

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

MONDAY 17 JUNE 2002 AT 2.00 P.M.

COUNTY COUNCIL

TUESDAY 18 JUNE AT 10.30 A.M.

**LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN - ANNUAL PROGRESS
REPORT AND POLICY CHANGES**

Report of the Director of Environment

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Executive Member:- Iris Tarry

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval of the Local Transport Plan Annual Progress Report, including proposed policy changes, for submission to the Department for Transport (DfT).

2. Summary

- 2.1 The County Council is required to publish an Annual Progress Report on the Local Transport Plan for submission to DfT by 31 July 2002. The format of the document follows the guidance produced by DfT.
- 2.2 This year's Annual Progress Report contains changes to four of the policies set out in the Local Transport Plan. These changes have been developed in consultation with over 500 local organisations.
- 2.3 The development of the Annual Progress Report has been overseen by the Transport Panel. The draft document, including the proposed policy changes, was agreed at its meeting on 27 May 2002 for consideration by the Cabinet.

3. Conclusion

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

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1. Background

- 1.1 The County Council is required to publish a Local Transport Plan (LTP) under the Transport Act 2000. The first LTP was prepared in July 2000 and covers the period 2001/02 to 2005/06. The next LTP will be submitted in July 2005.
- 1.2 In the four intervening years between the LTP documents, the County Council is required to publish an Annual Progress Report (APR) which sets out performance against targets and programmes of works over the preceding financial year. The APR also provides the opportunity to make amendments to the policies set out in the LTP, although it is expected that such changes will be kept to a minimum.
- 1.3 The APR must be submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) by 31 July 2002.
- 1.4 The APR does not form part of the bid for transport funding. However, the quality of the Annual Progress Report is one of the factors in determining the authority's discretionary element of the Single Capital Pot and the allocation of any additional LTP funding that may become available at a national level.

2. Development of the Annual Progress Report

- 2.1 The development of the APR has been undertaken by the Transport Panel. This follows on from the Panel's role in developing the LTP and providing recommendations on how the annual financial settlement should be allocated to individual programmes.
- 2.2 The work in developing the APR has included consultation with standing groups covering districts, user groups and strategic transport organisations. In addition the proposed policy changes have been sent to over 500 local organisations and individuals.
- 2.3 The contents of the APR follows DfT guidance published in May 2002, although some additional information has been included to make it relevant to local audiences.

3. Proposed Policy Changes

- 3.1 The APR includes four policy changes;
 - a new policy on Social Inclusion
 - a new policy on Transport Issues for Disabled People
 - a new policy statement on cycle facilities
 - a new policy statement on the use of bus lanes by other vehicles.

These four policy changes are shown in Annexes F-H of the attached APR.

- 3.2 The two new complete policies on "Social Inclusion" and "Transport Issues for Disabled People" have arisen from DfT comments on the Social Inclusion

policy set out in the LTP. A commitment has been made to produce revised policies by July 2002.

- 3.3 The policy statement on cycle facilities arose from a request from the Hertfordshire Cycle Forum, whilst the use of bus lanes policy statement results from a need to ensure consistency on new bus priority measures.
- 3.4 The policy changes were subject to consultation in April May 2002, and the responses were considered by the Transport Panel on 27 May 2002. The use of bus lanes policy statement was also subject to a separate consultation in 2000 and was considered as part of the Green Route scrutiny process in 2001/02.
- 3.5 The consultation comments on the Transport Issues for Disabled People were also considered by a meeting of disability groups in May 2002.

4. Draft Annual Progress Report

- 4.1 The draft Annual Progress Report is attached.
- 4.2 The APR will be a public document. It will be made available in public libraries and on the County Council's website. Copies will also be sent to relevant organisations in Hertfordshire and to neighbouring authorities.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising out of the publication of this year's APR. However, the document may have an impact on the level of government resources allocated to Hertfordshire.