a few notes to:

Trevor.Mose@hertscc.gov.uk. (please include the words '**clutter challenge**' in the subject line.

## User Group Membership

Members of the User Group are encouraged to share the contents of this newsletter with the groups they represent and other groups that may be interested. If there are individuals or groups that would wish to receive this information directly please get in touch with us and we can add them to our mailing list.

Past copies of this bulletin are available online: [www.hertsdirect.org/ltp](http://www.hertsdirect.org/ltp)

If you would like or know anyone else who would like this bulletin in an alternative format or language please contact us.

## Spotlight on LTP Targets - Accessibility Targets

Successful delivery of the Accessibility Strategy is determined through a series of performance indicators and associated targets. The audit process showed that the biggest access problem and concern is to hospitals and for this reason our indicator was 'percentage of people who find it difficult to travel to a local hospital'.

The baseline figure for 2005 is 29% and the target figure to achieve by 2010/11 is 20%.

The indicator is being monitored using an annual MORI survey of Hertfordshire residents. The Accessibility Steering Group is currently developing new indicators in conjunction with its partner organisations and these will be based on improving the door to door experience for residents of Hertfordshire who do not have access to a car.

## West Herts Transport Plan Adopted

The Highways and Transport Panel endorsed the final West Herts Transport Plan at its meeting on the 15 March 2007. The plan will shortly be available on <http://www.hertsdirect.org/roadtrans/hh/schemes/hertstransplans/>

Further information can be requested from the Transport Policy Team.

## Transport Policy Team

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