

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET
MONDAY 23 JUNE 2003 AT 2.00 P.M.

COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY 15 JULY 2003
(please retain for County Council meeting)

Agenda item no.

Cabinet

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County Council
(Refer to agenda
when published)

LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Report of the Director of Environment

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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek the approval of the 2002/03 Local Transport Plan Annual Progress Report for submission to the Department for Transport.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The County Council is required to publish an Annual Progress Report on the Local Transport Plan for submission to the Department of Transport by 31 July 2003. The format of the document follows government guidance.
- 2.2 The development of the Annual Progress Report has been overseen by the Transport Panel.
- 2.3 The Annual Progress Report includes a new policy on Rural Transport which replaces the one set out in the Local Transport Plan.
- 2.4 The document also includes a supplementary bid to government of £1.15 million to fund works on the existing A10 following completion of the Wadesmill Bypass.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The Cabinet is asked to consider the Local Transport Plan Annual Progress Report and make an appropriate proposal to the County Council.

1. Background

- 1.1 The County Council is required by the Transport Act 2000 to publish a Local Transport Plan (LTP). The LTP sets out the authority's transport objectives and programmes, and forms a bid for capital funding for transport schemes. The current LTP was published in July 2000 and covers the five year period 2001/02 – 2005/06.
- 1.2 In the intervening years between LTP documents, the County Council is required to publish an Annual Progress Report (APR). This document sets out progress against the programme of works and targets, and allows the County Council to make adjustments to the LTP.
- 1.3 This year's APR document must be submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) by 31 July 2003.

2. Development of the Annual Progress Report

- 2.1 The development of the APR has been undertaken by the Transport Panel, and detailed consideration of the draft document was undertaken at the meetings on 13 May and 3 June. The Panel noted that programme spend and scheme delivery were well within the acceptable range, but that further consideration would need to be given to some areas where performance indicators show targets are not being met.
- 2.2 The content and format of the APR is determined by the DfT guidance published in April 2003. As an 'Excellent' authority under Comprehensive Performance Assessment, the County Council is strictly speaking not required to produce a full APR. However, large elements of the document are still required by DfT. Given also that the APR serves an informative role for elected members, local transport operators, interest groups and the general public, the Transport Panel proposed that the full document should be produced.
- 2.3 The opportunity has also been provided for district councils and local and community groups to provide suggestions on the overall content of the APR.

3. Proposed Policy Changes

- 3.1 The APR includes a new policy on Rural Transport which will replace the existing policy set out in the LTP. The need for this updated policy has arisen from the completion of pilot projects, the establishment of new partnerships, and the outcomes of the Hertfordshire Rural Forum. The new policy has been considered through the Transport Panel and the Rural Forum.
- 3.2 The new policy is set out in Annex J of the attached draft APR.

4. Changes to Bid

- 4.1 The APR does not change the overall bid as set out in the LTP. However, the opportunity has been taken to include a supplementary bid to cover works on the existing A10 when the Wadesmill Bypass is opened.
- 4.2 The supplementary bid is for £1.15 million in 2004/05, and details are included in Annex C of the attached draft document. This bid is in addition to the annual LTP block allocation, and it is expected that the outcome of the bid will be announced in December.

5. Draft Annual Progress Report

- 5.1 The draft Annual Progress Report is attached as Appendix 1.
- 5.2 The APR is a public document and will be made available in public libraries and on the HertsDirect website. Copies will also be sent to relevant organisations within Hertfordshire and to neighbouring authorities.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising out of the publication of the Annual Progress Report. However, the document may have an impact on the level of government capital allocation to Hertfordshire which will need to be considered when the government announces its allocation in December.