

Oxfordshire County Council's Local Transport Plan 3

News and information on the preparation of Oxfordshire's third Local Transport Plan.



What is a Local Transport Plan?

All transport authorities are required to produce a Local Transport Plan (LTP) in which they set their objectives and plans for developing transport in their area over a stipulated period. Oxfordshire County Council is currently producing its third LTP (LTP3) which will cover the period from 2011 to 2030.

Our progress since the last newsletter (March 2010)...

- The team have needed to assess and change the approach being taken to LTP3, in light of the recent government announcements on cuts in capital and grant funding.
- We have worked with stakeholders to develop scenarios which were approved by the council's Cabinet in July 2010. The scenarios will guide the development of the Plan's area strategies.
- The team have also been developing the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which will accompany the Plan.

Budget cuts & changes to LTP3

It is apparent that the state of the nation's finances will lead to huge cuts for local government finances and this will have a severe impact on the delivery of LTP3, particularly in the early years of operation.

Oxfordshire County Council has identified a need to make an in-year savings over £13m over this financial year (2010/11), with further significant cuts expected in the government's comprehensive spending review likely to introduce future challenges to local authority budgets.

In response to these announcements, the LTP3 team has been forced to rethink their approach to the development of LTP3. This has led to a number of changes being made to the Plan.

It is no longer considered appropriate to have a large plan document. Consequently we will be consulting on a shorter document based on the agreed objectives. The policies of the Plan, previously consulted upon, will be reorganised to fit into this document format.

The Plan will no longer include a detailed short-term delivery programme. Instead the Plan will set out our longer term scheme aspirations together with our short term plans for improvements where external funding is identified, or should public funding become available. This will be outlined in a series of area strategies.

Scenarios

What are scenarios?

Scenarios are the overall approaches on which long term local area improvement strategies will be based. Each scenario is a combination of different types of transport measures (e.g. cycling and rail). The chosen scenarios will set out what the main focus of investment would be in a local area, but this does not rule out other specific schemes being promoted if there was an identified local need.



Scenarios Consultation

A 6-week stakeholder consultation on the alternative scenarios for each of the settlement types (Oxford, larger towns, smaller towns and rural areas) was carried out from 10 May to 20 June. Local people and organisations were asked to select their preferred scenario for each settlement type, as well as suggest any types of scheme to be added or removed from their preferred scenarios.

Drop-in sessions were also held in all of the county's districts, to allow local people and representatives to meet the LTP3 team and discuss the scenarios and general Plan development.

Over 250 stakeholders took part in the consultation and over 500 responses were received for each of the settlement types. The LTP3 team assessed all of the consultation responses before recommending a set of preferred scenarios, which were agreed at Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet on 20 July.

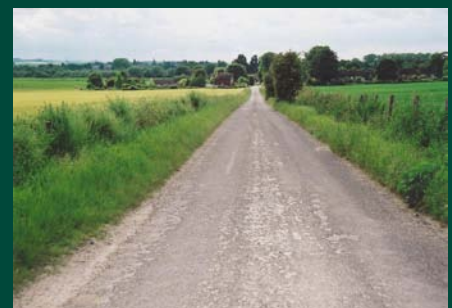
The approved scenarios can be accessed on line at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ltp.



What's next...

We will use the approved scenarios to develop local area strategies in the four settlement types to help meet LTP3 objectives and support delivery of growth and infrastructure in the county, as follows:

- Oxford
- Larger Towns (Abingdon, Banbury, Bicester, Science Vale UK [inc Didcot, Grove & Wantage] and Witney)
- Smaller Towns (Carterton, Chinnor, Chipping Norton, Faringdon, Henley-on-Thames, Kidlington, Thame and Wallingford)
- Rural Areas



Developing LTP3 Policies



Earlier in the year the team produced a draft list of policies that covered 19 transport topics which were put to a 5-week consultation with local people and organisations which commenced on 20 January. Following on from this, the team went to work on amending the draft list of policies in light of the 1,000 plus comments received from those that took part in the consultation.

An amended list of policies was presented to Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet which was approved on 16 March. Following further discussion with colleagues and stakeholders some further amendments were recommended to Cabinet and subsequently approved on 20 July. The approved list of policies can be seen online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ltp

What's next with the policies...

Following the changes to the format of the LTP3 document, the team have decided to place more emphasis on the achievement of the plan's objectives through its policies. Rather than having a separate set of policies for the 19 transport topics, policies will be reorganised according to their ability to contribute towards the achievement of the nine LTP3 objectives:

- Improve the condition of local roads, footways and cycleways, including resilience to climate change
- Reduce congestion
- Reduce casualties and the dangers associated with travel
- Improve accessibility to work, education and services
- Secure infrastructure and services to support development
- Reduce carbon emissions from transport
- Improve air quality, reduce other environmental impacts and enhance the street environment
- Develop and increase the use of high quality, welcoming public transport
- Develop and increase cycling and walking for local journeys, recreation and health

Many policies will help the council achieve a number of its LTP3 objectives. For example, bus services policies will have a role to play in helping the council in developing and increasing the use of high quality, welcoming public transport, while also helping to improve accessibility to work, education and services and reducing congestion. These would also help to reduce carbon emissions from transport and bring about other environmental benefits by reducing congestion.

Key Future Dates...

Consultation on draft Local Transport Plan 3 (This is your opportunity to comment on the whole draft Plan)	4 October 2010 — 9 January 2011
Cabinet to consider the final Plan	15 March 2011
Oxfordshire County Council to consider the final Plan	April 2011

These dates may change

The draft Plan consultation is an important opportunity for you to help shape LTP3.

Please get involved!

To take part in this consultation please visit the team's website www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ltp between the dates shown above, or alternatively contact the team directly.



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