

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 30 October 2018

BY: Depute Chief Executive (Partnerships and Community Services)

SUBJECT: East Lothian Council Proposed Local Transport Strategy

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To present to Council a proposed Local Transport Strategy and associated plans for approval. Members are advised that these documents have been published in the Members' Library, Refs: 140/18 – 145/18 (October 2018 Bulletin), as detailed at Section 7;
- 1.2 To advise Council on the outcome of the public consultation and changes recommended to be made to the Strategy and associated plans (report to Members' Library, Ref: 146/18, October 2018 Bulletin); and
- 1.3 To provide a strategy that enables elected members, officers and communities to shape the way transport is developed, planned and delivered across East Lothian.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the outcome of the consultation and recommended changes to the Strategy following the consultation process.
- 2.2 To note that the Local Transport Strategy sets out the policy framework and provides the necessary tools to enable development of appropriately justified interventions. All projects will require further public consultation and be financially viable.
- 2.3 To approve the adoption of the proposed Local Transport Strategy and associated plans.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 27 February 2018, East Lothian Council agreed to approve, for consultation, the draft Local Transport Strategy, associated plans

and supporting supplementary documents.

- 3.2 Transport is fundamental to everyday lives. Transport networks move people and goods from origin to destination, they are vital to the economic vitality of our towns, businesses and communities.
- 3.3 Connecting people, integrated transport options and vibrant communities are key in growing East Lothian, the wider city region and Scotland as a whole. Easy to use, reliable, frequent, integrated travel and transport system that connects communities for all users is central to delivering the Council's ambitious plans, strategies and projects.
- 3.4 The Local Transport Strategy has an important role to play in providing for East Lothian as an excellent place to live, work and invest. Growing the county through the Council Plan, the City Region Deal and the Local Development Plan will require the provision of improved and new infrastructure, integrating transport systems, quality and reliable public transport, choice of transport modes and a safer transport network.
- 3.5 East Lothian Council recognises that the promotion of healthier travel options is key to providing safer, sustainable, low carbon environments and the adoption of the Strategy through the Active Travel Improvement Plan, aligned with the Cycling Action Plan for Scotland and investment for improvements in physical activity enables this.
- 3.6 The Strategy has been developed around five main themes reflected in four action plans:

Active Travel Improvement Plan (ATIP)

The ATIP focuses on improving health and well-being by promoting active travel and sustainable transport options. Key outcomes are to

- 1) improve air quality
- 2) reduce congestion
- 3) improve connectivity
- 4) encourage active life-styles
- 5) improve integration.

Parking Management Strategy (PMS)

The PMS focus is on a hierarchical approach to parking, to evaluate parking supply and demand and use appropriate interventions to improve town centre vitality and vibrancy, to improve accessibility for all users, to encourage the use of public transport.

Road Asset Management Plan (RAMP)

The RAMP promotes good stewardship of existing road infrastructure assets within the Budget that is available, sets out appropriate means to test and evaluate the condition of the network and recommends suitable maintenance treatments over the whole life of the asset.

Road Safety Plan (RSP)

The purpose of the RSP is to provide safer roads for all users through a co-ordinated approach with partner organisations to manage speed, provide engineering improvements, educate, and encourage safer road practises.

- 3.7 An online consultation exercise ran from 30 March to 10 May and seven workshops were held in Musselburgh, Tranent, Haddington, Dunbar, North Berwick, Prestonpans and Gullane. A detailed report has been lodged in the Members' Library for consideration.
- 3.8 The consultation process was well received by all groups and organisations; however, consultees raised certain matters.

Accordingly, it is recommended the following items are added or amended within the Strategy and plans:

- Local Transport Strategy: Amend the Land Use Integration Section – Tranent. Replace the sentence 'However, this is not necessary at this time', with 'To assess the implications, constraints, and viability of a bypass, a feasibility study will be commissioned to determine the acceptability and cost of this intervention.
- Local Transport Strategy: Add in 4.6 Encouraging Sustainable Travel (policy 5) – Improving Buses after the last sentence - 'In this regard the Council will prioritise limited resources to support the services, which will deliver the greatest benefits. However, it is recognised that accessibility to local facilities, particularly hospitals and amenities can be challenging and the Council will work with partners to provide regular reliable services, where possible.
- Local Transport Strategy: Encouraging Sustainable Travel – Minimising Environmental Impacts. Second paragraph, after the sentence, 'The main source of the NO2 pollution is from road traffic and the Council will consider ways in which the traffic related air pollution can be reduced'. Add, 'Consideration of the Transport (Scotland) Bill June 2018, Part 1 – Low Emission Zones and subsequent Act and regulatory framework to mitigate exceedance air quality levels may be applicable, however, this would be subject to further consultation. The introduction of Low Emission Zones (LEZ) and partnership working with the City of Edinburgh may also be appropriate in the circumstances.

- Local Transport Strategy: in 4.6 Encouraging Sustainable Travel (policy 5) – Add in Second paragraph, after Quality Contracts (inclusive of the provisions of the Transport (Scotland) Bill Part 2 – Bus Services and subsequent Act and regulatory framework)
- Local Transport Strategy: in 4.6 Encouraging Sustainable Travel – Information Technology add the following paragraph, last paragraph ‘East Lothian recognises that to facilitate ‘door to door’ public transport integration a National cross boundary integrated ticketing scheme is necessary. East Lothian supports the Scottish Governments aspirations about ticketing arrangements and acknowledges the provisions of the Transport (Scotland) Bill Part 3 – Ticketing arrangements and Schemes and subsequent Act and regulatory framework).
- Road Asset Management Plan: Policy 6 will be deleted and replaced with the following. ‘Street Furniture will be replaced depending on the condition of asset and risk to the public. Street furniture of significant deterioration or deemed to be in a dangerous condition will be restored according to the Service Standard’.
- Parking Management Strategy: Policy 5 is replaced with the following: The Council will assess the demand on town centre parking supply and appraise, where appropriate, the introduction of charging for off-street car parks and/or for on-street parking places. The introduction of restrictions and charging has the potential to boost the financial viability and community/business prosperity of an area by increasing turnover. All parking regimes would require annual monitoring.
- Parking Management Strategy: Parking Policy 7, Add ‘including Taxi stance’ to after the word provision and add ‘and taxi stance’ in the preceding preamble after the word provision.

- 3.9 Subject to adoption of the Local Transport Strategy, its plans, national guidance and associated legislative frameworks. Individual projects in delivering the LTS may necessitate further consultation and approvals.
- 3.10 The East Lothian Council Local Transport Strategy and associated plans are dynamic documents with set indicators and targets to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy and will continue to evolve and change to respond to funding opportunities.
- 3.11 The Council will make appropriate governance arrangements to ensure progress is made on the strategy, that projects are well organised and led.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The adoption of the Local Transport Strategy and associated plans will contribute the East Lothian Plan 2017-27 focusing on the safety, sustainability and economic growth agenda.
- 4.2 The introduction of Local Transport Strategy and associated plans will contribute towards providing a Safer Environment - a key priority for East Lothian Council.
- 4.3 The introduction of the Local Transport Strategy and associated plans will contribute focus on the needs of cyclists, pedestrians and users of public transport.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report will affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy. Accordingly, an integrated impact assessment and a strategic environmental assessment (SEA) have been carried out. In accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005, an SEA Post Adoption Statement will be prepared to set out how environmental considerations have been taken into account in the LTS and how any likely significant effects on the environment, as assessed through the SEA, will be monitored.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial - The delivery of the interventions necessary to implement the Strategy and associated plans cover a 5-year period is estimated to be a total of £69 million (capital and revenue). However, it is likely that these will be required over a period of time dictated by the rate of development within East Lothian. Current expenditure on asset management – maintenance and renewals £50m, transport interventions £5m, parking improvements £3m, road safety £1m and £10m for active travel. Match funding opportunities are available from Transport Scotland and partner organisations.
- 6.2 Personnel – To assist with the delivery of the Local Transport Strategy and growth agenda a service review will be necessary to re-align staff and resources to deliver the ambitions of the Council.
- 6.3 Other - None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 East Lothian Council Proposed Local Transport Strategy 2018-24 – Draft Strategy, Members’ Library Ref: 140/18 (October 2018 Bulletin)
- 7.2 East Lothian Council Proposed Local Transport Strategy 2018-24 – Draft Active Travel Improvement Plan, Members’ Library Ref: 141/18 (October 2018 Bulletin)
- 7.3 East Lothian Council Proposed Local Transport Strategy 2018-24 – Draft Parking Strategy, Members’ Library Ref: 142/18 (October 2018 Bulletin)
- 7.4 East Lothian Council Proposed Local Transport Strategy 2018-24 – Draft Road Assessment Management Plan, Members’ Library Ref: 143/18 (October 2018 Bulletin)
- 7.5 East Lothian Council Proposed Local Transport Strategy 2018-24 – East Lothian Partnership Road Safety Plan 2016-20, Members’ Library Ref: 144/18 (October 2018 Bulletin)
- 7.6 East Lothian Council Proposed Local Transport Strategy 2018-24 – Environmental Report, Members’ Library Ref: 145/18 (October 2018 Bulletin)
- 7.7 East Lothian Council Proposed Local Transport Strategy 2018-24 – Public Response to Consultation, Members’ Library Ref: 146/187 (October 2018 Bulletin)
- 7.8 Report to East Lothian Council on 19 December 2017: East Lothian Council Local Transport Strategy
- 7.9 Report to Council on 27 February 2018: East Lothian Council Local Transport Strategy

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