

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 1 DECEMBER 2009

REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PLANNING POLICY  
AND TRANSPORT

5. EAST HERTS COUNCIL TRANSPORT AND PARKING STRATEGY –  
A NEW WAY FORWARD

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

**Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To advise Members of recent developments which merit a revised approach to the East Herts Transport and Parking Strategy currently under development.
- To suggest what that revised approach should be.
- To ask Environment Scrutiny Committee to recommend to the Executive the adoption of the revised terms and timescale for the preparation of a Transport and Parking Strategy for East Herts recommended in the report.

| <b><u>'D' RECOMMENDATION</u> that</b> |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>(A)</b>                            | <b>the changed circumstances since East Herts Council began preparation of its Transport and Parking Strategy be noted.</b>  |
| <b>(B)</b>                            | <b>A revised approach and timescale for the preparation of this strategy be supported.</b>   |
| <b>(C)</b>                            | <b>East Herts Council's active involvement in Hertfordshire County Council's preparation of a new Local Transport Plan (LTP3), to reflect changed requirements recently imposed by central government be supported.</b>  |
| <b>(D)</b>                            | <b>A recommendation to the Executive that East Herts Council should prepare its transport and parking strategy for the District in tandem with HCC's preparation of LTP3, using the same framework and with links to this document where appropriate be supported.</b> |

## 1.0 Background

- 1.1 The 2009/10 Customer Services Service Plan, adopted by the Executive on 17 March 2009, contains a commitment to: *“Manage a review of transportation policy to be undertaken by East Herts Council during 2009/10.”* A completion date of March 2010 was ascribed to this task.
- 1.2 The Local Transport Act 2008, recently enacted, makes significant changes to the way in which local transport authorities (in this case Hertfordshire County Council) must produce and deliver their Local Transport Plan (LTP).
- 1.3 The nature of these changes suggest that East Herts Council should cease work on its Transport Strategy as originally planned and prepare a revised strategy in parallel with the county council's evolving Local Transport Plan - LTP3.

## 2.0 Report

- 2.1 The 2009/10 Service plan for Customer Services incorporates a commitment to prepare a transport strategy for East Herts Council. Lead responsibility for this work lies with the Council's Parking Manager.
- 2.2 East Herts Council is the parking authority for its own area, but not the transport authority. The latter role is owned by Hertfordshire County Council. Any East Herts Transport Strategy would have to reflect this council's subsidiary role in most transport matters and the considerable volume of work already done or being done in the area of transport at national, regional and county level.
- 2.3 The Local Transport Act 2008 has now been enacted. The Act sets out a new national policy framework for the preparation of LTPs by local transport authorities. Significant changes include:
  - An explicit requirement for authorities to consider their contribution to national transport goals as over-arching priorities for their LTPs.
  - A set of five overarching goals and subsidiary challenges that LTPs must address. The five goals are defined as:
    - Support economic growth

- Tackle climate change
- Promote equality of opportunity
- Contribute to better safety, security and health
- Improve quality of life

The 22 subsidiary challenges that support delivery of these goals are identified in **Essential Reference Document B** on pages 5.7 - 5.8. A “plain English” version of the challenges, adopted by Hertfordshire County Council for the purpose of their LTP3 is contained in their September 2009 LTP Bulletin and offered as **Essential Reference Document C** on pages 5.9 - 5.13.

- 2.4 It will be noted that this new approach is consistent with many aspects of the East Herts Council Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-2024, (*Everyone Matters*). It is also the case that aspects of the HCC and East Herts strategies could support the delivery of elements of the East Herts Climate Change Strategy reported to the East Herts Executive on 13 October 2009.
- 2.5 Hertfordshire County Council has confirmed that the Local Transport Act 2008 will require the adoption of a fresh approach to its transport policies and how they will be delivered. Accordingly, it has started work on a new LTP, (LTP3), to be published by April 2011. As a key stakeholder for its district, East Herts Council should expect to contribute fully to the development of LTP3 as it impacts this district.
- 2.6 Given that preparation of LTP3 is already underway and that the county council bears responsibility for most transport policy development, it is suggested that East Herts Council should:
- Re-focus its efforts into full participation in HCC’s preparation of LTP3; and
  - Develop its own, parallel strategy, with clear linkages to the county council’s document and using the same methodology and timeframe.
- 2.7 East Herts Council’s local Transport and Parking Strategy would necessarily incorporate a comprehensive parking strategy. Elements of such a strategy exist already; however there is at present no single document that can be pointed to as an all-encompassing strategy. The new statutory framework for preparation of LTPs would be a useful and appropriate framework for the preparation of the East Herts strategy and officers propose to adopt it for this purpose. This, together with active participation

by East Herts Council in the preparation of LTP3 would have the significant benefit of ensuring congruence between both documents.

### **3.0 Implications/Consultations**

- 3.1 Adoption of the revised approach advocated in this report would require the existing service plan commitment (ref. 09-CS23) to be replaced by a fresh commitment to the preparation of an East Herts transport and parking strategy in parallel with the County Council's preparation of LTP3. As the latter will be published for April 2011, a completion date of 31 March 2011 for the revised transport and parking strategy would be appropriate. This would still enable officers to specify the new parking enforcement contract, which will come into effect in January 2012, with this new strategy in mind. Key stages in the preparation of the two strategies are set out below.

| Date                      | Event  |
|---------------------------|--|
| October 2009 – March 2011 | Preparation of East Herts Transport and Parking Strategy                             |
| October 2009 – March 2011 | East Herts Council contributes to development of Hertfordshire County Council's LTP3 |
| September 2010            | Public Consultation – Community Voice  |
| January 2011 (approx.)    | Scrutiny committee - East Herts Transport and Parking Strategy                       |
| February 2011 (approx.)   | Executive – East Herts Transport and Parking Strategy                                |
| April 2011                | Publication of East Herts Transport and Parking Strategy                             |
| April 2011                | Publication of LTP3  |

- 3.2 Hertfordshire County Council will consult widely during its preparation of LTP3. An early example of this will be East Herts Council's representation at three workshops in October/November 2009 at which achievement of the five goals identified in 2.3 above will be discussed (see Essential Reference Paper B on pages 5.7 - 5.8).
- 3.3 East Herts Council should expect to consult widely during its preparation of its own transport and parking strategy; however the Community Voice meetings in January/February 2010 currently earmarked for consultation, would now fall too early for a

meaningful consultation exercise linked to the developing strategy. As suggested in 3.1 above, a later round of Community Voice meetings will instead be used for the purpose of public consultation.

Background Papers:

1. Local Transport Act 2008 (Part II) [http://www.England-legislation.hmso.gov.uk/acts/acts2008/ukpga\\_20080026\\_en\\_3#pt2-1g9](http://www.England-legislation.hmso.gov.uk/acts/acts2008/ukpga_20080026_en_3#pt2-1g9)
2. HCC Local Transport Plan Bulletin No. 10 – September 2009  
Essential Reference Paper B on pages 5.7 - 5.8.
3. Minutes of the Executive of 17 January 2009.

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## ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

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|---|---|
| <p>Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities</p> | <p><b>Promoting prosperity and well-being; providing access and opportunities</b><br/> <i>Enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.</i></p> <p><b>Fit for purpose, services fit for you</b><br/> <i>Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.</i></p> <p><b>Shaping now, shaping the future</b><br/> <i>Safeguard and enhance our unique mix of rural and urban communities, ensuring sustainable, economic and social opportunities including the continuation of effective development control and other measures.</i></p> |
| <p>Consultation:</p>                                      | <p>As advised earlier, Hertfordshire County Council will consult widely over its preparation of LTP3.</p> <p>East Herts Council should expect to consult widely over its preparation of its own transport and parking strategy for the district.</p>  |
| <p>Legal:</p>   | <p>Preparation of an LTP is a statutory duty for the transport authority (in this case Hertfordshire County Council).</p>   |
| <p>Financial:</p>   | <p>None perceived.</p>  |
| <p>Human Resource:</p>                                    | <p>None perceived.</p>  |
| <p>Risk Management:</p>                                   | <p>None perceived.</p>  |