

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan 2006/07 - 2010/11 sets the framework for achieving the vision for a better transport system for all. This plan will build upon the success of the first Local Transport Plan and focus on delivering the shared priorities of tackling congestion, delivering accessibility, providing safer roads, improving air quality and improving the quality of life for residents. Through these themes the plan will continue to tackle the complex transport problems that face Hertfordshire.

Hertfordshire has a population of over 1 million residents and increasing numbers of long distance travellers passing through. There are pressures for substantial growth which could have significant impacts on transport infrastructure in the county.

The transport network has a north-south focus serving London, the Midlands and the North on the A1(M), M1 and East Coast, Midland and West Coast Main Line railway routes. With the exception of the heavily congested M25 in the south of the county, there are very few east-west routes. This is a particular problem for east-west rail passenger journeys, which often require taking the train into central London.

Settlements within the county are no more than five miles apart and consist of small and

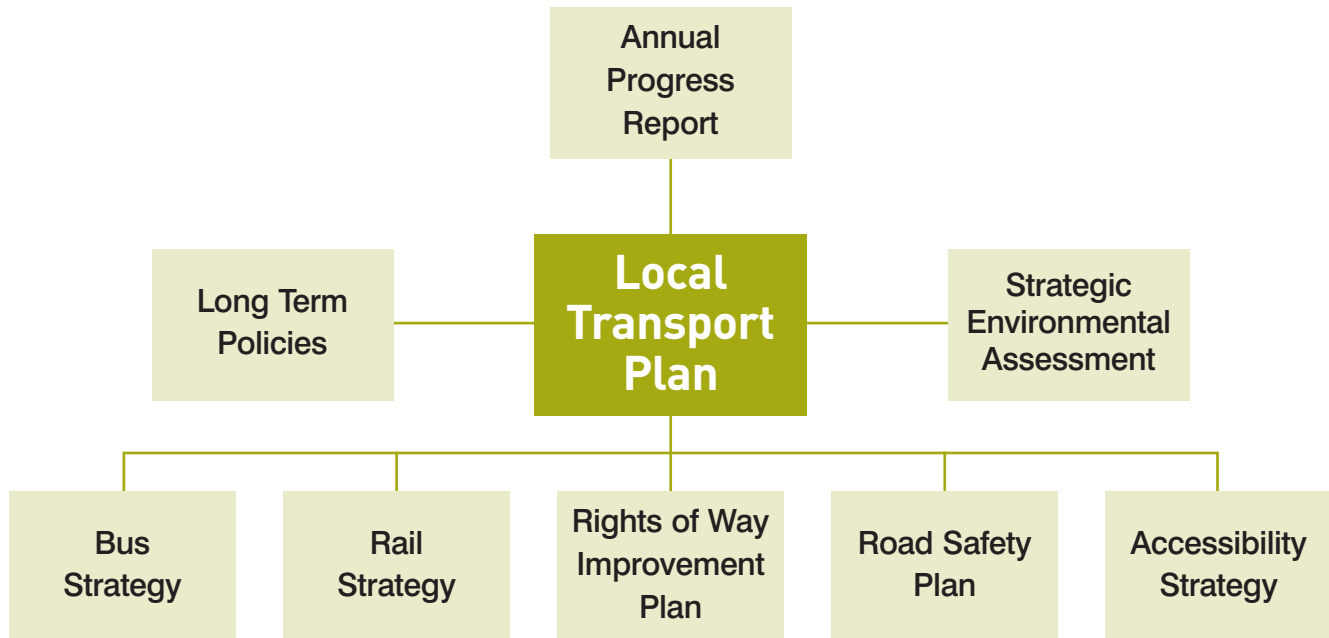
medium sized towns creating complicated movements to access facilities and services. Congestion within local towns creates local difficulties for all users and impacts on the quality of the environment.

The county is affluent with low unemployment levels and high car ownership, but there are also those who are excluded due to the lack of transport availability. This plan sets the County Council's framework for tackling these transport issues and is focused on delivering outcomes which will make a demonstrable difference to the transport choices for residents and visitors in Hertfordshire.

This Plan introduces the concept of Accessibility Planning which will help to tackle the problem of getting to key services such as work, education, health and food shopping. The full Accessibility Strategy accompanies this plan, as does the Rights of Way Improvement Plan which will help accessibility particularly in rural areas.

The Local Transport Plan is the delivery vehicle for transport improvements in the county. The plan is supported by a number of daughter documents which provide greater detail on key areas of work. The diagram opposite shows the documents and the links to the Local Transport Plan.

## Diagram showing the Local Transport Plan and associated documents



This full plan was submitted to the Department for Transport in March 2006.

### 1.1 Consultation

Consultation with stakeholders and the general public played a crucial part in the development of the Local Transport Plan 2006/07 - 2010/11 and daughter documents. The County Council already has established consultation processes and a database of around 550 stakeholders, which was developed through the LTP1 process. The database includes: other council departments, parish/town councils, district/borough councils, neighbouring authorities, local interest groups, equalities groups, national organisations, transport operators and statutory undertakers. The development of LTP2 however, has built upon these processes engaging further stakeholders, and bringing organisations together to discuss transport issues i.e. through the accessibility strategy.

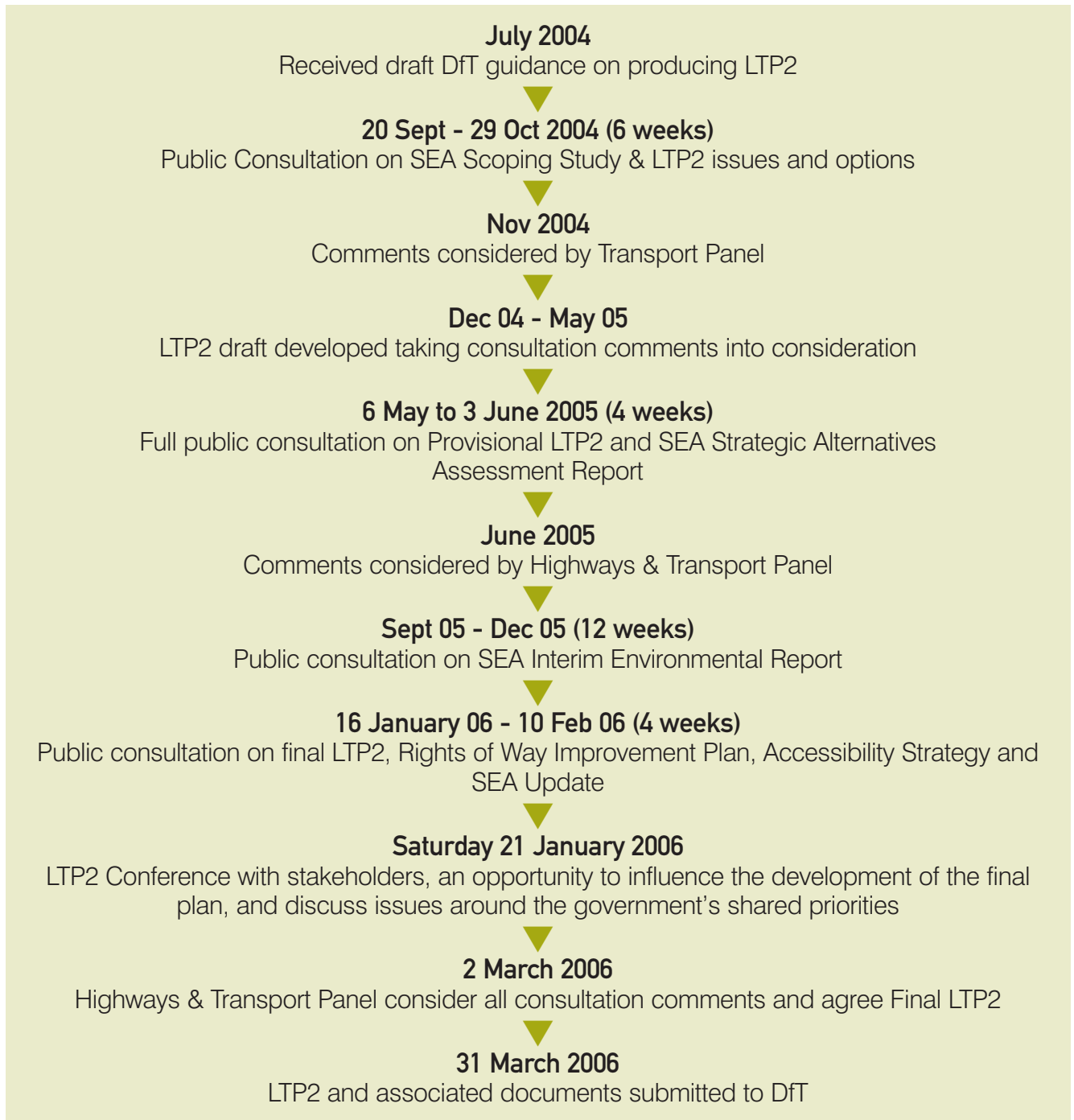
The County Council also continues to hold a number of stakeholder groups, who had the

opportunity to see early drafts of the document, and so contribute to and influence the development of the provisional and final Plan. These groups include:

- Local Transport Plan Strategic Group;
- Local Transport Plan Users Group;
- Transport Issues for Disabled People Group;
- Joint Member Meeting of the Transport Panel (with county and district level members and officers);
- Regional Accessibility Planning Group;
- Local education, work, and health groups for accessibility planning.

The production of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report has been a new statutory function for the County Council to produce, in conjunction with the development of LTP2. This has also had its own consultation requirements as set out in the EU Directive.

The following diagram shows Hertfordshire's consultation processes since the publication of draft DfT guidance on Local Transport Plans in July 2004, this diagram also incorporates the SEA consultation processes.



After any consultation period the County Council produces a consultation report. These reports are sent to all consultees, and detail the County Council's response to the individual comments made, and how the comments have been incorporated into the Local Transport Plan.

Even after documents have been published the County Council still welcome comments from the public and stakeholders on transport issues, and these are used to develop future policy and plans.

### How has consultation influenced the development of the Plan?

Consultation on the provisional LTP was undertaken in May/June 2005 and involved consultees either completing a questionnaire or sending in separate comments. The key outcomes from this consultation were:

- Chapter 2, Traffic, Travel and Transport in Hertfordshire was expanded to provide a better picture of the transport context in Hertfordshire;
- Expanded the shared priority Quality of Life section, including a new section on lighting, and adding further information around landscape and biodiversity;
- The prioritisation of the three major schemes: A120 at Little Hadham, Watford Junction Interchange and Croxley Rail Link;
- Further developed the Congestion Action Plan to include passenger transport and school run measures.

Consultation on the Final Local Transport Plan (undertaken in January/February 2006) was centred around a number of key areas identified for strengthening by DfT in their assessment of the Provisional LTP. These key areas were: congestion, air quality and accessibility. The draft Accessibility Strategy and Rights of Way Improvement Plan were also sent out for consultation. Key outcomes from this consultation were:

- References made to 'Investing in Your Health', 'Investing in Your Mental Health' initiatives and emergency planning in the Accessibility Strategy;
- Inserted information on the Chilterns Area Of National Beauty;
- Congestion, accessibility and quality of life shared priority sections expanded;

- Added further wording around climate change in Section 10;
- Included the Congestion Action Plan;
- LTP wording amended to clarify the target areas for Accessibility Planning.

The County Council also held a LTP2 Conference at the end of January 2006 to allow stakeholders an opportunity to comment on the Final Local Transport Plan. At this conference discussion forums were held around congestion, road safety, accessibility, air quality and quality of life issues. The key outcomes from this conference were:

- Comments around congestion, road safety, accessibility, air quality and quality of life issues were used to expand the shared priority sections;
- Included further wording on the Safety Camera Partnership and traffic calming;
- Will look at access to cinemas as part of the audit of leisure facilities for accessibility planning.

Specific local comments received through consultation processes are fed to colleagues at the County Council and Hertfordshire Highways.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Statement (see Annex E) comments on the level of influence the SEA process had throughout the plan-making process, and includes the degree to which consultation had an effect on the development of the Plan.

## 1.2 Comments

The County Council publishes the Local Transport Plan and the associated daughter documents on its website at [www.hertsdirect.org/ltpl](http://www.hertsdirect.org/ltpl), and the documents are also available for reference in public libraries and local council offices.

Comments are welcomed on this Local Transport Plan and should be sent to either of the following:

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## 1.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment

The European Directive 2001/42/EC and Central Government Local Transport Plan guidance requires that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is carried out on Local Transport Plans.

The culmination of the process is that an Environmental Report is produced which details how consultation, and the recommendations from the assessments of the objectives, strategic alternatives, policy and major schemes have been taken into consideration and have influenced the development of the Local Transport Plan. An environmental statement has been produced, summarising how the Strategic Environmental Assessment has been taken into account in the development of the Plan.

A diagram showing the five stages of carrying out a Strategic Environmental Assessment is in **Annex E** with the Environmental Statement

Further information and detail on the Strategic Environmental Assessment on the Local Transport Plan can be found in the Environmental Report, which has been published as a separate document. This can be found on the County Council's website [www.hertsdirect.org/ltpl](http://www.hertsdirect.org/ltpl) or for reference at local libraries.