

**NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL**

**REPORT**

To: PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE	Subject: PRODUCTION OF NEW LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY DOCUMENT
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT	
Date: 23 October 2006	Ref: HQ/TT/73/15/DMcD

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee in respect of the timescales for the production of the updated Local Transport Strategy (LTS) document and to seek Committee's views as to the various issues that should be addressed within the document.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 Committee will be aware that North Lanarkshire Council's current local transport strategy document is entitled "Delivering in Partnership: A Transport Strategy for North Lanarkshire". This document set out the council's vision for transport development over the subsequent three year period, and beyond, highlighting how transport contributes to longer-term goals and reflecting on how it reflected on our work with other bodies, with input from the community.
- 2.2 The Scottish Executive published guidance to local authorities on the development of updated local transport strategies. The LTS has to reflect, and inform, strategic transport issues within the emerging Regional Transport Strategy (RTS), currently being prepared by Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPfT). In turn, the RTS will reflect, and inform, transportation matters within the emerging National Transport Strategy (NTS). The new strategy will address how we intend to deliver on national objectives at a local level, and provide an action plan for meeting local challenges and objectives.

**3. Considerations**

- 3.1 The key aims within the new Strategy will continue those within the existing document, that is: a healthy society, where individual choice and lifestyle encourages health, safety and community well-being in a pleasant and attractive environment; an inclusive society, where everyone has equal access to opportunities, facilities and resources and individuals participate in shaping the policies affecting them, and: a prosperous society, where economic development and regeneration support sustainable growth for the long term.
- 3.2 These aims are in keeping with the Council's Corporate Plan and offer extensive links to the policies of other Council Departments, Service Providers and Community Groups. They also link directly to the Council's emerging new Local Plan. The wide range of the key aims reflects the fundamental role transport plays in every aspect of society, and its importance in ensuring the future well-being and prosperity of North Lanarkshire's community.

- 3.3 In addition, the local transport strategy document will consider a diverse range of matters, such as casualty reduction targets and the need to consider emerging road traffic reduction requirements, while taking cognisance of the needs of disabled people, sustainability issues, and the impact upon and inter-action with numerous other related policies and initiatives.
- 3.4 The full Local Transport Strategy must include a three year costed implementation programme, highlighting funding sources, and links between spending and specific projects and policy measures. Importantly, the Strategy is necessary to support any future funding applications to the Scottish Executive for transport projects. A Strategic Environmental Assessment will be carried out during the preparation of the LTS, to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant effects on the environment from implementing the measures within the LTS.
- 3.5 The department recently appointed consultants Steer Davies Gleave to assist in the process, in recognition of the resource implications inherent in the preparation and production of such a document. The first key element of the works is to establish and understand the key transport-related constraints, problems and issues, which will in turn inform the draft vision and objectives. This involves consultation with, and the participation of, the Council, other service providers, user groups and the wider community.
- 3.6 The current local transport strategy document is being re-examined, to initially update the background/ base date. In addition, meetings have commenced with various appropriate sections/ functions within the council, to establish the key transport-related issues that those functions feel should be addressed in the new LTS.
- 3.7 As part of this wide-ranging initial consultation stage, a number of meetings/ forums have been/ are being arranged. The first of these wider meetings involve a presentation, followed by a discussion, at the Planning & Environment Committee, each of the Local Area Partnerships, and the North Lanarkshire Partnership. A PowerPoint presentation will be given at each of these meetings, setting out the background to, and requirement for, the LTS process, and identifying some of the key transportation issues. The presentations will be followed by a question and answer session, which will be an important element in ensuring that we fully capture all of the various disparate transport-related views and concerns, as that will inform the future development and theme of the new LTS document.
- 3.8 Copies of the presentation will be circulated at the end of the meetings, together with forms setting out some general questions and contact details, for those who would wish to respond at a later date, or who would wish to discuss the matters further with other interested parties.
- 3.9 Further meetings are being organised with various other stakeholders/ representative groups. In addition, as wide a range as possible of the community will be contacted for their comment, either through specific forums or through the distribution of questionnaires.
- 3.10 It is anticipated that the draft Local Transport Strategy document will be prepared by early 2007, at which time it will be circulated for comment. Immediately following its distribution, a further round of consultations will be arranged with the various stakeholders, to ensure that all the key issues have been identified and recorded, and that the vision, objectives and future schemes within the draft LTS are appropriate and all encompassing. It is anticipated that the finalised local transport strategy document will be completed mid-2007, at which time it would require to be approved by Committee prior to it being submitted to the Scottish Executive, for approval.

#### **4. Corporate Considerations**

- 4.1 The production of the local transport strategy will place a burden on Planning and Environment Department staff resources, even allowing for the commissioning of consultants. The need to consider all proposals within the Regional context will be of great importance.
- 4.2 The preparation of the local transport strategy will involve a number of consultation exercises, with external agencies and other council departments in order to ensure that the various interests are discussed and accommodated, wherever practical.
- 4.3 Provision has been made within the Department's Road Management and Implementation of RAP's budget line, Capital Code PX737, for the preparation and publication of the local transport strategy document.

#### **5. Sustainability Implications**

- 5.1 An underpinning aim of the local transport strategy will be to promote and deliver sustainable transport options, and is therefore fully consistent with the aims and principles of sustainable development. The extensive partnership and participation involved supports the practice of sustainable development, in delivering our Local Agenda 21 commitments

#### **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 Committee are asked to:

- (i) note the contents of this report;
- (ii) approve of the development of the new Local Transport Strategy document in the form and to the timescales set out above;
- (iii) advise of any specific local-area transport-related problems that should be addressed within the new LTS document, and of any general transport issues that should be considered within it;
- (iv) note that a further round of consultations will take place following the preparation of the draft LTS document;
- (v) note that Committee will be updated in respect of the development of the revised local transport strategy, as required.

  
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**DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT**  
(date of report)

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