

East Herts Council Non-Key Decision Report

Date: 2 February 2021

Report by: Councillor Linda Haysey – Leader of the Council

Report title: Hertfordshire County Council – Draft Hertfordshire Eastern Area Growth and Transport Plan Consultation, October 2020

Ward(s) affected: All

Summary

- The report discusses Hertfordshire County Council's Draft Hertfordshire Eastern Area Growth and Transport Plan and proposes East Herts Council's response to the consultation.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DECISION: That:

Hertfordshire County Council be informed that East Herts Council (the Council):

- (a) Welcomes the publication of the Growth and Transport Plan and the identification of interventions and packages to address transport issues across the area, particularly in relation to increasing the potential for sustainable journeys to be undertaken.**
- (b) Submits representations within the table at Appendix A to this report as its main response to key issues raised in the Draft Hertfordshire Eastern Area Growth and Transport Plan Consultation; and**
- (c) Submits representations within the table at Appendix B to this report as its response to minor matters and typographical errors within the Draft Hertfordshire Eastern Area Growth and Transport Plan Consultation.**

1.0 Proposal(s)

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of Hertfordshire County Council's (HCC) consultation on its Draft Hertfordshire Eastern Area Growth and Transport Plan, which closes on 28th February 2021 (an extension from initial closing date of 31st January 2021), and to agree this Council's response.

2.0 Background

2.1 On 30th October 2020, HCC launched a consultation on its draft Hertfordshire Eastern Area Growth and Transport Plan.

2.2 The Hertfordshire Eastern Area Growth and Transport Plan (EGTP) comprises a new transport strategy which is intended to help direct and plan transport improvements and investment in Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth and their surrounding areas.

2.3 On 9th December 2020, Members benefited from a presentation by Trevor Brennan, HCC's Strategy and Programme Manager for East Herts and Broxbourne, where headline details of the consultation were discussed and the opportunity to ask questions was provided.

2.4 Consultation on the EGTP closes on 28th February 2021. This is an extension on the initial closing date of 31st January 2021, to allow for additional representations to be made and take into account that respondents may have been affected by the inability to access documents with Covid-19 restrictions in place.

2.5 East Herts Council's proposed headline response to the Draft EGTP is set out in the recommendations at the head of this report, with detailed responses provided at **Appendix A** and **Appendix B**.

3.0 Reason(s)

Draft Growth and Transport Plan Proposals

- 3.1 The Hertfordshire Eastern Area Growth and Transport Plan (EGTP) comprises a new transport strategy which is intended to help direct and plan transport improvements and investment in Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth and their surrounding areas.
- 3.2 The Plan is intended as a supporting strategy to Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) and builds on the principles contained therein.
- 3.3 Attention is drawn to the important transport links in the area including the M11, A120, A1184, A414, A1250, B1383 and B1004 roads, the West Anglia Main Line railway line, the National Cycle Routes 11 and 16 and a range of local and longer distance bus and coach services.
- 3.4 However, it is also recognised that the GTP area is subject to significant levels of growth in the forms of proposed new housing and employment development. These developments, alongside growth in surrounding areas both within, and external to, Hertfordshire will create travel pressure for additional journeys on the network. The EGTP will aim to address these pressures through a variety of mechanisms to lessen the effects of current and future congestion issues and their negative impact, while providing opportunities for more active and sustainable journeys to be made.
- 3.5 It is important to note that the EGTP has been prepared alongside the draft South East Area GTP (covering an area including Hertford, Ware, Hoddesdon, Broxbourne, Cheshunt and Waltham Cross, and their surrounding areas), which is being consulted on concurrently with this draft Plan (the subject of a separate non-key decision), and where there are some interlinkages. Therefore, the two GTPs have been

devised to align and the proposed packages of interventions within each Plan are intended to work together with the other.

- 3.6 The EGTP itself comes in the form of an overarching Prospectus, detailing the main headlines and themes to be addressed, and a Stage 3 Interventions Paper, which provides an in-depth assessment of topic areas and specific proposals at a more localised level.
- 3.7 The Plan identifies the methodology behind, and details of, twenty three categories of interventions and proposes a series of thirty seven packages aimed at their delivery. Such interventions vary significantly in size and anticipated timescale for delivery and are also dependent on funding opportunities and degree of local support.
- 3.8 The four key challenges that the document seeks to address in the Hertfordshire Eastern Area GTP area are:
- Lack of safe and attractive cycle and pedestrian routes;
 - Traffic congestion and routing;
 - Poor east-west public transport connections; and,
 - Growth.
- 3.9 The series of proposals are bundled into specific area Packages:
- Packages 1-24 Bishop's Stortford
Packages 25-28 Bishop's Stortford – links to other towns
Packages 29-34 Sawbridgeworth
Packages 35-37 Connections to Harlow
- 3.10 As some packages lie outside East Herts, it is intended that responses will only be made in respect of those in this district, except for any cases where there would be effects caused by interlinkages between local authority areas.

- 3.11 Proposed representations to form the main response to key issues raised in the Draft Hertfordshire Eastern Area Growth and Transport Plan Consultation are to be found within the table at **Appendix A** to this report, with the table at **Appendix B** responding to minor matters and typographical errors.

Next Stages

- 3.12 The Council will submit the responses to the EGTP at the head of this report and at **Appendix A** and **Appendix B**, before the consultation closes on 28th February 2021. Subject to the outcome of the consultation, HCC will agree the EGTP and work towards delivery of the schemes included in the finalised packages, in due course.

4.0 Options

- 4.1 The Council could choose not to respond to the consultation.

5.0 Risks

- 5.1 Not responding to the consultation would mean that the Council would miss the opportunity to respond to HCC in relation to any key concerns with, or suggestions for improving, the Draft Eastern Growth and Transport Plan.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

- 6.1 This report is a response to HCC's Draft Hertfordshire Eastern Area Growth and Transport Plan.

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

No

Equalities

No

Environmental Sustainability

No

Financial

No there are no financial implications of responding to the consultation.

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

No

Human Rights

No

Legal

No

Specific Wards

All Wards

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

- Draft Hertfordshire Eastern Area Growth and Transport Plan, Hertfordshire County Council, October 2020
<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/consultations/transport-and-highways/eastern-area-growth-and-transport-plan.aspx#>
- Local Transport Plan 2018 - 2031 (LTP4), Hertfordshire County Council, May 2018 <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/about-the-council/consultations/ltp4-local-transport-plan-4-complete.pdf>
- Hertfordshire's Local Transport Plan Rural Transport Strategy July 2019 – 2031, Hertfordshire County Council, 2019

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/environment-and-planning/planning/rural-transport-strategy.pdf>

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