

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 22 MAY 2012

REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PLANNING POLICY
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EAST HERTS PARKING AND TRANSPORT STRATEGY

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To advise the Executive of key stages in the development of a Parking and Transport Strategy for East Herts.
- To submit the Parking and Transport Strategy for adoption by East Herts Council.

<u>RECOMMENDATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE:</u> That:	
(A)	the work undertaken on the development of East Herts Council's first Parking and Transport Strategy be noted,
<u>RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL:</u> That:	
(B)	the Strategy as presented be supported for formal adoption.

1.0 Background

1.1 Elements of a parking and transport strategy have existed for some time. It is on these elements that East Herts Council has based its policy and operational decisions in the past. The Council recognises that it would be beneficial to bring these elements together in a single document. This is of particular importance given the growing impact the twin issues parking and transport are having on our communities.

2.0 Report

2.1 Throughout the development of this Strategy the Council was anxious to ensure that the views of its entire community were heard and represented in the final document. To this end, individual households, town and parish councils, representatives of the business community and voluntary sector organisations were just some of those consulted (and occasionally re-consulted) during the Strategy's development.

2.2 A Member Task and Finish Group was established in August 2011. Membership of the Group was as follows:

Member	Town
Cllr G McAndrew (Chairman)	Bishop's Stortford
Cllr P Ballam	Ware
Cllr S Bull	Buntingford
Cllr R Cheswright	Rural
Cllr E Buckmaster	Sawbridgeworth
Cllr P Gray	Bishop's Stortford
Cllr P Phillips	Hertford

2.3 As the Executive will note, the makeup of the Group ensured representation from the main towns and villages in East Herts as well as our rural communities. Thus, the task and finish process further ensured that the Strategy reflects the individual wants and needs of our communities, based on their unique characteristics.

2.4 An interim version of the Strategy was debated by the Council's Environment Scrutiny Committee on 15 November 2011, with a late draft considered by the same Committee on 13 March 2012. On both occasions valuable contributions were received which were built into the development process. At the latter meeting the Environment Scrutiny Committee commended the draft Strategy to the East Herts Executive for adoption.

2.5 The Strategy does not seek to be an in-depth technical manual for several reasons:

- Definitive or more authoritative work may already exist. For example, Hertfordshire County Council is the Highway Authority for the district and has a statutory duty to develop and deliver a county-wide Local Transport Plan and subsidiary documents such as local Urban Transport Plans. Although

such documents are referenced in the East Herts strategy, there is little point in reproducing them wholesale. Furthermore, there is little point in making policy or strategy recommendations that conflict with the findings of such authoritative documents.

- The Strategy is intended to be read by an interested and informed lay person, rather than someone with direct experience and/or a qualification in a related field such as transport planning or highways engineering.

2.6 The Strategy recognises that there is rarely a single, correct answer when it comes to parking and transport management. Accordingly, for the most part it promotes a set of guiding principles that should inform decision making in these areas.

2.7 Where the Strategy makes firm recommendations, it will be for the Council to develop further policies, identify funding and implement procedures to manage their adoption and implementation.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

Interim Report of the East Herts Task and Finish Group to the Environment Scrutiny Committee - 15 November 2011.

Report of the East Herts Task and Finish Group to the Environment Scrutiny Committee – 13 March 2012.

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