

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Communities, Housing & Infrastructure
DATE	20 th January 2016
DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	Local Transport Strategy – Final Draft
REPORT NUMBER	CHI/15/323
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present Members with the Final Draft of the Local Transport Strategy (LTS) 2016-2021 (Appendix 1) and to be brought up to date on the progression of various Action Plans associated with the Local Transport Strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a. Approve the content of this report;
- b. Approve the Council's Final Draft Local Transport Strategy (2016-21); and
- c. Instruct officers to publish the Local Transport Strategy (2016-21) on the Council's website.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Delivery of projects will rely on a number of funding sources which will be identified through the Costed Action and Delivery Plan. This will be presented to the Communities, Housing & Infrastructure Committee in March 2016 and thereafter reviewed and reported annually.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The refresh of the LTS has involved, and will impact upon, many other Council services, public bodies, stakeholders, partners and the travelling public. The lack of an up to date LTS would restrict the ability of the Council to attract external funding to support its delivery. The up to date LTS also aids the forward planning of, and collaboration with, other transportation bodies/ operators/ providers in the delivery of its

vision, aims and objectives as not all the actions are the sole responsibility of the Council.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

5.1 Work to date on a Consultative Draft and Final Draft Strategy

Various update reports to Communities, Housing & Infrastructure Committee have detailed progress on a refreshed Local Transport Strategy (LTS). These reports have highlighted that due to delays in delivery of the AWPR a complete rewrite was not required; rather an update or 'refresh' was more appropriate.

The first stage in the development of the refreshed LTS was a public and stakeholder consultation exercise. The responses received reflected the opinions of a broad range of stakeholders, including business representatives, Community Councils, bus operators and specific user groups. Officers also met with groups representing the views of vulnerable members of society, such as the elderly and disabled, for more specific views.

These engagement exercises informed the development of a Consultative Draft Local Transport Strategy and the inclusion of more focussed aims and objectives, as well as the addition of outcomes. In response to the Main Issues Report a number of stakeholders commented that the Council did not appear committed to the vision, aims and objectives as little progress was made in relation to public transport, active travel, safety and well-being.

In addition, the Draft placed an emphasis on: the role transport plays in the health of Aberdeen citizens; the impact of development and potential for placemaking through masterplanning (such as the City Centre Masterplan); how low carbon transport can deliver further environmental benefits; and the role of 'smart' technology for facilitating transport movements and provision of information, have also been made explicit.

The Consultative Draft was then issued for further consultation with stakeholders and the public with detailed feedback received in relation to the vision, aims, outcomes, objectives, various actions and the overall approach. Appendix 2 contains a list of these responses with the Council's proposed amendments or considerations.

One other aspect that became very apparent was continued concern about the overall delivery. Stakeholders and the public thought the Strategy said the right things, but what was actually taking place on the ground did not reflect the overall approach. In order to further address this issue (in addition to the outcomes) and restore stakeholder and public confidence the Final Strategy has been further streamlined with actions moved into a new document: a 'Costed Action and Delivery Plan'. This Plan will be updated on an annual basis, taking into

account progress on delivery, the budgets/ funding opportunities available, upcoming developments and any changes in priorities with a first draft to be presented to CHI in March 2016. This will ensure that the Local Transport Strategy maintains a consistent approach in terms of policy and direction in the City over the next five years and potentially beyond.

5.4 Vision, Aims and Outcome Updates

The Refresh has taken account of the framework of national and regional transport, as well as other policy areas, which have been updated. Although the consultation exercise / Main Issues Report determined that a fundamental change in the overall policy approach was not required, a review of the vision, aims and objectives to take account of new policies has been undertaken. Feedback on the Consultative Draft included a suggestion to amend the vision to include health, and this has informed the following revised vision:

Vision

The vision for the Aberdeen City LTS is to develop 'A sustainable transport system that is fit for the 21st Century, accessible to all, supports a vibrant economy, *facilitates healthy living* and minimises the impact on our environment'.

Aims

Final LTS aims have been updated to:

1. A transport system that enables the efficient movement of people and goods
2. A safe and more secure transport system
3. A cleaner, greener transport system
4. An integrated, accessible and socially inclusive transport system
5. A transport system that facilitates healthy and sustainable living.

Outcomes

Within ten years Aberdeen's transport system should have:

- A. Increased modal share for public transport and active travel;
- B. Reduced the need to travel and reducing dependence on the private car;
- C. Improved journey time reliability for all modes;
- D. Improved road safety within the City;
- E. Improved air quality and the environment; and
- F. Improved accessibility to transport for all.

Objectives

Each mode or area now has a specific objective that should be delivered over the life of the LTS. A brief outline of the priorities for that mode or area have also been detailed, with the associated actions moved into the Costed Action and Delivery Plan, as previously stated.

5.5 Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) and Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

Alongside the updated LTS a full HRA, SEA, EHRIA and high level HIA screening report have been prepared.

The HRA and SEA have assisted in identifying any significant effects of the Strategy, both positive and negative, on the environment, while the EHRIA (Appendix 3) has emphasised areas which can be improved for meeting the social and inclusion aims and objectives within the LTS. The HIA (Appendix 4) has been produced in liaison with NHS Grampian to ensure that the document is robust in terms of health outcomes. Both the SEA and the HIA will have further detail added as the Costed Action and Delivery Plan is progressed.

Please note that the appendices to the LTS have not been placed within this report as they are available electronically via the Consultative Draft LTS papers in January 2015, for which a link is provided below. The draft SEA is available on request, and will be further informed by the Costed Action and Delivery Plan which will be reported to CHI in March 2016.

6. IMPACT

Improving Customer Experience –

Transport affects every individual in Aberdeen and by providing a coherent Transport Strategy for the City the policy going forward is transparent and delivers customer expectations.

Improving Staff Experience –

The LTS informs staff as to the strategic direction for transport within Aberdeen City and how any projects should assist in delivering the Council's overall transport priorities and vision. Staff from a variety of Services have assisted in developing the Strategy and will be invaluable in formulating and delivering the various actions resulting from the LTS.

Improving our use of Resources –

A consistent approach to delivery of transport in the City via the Local Transport Strategy and an evolving Costed Action and Delivery Plan presented to Committee on an annual basis will ensure clear strategic direction while ensuring that local environmental factors, changing priorities, impact on the delivered measures and new technology, as well as available budgets are taken into account on a continuous rolling programme. Ensuring that the strategic direction is in place will guarantee that all officers are working towards the same outcomes and priorities, as well as taking advantage of all funding opportunities that might present themselves.

Corporate -

The development of a Local Transport Strategy links to the Community Plan vision of creating a *sustainable City with an integrated transport system that is accessible to all*.

The vision, aims, outcomes, objectives and actions referred to in the LTS will contribute to delivery of the Smarter Mobility aims of Aberdeen – The Smarter City: *We will develop, maintain and promote road, rail, ferry and air links from the city to the UK and the rest of the world. We will encourage cycling and walking, and We will provide and promote a sustainable transport system, including cycling, which reduces our carbon emissions*.

The LTS will assist in the delivery of actions identified in the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) 2013, in particular the Thematic Priority of Safer Communities (Safer Roads) and the Multi-lateral Priority – Integrated Transport (Aberdeen is easy to access and move around in).

The listed projects in the LTS will assist delivery of the 5 year Corporate Business Plan, in particular the Community, Housing & Infrastructure Directorate's aims to *Protect and enhance our high-quality, natural and built environment and Support the delivery of a fully integrated transport network*.

The purpose of the LTS is to ensure joined up working with partner organisations in the delivery of transport projects. A specific section of the LTS is dedicated to support for regional activities.

Public –

The Local Transport Strategy has been through two rounds of public consultation with stakeholders and members of the public and is therefore of interest to the public in terms of how their responses have been taken into consideration when shaping the final Strategy.

An Habitats Regulation Assessment and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been produced for this Strategy. This concluded that the majority An Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) has been undertaken on this report, as has a high level Health Impact Assessment Screening Report in order to establish the key areas where transport can positively influence health. A Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) has not been considered as the document is publicly accessible and responses to the consultation will be subject to data protection rules.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

There are significant risks to not having an up to date transport strategy. This includes difficulties in delivery of projects because of a lack of strategic context and priorities, and because of this can result in an inability to secure external funding.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Communities, Housing & Infrastructure Committee on 13th January 2015:

Local Transport Strategy – Consultative Draft

<http://councilcommittees.acc.gov.uk/documents/s43352/Local%20Transport%20Strategy%20-%20Consultative%20Draft.pdf>

Communities, Housing & Infrastructure Committee on 13th January 2015:

Local Transport Strategy – Appendices A – E (page 859 onwards)

<http://councilcommittees.acc.gov.uk/documents/b10419/Appendices%2013th-Jan-2015%2014.00%20Communities%20Housing%20and%20Infrastructure%20Committee.pdf?T=9>

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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Appendix 1: Final Draft Local Transport Strategy

Appendix 2: Consultative Draft Local Transport Strategy Consultation and Officer Response

Appendix 3: Final Draft Local Transport Strategy Equalities Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA)

Appendix 4: Final Draft Local Transport Strategy High Level Health Impact Assessment Screening Report

Appendix 5: Final Draft Local Transport Strategic Environment Assessment available at -

<http://committees.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13337&path=0>