

To: **CABINET**
12 NOVEMBER 2024

Draft Local Transport Plan 4 (2025-2037) – Public Consultation

Executive Director of Place

1 Purpose of report

To seek approval to publicly consult on the Council's fourth Local Transport Plan (LTP4) covering the period 2025-2037.

2 Cabinet Member for Planning Transport and Countryside introduction

2.1 "Continuing this Council's reputation for dynamic and modern development, the draft Local Transport Plan (LTP4) is a revolution in how Local Transport Plans are approached – no longer reactive to current trends, but bold in outlining a just vision for how transport will operate in Bracknell Forest from 2025 to 2037.

2.2 The draft LTP4 is a vital strategy in this Council's commitment to tackling climate change at the local level, at all levels of transport. In it, the Council demonstrates how we will develop an infrastructure fit for a new generation of electric vehicle usage, how we will adapt our bus network to integrate it with other forms of travel, how we will advance our already excellent network of walkways and cycle routes, and much more besides. This is an ambitious statement of the Council's resolve to make a transport network fit for all. And as part of our efforts to involve residents and other stakeholders more in our decision-making process, LTP4 will go out to a consultation more ambitious and widespread than any LTP in Bracknell Forest has gone before, giving all a chance to contribute towards the final document."

3 Recommendation(s)

3.1 **That Cabinet agree to undertake a public consultation on the draft Local Transport Plan 4 (Annex A) and associated supporting documents, beginning in November 2024;**

3.2 **That a further report is presented to Cabinet detailing the outcome of the public consultation and any proposed amendments to the plan prior to adoption.**

4 Alternative options considered

The Council could continue to rely on the existing LTP3. This is not recommended as the plan is now considered out of date as national policy on climate change and transport has progressed since the current plan was adopted in 2011.

5 Supporting information

5.1 The Bracknell Forest LTP3 was adopted in 2011 as a mechanism to strategically plan and develop the transport system to meet the future needs of the Borough, strengthening the Council's place-shaping role and delivering transport services to the

local community. This was the borough's third LTP, with a vision of delivering a sustainable transport network and setting out a transport strategy to 2026.

- 5.2 Increasing recognition of the factors influencing climate change and the role that transport plays in shaping complex social, environmental and economic issues will be central to the emerging LTP4. The new LTP will support the Council's wider vision and objectives for future development within the Borough as set out in the Local Plan, which was adopted in March 2024. For this reason, the LTP4 will be aligned with the Local Plan to support future growth up to 2037.

The LTP4 Vision:

“To develop a sustainable and resilient transport network that reduces carbon, provides choice and access for all in a safe and healthy environment, making Bracknell Forest a desirable place to live, work and grow.”

The Overarching Objectives of LTP4:

Engaged and active communities:

- Increase usage of active travel networks
- Establish inclusive access for all across our transport network
- Create a safe and attractive environment for modal shift
- Deliver high quality public realm which supports locally connected communities

Thriving and connected economy:

- Create a transport network that supports economic growth, with sustainable access to employment, education and skills training
- Embrace new technologies that enhance the quality and efficiency of transport networks, delivering practical journeys and positive user experience
- Support the effective movement of freight and goods across transport modes
- Effectively manage our highway and transport assets in a sustainable way

Green and sustainable environment:

- Support decarbonisation of our transport network
- Reduce dependence private car travel by enhancing modal choice for all
- Ensure our local transport network protects and enhances the local environment, biodiversity and air quality
- Encourage the uptake of zero and low emission vehicles

- 5.3 LTP's are a statutory document and guidance on their production is set out by the Government through the Department for Transport. Local authorities need to have a clear view of their own strategic objectives and priorities for dealing with the different transport challenges they face and have regard to the views of local residents and other interested parties to ensure a robust strategy that best meets local needs. The new LTP4 will focus heavily on decarbonisation, with increased emphasis on sustainable travel and interventions which help reduce carbon emissions.
- 5.4 The past 13 years since adoption of LTP3 have seen dramatic changes in Bracknell Forest with the regeneration of Bracknell town centre and the delivery of several major

development sites. Around 10,000 new homes have been allocated for delivery during the LTP3 period and these are supported with significant highway and public realm improvements alongside community facilities and green spaces.

- 5.5 This growth has attracted greater investment into the town and Borough, with more employment and residential opportunities supported by an increasingly modern and resilient transport network. As a planned 'new town', Bracknell itself was built with easy and convenient travel in mind, alongside a comprehensive network of footpaths and cycleways and good accessibility to public transport. These unique features remain a strong asset in the future development of the borough's transport system.
- 5.6 To deliver on national objectives for addressing the effects of climate change, and the associated decarbonisation of transport, new and further steps will need to be explored. This will include work on how the Council can lead and support the changes in travel behaviour necessary to make sustainable travel the first choice for movement around the borough. Reducing the need to travel will be a factor, alongside the replacement of short local car trips with greener, healthier alternatives. Working with schools will also be key to establishing a modal shift which our young residents can take into adulthood.
- 5.7 Greater utilisation of the borough's walking and cycling network, a rapid growth in the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, exploring changes in the way public transport is provided and a targeted approach to providing safer walking and cycling routes to school will all feature. Successful delivery of LTP4 will require collaborative working across the council, its service providers as well as businesses and local communities.

6 Consultation and other considerations

- 6.1 To understand the current travel habits, priorities and needs of borough residents, a short survey was undertaken between December 2023 and January 2024. Over 1000 responses were received, alongside a number of comments and written representations. This feedback has been incorporated within the development of the draft LTP4 which includes a summary of this feedback. A full assessment of the responses is included as a background document to this report.
- 6.2 The second stage consultation on the draft LTP4 (commencing November 2024 for 4 weeks) will establish more detailed views and feedback on the draft plan and its content and will include a broader range of stakeholders. A dedicated LTP4 webpage will feature the full draft plan documents and an online questionnaire. This will be the core consultation method so that details of the new plan can be viewed easily and comments provided.
- 6.3 In addition, drop-in sessions at local venues will provide an alternative opportunity for residents to view the LTP4 vision, themes and key objectives and respond to basic questions through a simple questionnaire slip. A schedule of venue dates will be publicised as part of the overall consultation awareness exercise, including regular social media and press statements.
- 6.4 Based on the consultation feedback received, further refinement of policies and actions will take place and final draft LTP4 will be presented to Cabinet for adoption.

Legal Advice

- 6.5 The Local Transport Plan is a statutory requirement as set out in Section 108 of the Transport Act 2000, as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008. S.109 of this Act, requires the Council to review and maintain up-to-date existing Local Transport Plan

when appropriate, to provide a strategic framework for planning and delivery of improvements in local transport provision.

- 6.6 The Council must develop and implement policies for the promotion and encouragement of safe, integrated, efficient and economic transport to, from and within the Borough. By producing a new transport strategy in line with Government guidance the Council will be fulfilling its statutory duty to keep the strategy under regular review.

Financial Advice

- 6.7 The costs associated with the consultation can be accommodated from existing budgets and therefore there are no financial implications arising from decisions linked to this report.

Equalities impact assessment

- 6.8 An Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the LTP4 consultation.

Strategic risk management issues

- 6.9 The highways and transport activities within the LTP4 period will contribute positively to the Council's strategic responsibilities for public safety in respect of its duties and services.

Climate Change and Ecological Impacts

- 6.10 The new LTP4 will focus heavily on decarbonisation, with increased emphasis on sustainable travel and wider interventions which help reduce carbon emission and ensure that our local transport network protects and enhances the local environment, biodiversity and air quality.
- 6.11 The actions resulting from adoption of the plan will provide opportunities for a reduction in CO² during the life of the plan to 2037. Ensure our local transport network protects and enhances the local environment, biodiversity and air quality.

Health & Wellbeing Considerations

- 6.12 Transport systems plays a key role in supporting public health through contributions towards air quality, active travel, social connectivity and mobility. They can improve access to education, employment, healthcare and other amenities and can reduce the risk of social isolation.

Background Papers

Local Transport Plan 3 – summary report:

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-11/local-transport-plan-3-summary-report.pdf>

Public survey responses to help shape the new LTP4:

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-03/local-transport-plan-4-survey-response-summary.pdf>

Contacts for further information

Andrew Hunter
Executive Director: Place
01344 351907
andrew.hunter@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Neil Mathews
Assistant Director: Highways and Transport
01344 351163
neil.mathews@bracknell-forest.gov.uk