

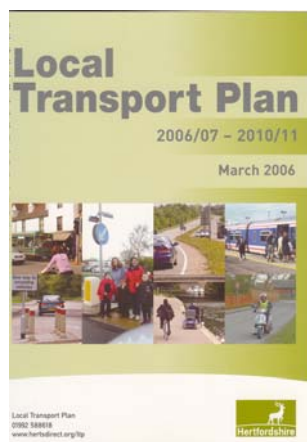
USER GROUP BULLETIN

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LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2 (LTP2)

The last meeting of the User Group was back in December 2005 at a time when the County Council was preparing to submit the final Local Transport Plan 2006/07 – 2010/11 (LTP2). A lot has happened since then and this bulletin summarises the key developments for members of the User Group and looks forward to 2007.



Key events of the last 12 months

- ◆ *December 2005* – Notification of DfT provisional funding allocation for LTP2. These are reported on page 100 of the LTP2.
- ◆ *March 2006* – Submission of final LTP2 and daughter documents to Go-East and DfT.
(Road Safety Plan, Bus Strategy, Rail Strategy, Rights of Way Improvement Plan, Accessibility Strategy, and Long Term Strategy).
- ◆ *July 2006* – Submission of LTP1 Delivery Report setting out the achievements of the first Local Transport Plan.

Queen's speech November 2006

In her speech at the opening of parliament the Queen introduced a number of bills relevant to transport:

Road Transport Bill – Legislation to be published in 2007 and to include measures tackling congestion and to improve public transport. This will introduce

steps to introduce national road pricing framework and greater powers to control buses.

Concessionary Bus Travel Bill -

Legislation to provide free off-peak travel for pensioners and disabled people on buses anywhere in England from April 2008.



Implementing LTP2

The Transport Policy team have been hard at work to communicate the significant shift between the first and second LTP.

Whereas LTP1 was about aspirations and broad outcomes, LTP2 sets out specific targets, and resources are allocated to these rather than across broad programmes or areas.

What this means is that spending is unlikely to be geographically even. It will be allocated to areas of primary need and where evidence of a problem exists.

Groups have been established to lead on the identification and development of schemes aimed at meeting each of the targets. These schemes are then combined to form the County Council's Integrated Works Programme and is delivered (budget permitting) in subsequent years. The process for developing schemes for 2007/08 is well underway and will be taken in draft form to the Highways and Transport Panel later in 2007.

Decisions on the budget will be taken by the County Council in February 2007.

Major Schemes

The process for funding "Major schemes" like the Baldock bypass (costing over £5million) has also changed. A new system known as the Regional Funding Allocation (RFA) has been introduced. Regional assemblies now advise the DfT on priorities for an individual region based on a regional pot of money.

Hertfordshire submitted, as part of LTP2, bids for the Watford Junction Interchange, Croxley Rail Link and the A120 at Little Hadham.

The first two have been accepted into the programme for funding between 2009/10 and 2015/16 although final funding is subject to a number of conditions being met.

Work continues on the Baldock bypass to introduce improvements on the bypassed routes in Baldock, now that the new route has been opened.



Baldock bypass

London Low Emission Zone Consultation

Transport for London (TfL) is currently consulting on proposals for implementing a Low Emission Zone for the Greater London area. The primary purpose is to reduce the number of high polluting vehicles driving through the capital. This will be achieved through applying emissions based criteria to certain classes of vehicle, and charging those that don't comply.

The scheme could be introduced in July 2008 and will first affect Heavy Goods Vehicles and subsequently buses and coaches and then lighter goods vehicles and minibuses. The County Council will be putting together a response and would welcome views of the User Group. The consultation closes on February 2nd 2007.

See www.tfl.gov.uk/lezlondon

County Council Denied Transport Innovation Funding (TIF)

In July, the County Council submitted a bid to government for "pump-priming" money to develop ideas around tackling congestion, enhanced real time information and passenger transport services.

The results of the bidding were publicised in November and unfortunately the County Council was unsuccessful.

Hertfordshire Matters

Decision Making Structure

Cllr Stuart Pile is the current member with executive responsibility for Highways, Transport and Rural Affairs. He forms part of the County Council's Cabinet led by Cllr David Beatty who is the new leader of the County Council. The Highways and Transport Panel provides advice to Cllr Pile although it has no executive powers. The Highways and Transport Panel has a new chairman with Cllr Clare Berry taking the helm. The panel has also increased in size and now has 16 members

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/yrccouncil/ccandp/Committees%20and%20Panels/Cabinet%20Panels/Transport%20Panel>

County Council Officers

Louise Warner who led the preparation of LTP2 has left the Council and Trevor Mose now has responsibility for taking forward LTP2. Trevor joined the Transport Policy team in May 2006 having previously worked in the County Council's Environmental Management Group. Contact details for Trevor are 01992 556193 or via email

Trevor.Mose@hertscc.gov.uk

New Rail Franchises

First Group Plc took over the running of the former Great Northern routes from London Kings Cross, Moorgate and the Thameslink Route 1 April 2006. The new franchise known as "First Capital Connect" is committed to spending £53 million on station enhancements throughout the first three years of the franchise.

What is Coming Up?

The following topics are scheduled to be discussed by the Highways and Transport Panel over the next few months:

- Revised Cycling strategy
 - Borehamwood & Elstree Urban Plan
 - LTP 2007/08 financial settlement
 - West Herts Area Plan
 - Safety Cameras – annual report
 - Transport Asset Management Plan
 - A120 at Little Hadham
 - Transport Policy Review
 - Congestion Strategy.
 - Integrated Works Programme 2007/08
 - Bus Network Reviews
 - Letchworth and Baldock Urban Plan
 - South West Herts strategy review
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Continued Role and Function of User Group

Now that LTP2 has been published there is the opportunity to reassess the function of the User Group. From the County Council's perspective we are keen to maintain dialogue with users and the User Group provides the best forum for this.

We are considering developing this bulletin as the primary means of keeping you informed with matters of interest or relevance. In our view there is still however a role for meetings to debate and discuss issues around policy development and implementation but these will be "as and when" rather than regular meetings.

The County Council would be grateful to receive ideas on the role of the group, the demand for information and the purpose of any future meetings. In order to take stock of your views we have attached a simple questionnaire which we would ask you to return along with any ideas you may have.

The results will help us to plan future meetings of the forum.

Please send these to Trevor Mose by the end of February 2007.