

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 16 DECEMBER 2009

LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY 2009 - 2014

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet approval for the finalised East Ayrshire Council Local Transport Strategy.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The new Local Transport Strategy (LTS) replaces the previous LTS published in 2001, and provides: -

- (i) An up to date statement of transport policy in East Ayrshire;
- (ii) An opportunity to raise local issues and set out strategic transport priorities for the authority;
- (iii) A link between transport planning and the development plans;
- (iv) An action plan which details the objectives and interventions and how they feed into the National Outcomes and Community Planning Themes;
- (v) A basis for evidence at public inquiries; and
- (vi) Access to external funding.

- 2.2 Extensive consultation has taken place during the development of the LTS. In 2006, initial consultation was undertaken to identify the issues which should be addressed by the LTS. The consultation included:

- 2,500 consultation leaflets sent out to random households in East Ayrshire
- presentations to local committees
- presentations to community planning theme groups
- residents' panel consultation

- 2.3 The 2006 consultation was used to prepare a draft LTS document and Action Plan which was then subject to a detailed consultation during summer 2008:

- 170 stakeholder packs and questionnaires issued
- public exhibitions at 19 venues
- website and email
- presentation to community planning partners
- staff seminars

- 2.4 Elected members were consulted at both stages of the LTS consultation. Additionally, a presentation on the Draft LTS was made to the Cabinet in June 2008. A report on the draft LTS consultation was considered by Cabinet on 27th August 2008 and proposed amendments to the document and Action plans were agreed. A Members' Seminar was held on 9th June 2009 to consider the contents of the LTS. A copy of the draft document was forwarded to all Members who were unable to attend the seminar for comment. Comments made by Members at all

stages of the consultation process were taken into account in the finalisation of the LTS.

- 2.5 The findings from the consultations along with information available to the Council on a range of issues including road safety, carriageway condition, accessibility, condition of structures, parking, and land-use policies were used to identify issues and in the drafting of the LTS and Action Plans to ensure the policies meet local needs.
- 2.6 At its meeting of 25th June 2009, the Corporate Management Team gave approval to proceed to finalise the LTS document.
- 2.7 The LTS document includes chapters on: Land-Use Planning; Sustainable Transport; Town Centres; Parking; Freight Transport; Rural Routes; Public Transport; School Travel; Roads Safety; Road Maintenance and Network Management; Winter Maintenance; Street Lighting; Bridges and Road Structures; Road-Related Flood Mitigation; Asset Management; Road Traffic Reduction; and Delivery and Monitoring. The finalised Local Transport Strategy is available on the Members' Portal and at the Members' Information Point.

3. MONITORING & EVALUATION

- 3.1 Chapter 23 of the LTS sets out the principles adopted for monitoring progress towards meeting the LTS objectives and Appendix J contains a series of targets and indicators that have been identified to measure the of the Action Plan interventions. The indicators have been developed to be consistent with existing SOA, Community Planning, and Roads & Transportation KPIs.

4. LINKED DOCUMENTS

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 4.1 An Environmental Report has been developed in accordance with the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 in order to consider all potential environmental impacts associated with the Action Plan set out in the LTS. Environmental mitigation measures were developed and are listed in the LTS Appendix B. The Strategic Environmental Assessment is available on the Members' Portal and at the Members' Information Point.

Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG)

- 4.2 The LTS has been developed in accordance with the Scottish Government's STAG assessment framework to ensure that the selected package of measures collectively provide optimum solutions given a particular set of constraints and opportunities. The LTS brings forward an integrated strategy of essential roads-based and sustainable transport interventions. The STAG report is available on the Members' Portal and at the Members' Information Point.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 4.3 The LTS has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA), based on a framework provided by the Council's Equality and Diversity Officer. The EIA is available on the Members' Portal and at the Members' Information Point.

4.4 The finalised LTS, Environmental Report, STAG report and Equality Impact Assessment report will all be published on the Council's website.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The LTS is being developed from existing Council budgets.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Nil

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Nil

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The new LTS has been developed to be consistent with National and Regional Transport Policies and local development plans.

9. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The LTS objectives for economic growth; accessibility and social inclusion; environment; safety and personal security; and sustainability and integration are consistent with the themes of the Community Plan.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Although a non-statutory document, failure to have a LTS in place could present a risk to the Council's ability to guide partnership working; secure external funding for future transport projects; and would make it more difficult to implement, monitor and review the Council's future transport actions.

11. EQUALITIES IMPACT

11.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared as part of the development of the LTS.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- (i) notes the contents of the report; and
- (ii) approves the finalised Local Transport Strategy 2009-2014.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

10 December 2009
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

- (i) Local Transport Strategy Consultation, Cabinet Report, 27th August 2008
- (ii) Environmental Report (Strategic Environmental Assessment) for the LTS
- (iii) Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance Report (STAG) for the LTS
- (iv) Equality Impact Assessment Report for the LTS

For further information on this report, please contact Keith Orton (Tel: 01563 555714)

Implementation Officer: Kerr Chalmers (Tel: 01563 555715)