

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 8 April 2010

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Environment and Economy

**SUBJECT:** Halton Local Transport Plan (LTP3) – Challenges and Opportunities: Approval for a Period of Consultation

**WARDS:** Borough-wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 This report seeks to gain the approval of the Executive Board of the content of the Halton Local Transport Plan (LTP3), Challenges and Opportunities document for the purposes of a four-week period of consultation.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- (1) the LTP3 Challenges and Opportunities document be approved for the purposes of a four-week period of consultation;
- (2) further editorial and technical amendments that do not materially affect the content of the LTP3 Challenges and Opportunities document be agreed by the Operational Director – Highways, Transportation and Logistics in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal, as necessary, before the document is published for consultation.

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **Local Transport Plan**

- 3.1 Local Transport Plans (LTPs) were initially introduced by the Transport Act 2000, which set a statutory requirement for local transport authorities to produce a LTP every five years and keep it under review. Since then, the Local Transport Act 2008 has been introduced, which retained the statutory requirement to produce and review LTPs and supporting policies, but changed aspects of the statutory framework, including giving local authorities the flexibility to review and update the LTP as they consider to be appropriate.
- 3.2 Halton Borough Council, as a Unitary Authority, is the transport authority for the area of Halton and as such is required to produce a LTP. The current LTP (LTP2) runs until March 2011, with the third LTP (LTP3) due to commence in April 2011.

- 3.3 As required by the 2008 Act, LTP3 will be in two parts; the first part will set out a long term strategy to 2026 and the second will consist of a short term Implementation Plan, setting out in detail how the strategy will be delivered. Separating strategy and implementation allows the two parts of the LTP to be renewed (when necessary) on different timescales. For instance there may be less need to renew the overarching long term strategy, yet the short term Implementation Plan may require more regular renewal.
- 3.4 Although Halton will be producing an individual LTP3, it has been recognised that working in partnership with the Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority (Merseytravel) or ITA, which is statutorily obliged to produce the LTP on behalf of itself and the Merseyside Districts, would be beneficial for the sub-region. As a result Halton and Merseyside have synchronised the preparation of their evidence bases and there is impetus to produce a similar long term transport vision and strategy across the sub-region. However, it should be acknowledged that the production of Halton's rolling implementation plan will be separate from Merseyside's, based on Halton specific characteristics.
- 3.5 Although the LTP will be submitted to the Government by end March 2011, the Department for Transport (DfT) will no longer formally assess the plan, impose mandatory targets or require submission of formal monitoring reports. However, the Department will continue to take account of the overall quality of a LTP especially where this is relevant to its decisions, for example in relation to funding.

### **The Policy Framework**

- 3.6 It is important to consider the wider policy framework within which the LTP sits. This includes national, regional and local level policy.
- 3.7 At the national level, the DfT expects transport authorities to consider their contribution to national transport goals as over-arching priorities for their LTPs. These goals are set out in the Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DaSTS) document (2008). The five goals are:
- Addressing climate change, by reducing carbon emissions from transport
  - Supporting economic regeneration by helping competitiveness and productivity
  - Ensuring equality of opportunity
  - Protecting health, safety and security
  - Promoting quality of life and the natural environment.
- 3.8 In terms of regional policy, LTPs should be prepared in the context of the broader policies and objectives contained in relevant Regional Strategies, for Halton this is the North West of England Plan - Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021 (RSS). LTPs should also have regard to local

strategic objectives as identified in the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and reflect and support policies included within the Local Development Framework (LDF).

### **Preparation of LTP3**

3.9 Although the preparation of Halton's LTP3 will follow from work undertaken for LTP1 and LTP2, a new process has been advocated by DfT. This involves the following five steps:

- 1) Clarifying Goals
- 2) Specifying Opportunities / Challenges
- 3) Generating Options
- 4) Appraising Options
- 5) Selecting the Preferred Options

3.10 The development of Halton's LTP3 overarching strategy is currently at step 2 where the transport goals and the opportunities and challenges for the borough are to be presented for consultation. The following stage will examine and then appraise a range of possible options that may help address the identified challenges and opportunities for Halton. A further period of consultation will then take place on the preferred options for the overarching strategy. This is currently scheduled for July 2010.

3.11 Following the Preferred Options consultation the priorities will be selected and the strategy formalised. This will provide the platform for the shorter term Implementation Plan which will be drawn up in the autumn of this year. The development of the Implementation Plan will also include a period of consultation on the preferred options for implementation.

3.12 In developing LTP3 the following statutory assessments will also need to be undertaken over the course of the work: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA); Health Impact Assessment (HIA); Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA); and, Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA). These assessments will form an integral part of the decision making process for the preparation of LTP3.

### **Challenges and Opportunities**

3.13 Halton's LTP3 Challenges and Opportunities consultation document presents the overarching transport vision and goals for the borough which are linked to the wider sub-region. Halton's goals are to:

- Ensure the transport system supports the priorities of the Liverpool City Region and Halton's Local Strategic Partnership.
- Provide and promote a clean and low carbon transport system.
- Ensure the transport system promotes and enables improved health and wellbeing.

- Ensure the transport system allows people to connect easily with employment, services and social activities.
  - Ensure the transport network supports the economic success of the Liverpool City Region by supporting local employment, key economic drivers and the efficient movement of people and goods, including access to international, national and regional networks, through the provision of high quality transport infrastructure, services and information.
  - Maintain our transport and highway assets to a high standard.
- 3.14 Following from the identification of Halton's transport goals, the consultation document sets out the current evidence base from which Halton's challenges and opportunities are identified. Table One of the Challenges and Opportunities consultation document (attached to this report) summarises the key challenges and opportunities to be addressed for Halton and the Liverpool City Region

### **Consultation**

- 3.15 In preparing Halton's LTP3 it is important to ensure that the views of a wide range of stakeholders, the public and other interested parties are reflected. It is therefore proposed that the Challenges and Opportunities document be published for a four-week period of consultation, commencing on 19<sup>th</sup> April and ending on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010.
- 3.16 For the purposes of consultation a questionnaire will be distributed asking key questions in relation to the Challenges and Opportunities consultation document. It is envisaged that this will focus the consultation and ensure that the comments received relate to the critical issues.
- 3.17 A consultation plan has been prepared, and a number of methods will be employed with the aim of ensuring that the Challenges and Opportunities document reaches as many interested parties as possible. Methods of consultation and information sharing will include a non-technical summary document, press releases, letters and emails sent to statutory and other LTP consultees, news articles and a dedicated webpage on Halton Borough Council's webpage.

### **Next Steps**

- 3.18 Subsequent to the period of consultation on the Challenges and Opportunities document and the collation and consideration of representations made, the team will move on to the next stage of the LTP3 preparation. This stage will consist of generating a series of options to help address the identified challenges and opportunities.

## **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The LTP is the central transport policy document for Halton Borough Council. The overarching strategy, which will form the first part of Halton's LTP3, will have important links and implications for the development of other Council policy documents including the LDF and the SCS. The Implementation Plan, forming the second part of the LTP3, will also have important implications for a variety of Council functions, most notably Highways and Planning.

## **5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **5.1 A Healthy Halton**

LTP3 will offer a significant opportunity to promote and enable improved health and well-being across the borough. This has been identified as a key goal in the preparation of LTP3 supporting the priority of healthy lifestyles and healthy environments and ensuring that good quality health care facilities are easily accessible to all of the borough's communities.

### **5.2 Halton's Urban Renewal**

LTP3 will be fundamental in creating a highly accessible and well-connected borough, matching opportunity to need. This will be vital in order to support sustainable and vibrant places and spaces where people are proud to live and see a promising future.

### **5.3 Children and Young People in Halton**

The preparation of LTP3 will offer an opportunity to contribute to improving access for children and young people to a range of community facilities, including sport and leisure facilities, encouraging them to live active and healthy lifestyles. Additionally, LTP3 can contribute to raising the aspirations of younger people by ensuring they can access higher education and employment opportunities.

### **5.4 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

An important component of LTP3 will be supporting the maintenance and enhancement of the borough's economy through an effective and responsive transport system and network. This will allow Halton's communities to connect sustainably to employment opportunities across the borough and the wider sub-region. Access to lifelong learning and skill development, especially through the borough's educational establishments and workplaces, will also be an essential consideration for LTP3.

### **5.5 A Safer Halton**

LTP3 will contribute to a safer Halton through promoting and delivering a safe transport network thus reducing the number of transport related accidents in the borough. In addition, LTP3 will help to ensure that all of Halton's communities enjoy access to safe and sustainable environments across the borough and the wider sub-region.

## **6.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

6.1 At this current stage of LTP3 preparation it is important that a successful period of consultation is undertaken to ensure that stakeholders, the public and others with an interest in the plan are able to positively engage with the preparation of the document. This will help to inform the generation of options for addressing the challenges and opportunities for Halton and the appraisal of the preferred options.

## **7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 Efforts will be made to ensure that all members of Halton's communities can engage with the preparation of LTP3. An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) will also be undertaken to ensure that any significant implications for Halton's communities are mitigated and positive effects are enhanced.

## **8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
HBC Local Transport Plan 2001/2002 – 2005/2006	Rutland House, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Transportation Office	Steve Eccles
HBC Final Local Transport Plan 2006/07 to 2010/11	Rutland House, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Transportation Office	Steve Eccles
HBC Final Local Transport Plan 2006/07 to 2010/11 Appendix 1	Rutland House, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Transportation Office	Steve Eccles
HBC LTP1 Delivery Report April 2001 to March 2006	Rutland House, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Transportation Office	Steve Eccles
HBC Local Transport Plan 2006/07 to 2010/11, Mid-Term Review September 2008	Rutland House, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Transportation Office	Steve Eccles
Implementing DaSTS and the North West Regional Strategy	Rutland House, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Transportation Office	Steve Eccles
Delivering a Sustainable Transport System Nov 2008	Rutland House, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Transportation Office	Steve Eccles
Guidance on Local Transport Plans, July 2009	Rutland House, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Transportation Office	Steve Eccles
The Future of Urban Transport, Nov 2009	Rutland House, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Transportation Office	Steve Eccles
RS 2010 Regional Strategy for England's Northwest Part1: The High Level Strategic Framework Consultation Document – January 2010	Rutland House, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Transportation Office	Steve Eccles