

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 7 JUNE 2011

REPORT BY EAST HERTS PARKING MANAGER

6. EAST HERTS TRANSPORT AND PARKING STRATEGY

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report:

- To invite the Committee to note work undertaken to date on the preparation of a Transport and Parking Strategy for East Herts.
- To invite the Committee to establish a Task and Finish Group to shape and guide the development of this Strategy to its conclusion.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DECISION: that

(A)	The work undertaken to date on the preparation of a Transport and Parking Strategy for East Herts be noted; and
(B)	A Task and Finish Group be set up to shape and guide the development of the Strategy to its conclusion.

1.0 Background

1.1 As the Parking Authority for East Herts it is appropriate for this authority to formulate a comprehensive parking policy relevant to the whole district. At present there is no single document that could be viewed as constituting a comprehensive parking policy for the district.

1.2 As the Highway Authority for the whole county Hertfordshire County Council has now prepared a range of key documents setting out its policies for transportation across Hertfordshire and it is appropriate that East Herts Council builds on these by assessing their relevance and engaging with their application at a local level, thus compiling a transport strategy for the district.

1.3 Transport and parking impact on a wide range of areas including economic development and access to services. The strategy will seek to acknowledge and incorporate such considerations.

2.0 Report

- 2.1 Work on the strategy began in 2010 with the building of an evidence base. Activities during this period included consultation through a round of Community Voice meetings in autumn 2010 and with Town Councils at around the same time. Traders' organisations were engaged with where these exist and all households in the district were invited to complete a survey that was issued in 'Link' magazine and also published on the East Herts website. The latter drew some 700 responses.
- 2.2 At the same time Hertfordshire County Council has been engaged on the preparation of a number of key documents – principally it's Local Transport Plan for the period 2011-2031 and an Urban Transport Plan for Hertford and Ware. Both have now been adopted. The County Council is now preparing an Urban Transport Plan for Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth which will be adopted in the next few months.
- 2.3 It is important that especially in the area of transportation, East Herts' Strategy is congruent with national policy and the policies of the Highway Authority; therefore considerable note is being taken of these documents as they are produced. The Local Transport Plan addresses five nationally set goals as identified below and these will be the themes adopted by East Herts Council in the preparation of its Strategy.
- 1) Support economic development and planned dwelling growth.
 - 2) Improve transport opportunities for all and achieve behavioural change in mode choice.
 - 3) Enhance quality of life, health and the natural, built and historic environment.
 - 4) Improve the safety and security of residents and other road users.
 - 5) Reduce transport's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and improve its resilience.
- 2.4 Officers would welcome the creation of a Task and Finish Group to steer the final phase of the Strategy's development to its conclusion. The Strategy will address transport and parking issues on a town by town basis, with separate chapters addressing the needs of rural communities and the overarching picture. It might therefore be helpful were a Task and Finish

Group to be constituted of a Member from each of the five main towns plus a Member to represent the district's rural communities.

2.5 It is anticipated that the Task and Finish Group would need to meet on perhaps four or five occasions over the summer, with the report being offered to Members for adoption in late 2011. The Group would also be a suitable forum for inviting third parties to contribute to the further development of the Strategy.

2.6 Members are advised that the proposal for the creation of this Task and Finish Group was made comparatively late; therefore it does not exist in the 2011/12 Forward Plan as agreed by Members in March 2011.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 The creation of this Task and Finish Group would constitute an act of direct consultation with elected representatives and indirect consultation with the communities they represent.

3.2 It is suggested that the Transport and Parking Strategy has the potential to apply to all East Herts Council's Corporate Priorities and Objectives as set out in Essential Reference Paper A.

Background Papers:

1. Hertfordshire County Council Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3)
<http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/transtreets/transplan/ltp/>
2. Hertfordshire County Council Hertford and Ware Urban Transport Plan (UTP)
<http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/transtreets/transplan/tcatp/HandWUTP/>

Contact Member: Councillor M Carver – Executive Member for Planning Policy and Economic Development.

Contact Officer: Andrew Pulham, Parking Manager, Extn: 2030.

Report Author: Andrew Pulham, Parking Manager, Extn: 2030.

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

<p>Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives</p>	<p>Promoting prosperity and well-being; providing access and opportunities <i>Enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.</i></p> <p>Fit for purpose, services fit for you <i>Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.</i></p> <p>Pride in East Herts <i>Improving standards of the built neighbourhood and environmental management in our towns and villages.</i></p> <p>Shaping now, shaping the future <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>Leading the way, working together <i>Deliver responsible community leadership that engages with our partners and the public.</i></p>
<p>Consultation:</p>	<p>The creation of a Task and Finish Group will enable further consultation in the development of the Strategy.</p>
<p>Legal:</p>	<p>None specific to this report</p>
<p>Financial:</p>	<p>None specific to this report</p>
<p>Human Resource:</p>	<p>None specific to this report</p>
<p>Risk Management:</p>	<p>None specific to this report</p>