LOCAL PLAN SUB COMMITTEE - 22 JUNE 2020

PART I - DELEGATED

**7.   LOCAL PLAN - SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND TRAVEL
       (DCES)**

1.   Summary

1.1   This topic paper sets out the issues which the new Local Plan will need to address in
       relation to sustainable transport and travel by encouraging a modal shift away from
       car usage towards more sustainable modes of transport and proposes policy wording
       to be contained within the new Local Plan.

2   Details

2.1   Car usage within the District is high and is forecast to grow a further 15.6% by 2031.
       Increased congestion and car use could undermine the economic growth of the
       District and harm the quality of the environment and social well-being. Promoting
       sustainable transport modes will help re-balance the focus to those modes that have
       lower emissions and contribute to creating a higher quality environment across the
       District.

2.2   The NPPF requires that developments that generate significant movement are
       located where the need to travel will be minimised and the use of sustainable
       transport modes can be maximised. Sustainable modes of travel are defined within
       the NPPF as any efficient, safe and accessible means of transport with overall low
       impact on the environment, including walking and cycling, low and ultra-low emission
       vehicles, car sharing and public transport.

2.3   The Council will work with Hertfordshire County Council, the Highways Agency and
       other transport providers to provide a co-ordinated and enhanced transport system
       which improves connectivity and transport services.

2.4   Hertfordshire County Council will produce a Growth and Transport Plan (GTP) for
       South West Hertfordshire, which aims to identify the transport interventions that will
       be needed to support and help facilitate sustainable development within the South
       West Hertfordshire area, including in Three Rivers.

2.5   The Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan will identify specific transport schemes that
       will contribute to meeting transport needs and the sustainability of the District,
       including transport infrastructure necessary to deliver the levels of growth required in
       the District.

2.6   There is a need for all individual proposals for development to maximise opportunities
       to support and integrate sustainable travel and to manage and mitigate transport
       impacts to ensure that safe and suitable access will be provided for all users and that
       significant impacts of development will be limited.

2.7   New development proposals should incorporate the Transport User Hierarchy as set
       out in Hertfordshire County Council's Local Transport Plan 2018 – 2031 into the
       design of any scheme. The development of any transport strategy should consider in
       the following order:

       • Opportunities to reduce travel demand and the need to travel
       • Vulnerable road user needs (such as pedestrians and cyclists)

- Passenger transport user needs
- Powered two wheeler (mopeds and motorbikes) user needs
- Other motor vehicle user needs

2.8 Supporting a safe and pleasant walking environment requires prioritisation of pedestrians at the top of the road user hierarchy and improvements to pedestrian safety in existing areas. Developments must incorporate high quality pedestrian routes that promote walking as an attractive, convenient, safe and pleasant mode of transport and that connect in networks and to the surrounding area taking into account existing and likely desire lines.

2.9 Cycling is also an essential component of sustainability and the support of healthy lifestyles, as well as providing an affordable means of access to local destinations and opportunity for leisure and recreation. To encourage and support cycling, developments should connect to, and further develop and enhance the existing network of cycle routes of different types (on-road and off-road), including improvements to crossing facilities as well as the routes themselves.

2.10 New development must make provision for public transport where this is appropriate taking into account of the scale and nature of a development, including for example through layouts which enable access for buses and provision of covered waiting facilities.

2.11 In addition to supporting sustainable modes of travel, where new development comes forward, it must ensure that access arrangements are safe and do not result in danger or inconvenience to other users of the highway, including as a consequence of traffic generation on both the local road network and the Strategic Road Network.

2.12 The Draft Sustainable Transport and Travel Policy is attached in Appendix 1.

Policy/Budget Reference and Implications The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed policy and budgets.

3 Financial, Legal, Equal Opportunities, Staffing, Environmental, Community Safety, Public Health, Customer Services Centre, Communications & Website, Risk Management and Health & Safety Implications

3.1 None specific.

4 Recommendation

4.1 That the Local Plan Sub Committee note the contents of this report and recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee the Draft Sustainable Transport and Travel Policy as set out in Appendix 1

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Background Papers

National Planning Policy Framework (2019)

Hertfordshire's Local Transport Plan 2018 – 2031 (2018)

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Draft Sustainable Transport and Travel Policy