

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING	Cabinet	
MEETING/	31st October 2018	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E3102
TITLE:	B&NES Strategic Transport Options consultation Nov-Dec 2018	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Attachment 1: A4/A4174 Hicks Gate Junction Improvements Option Assessment Report Attachment 2: South East Bristol and Whitchurch Package Options Assessment Report Attachment 3: A4 Bristol to East Keynsham Corridor Study Option Assessment Report Note: Due to its volume all appendices are only available on Council's website by following this link - http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/local-plan-2016-2036/strategic-transport		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The five year review of the adopted Core Strategy is now underway and prior to the preparation of the draft plan in 2019, a number of options for delivering strategic transport infrastructure to facilitate the two strategic development locations in North Keynsham and Whitchurch are being considered. These need to be agreed by Cabinet for public consultation in November 2018.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Cabinet is asked to
- 2.2 Agree the Strategic Transport Studies consultation documents in Attachment 1 – 3 to this report for public engagement from 12th November to 21st December 2018, and
- 2.3 Delegate authority to the Director Environmental Services to make minor changes to the document prior to publication.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 The preparation of the evidence base for the Strategic Transport Options is resourced through West of England Combined Authority investment fund and prepared by our consultants Jacobs and Atkins working with other services such as Planning Policy, Economy and Growth and our colleagues in transport across the West of England.
- 3.2 The Local Plan has a direct impact on the Council's income through the level of New Homes Bonus, CIL receipts, Section 106 agreements, the level of Council Tax and Business Rates by enabling housing, business and infrastructure growth which will help continue to fund core Council services.
- 3.3 The allocation and designation of strategic transport corridors has an impact on the value of land and buildings in the district.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended by subsequent Acts, requires that all Local Planning Authorities prepare and maintain an up-to-date local Plan. The Content and scope of Local Plans is set by the National Planning Policy Framework which was updated in 2018
- 4.2 The Equality Act 2010 under s149 applies and will be taken into account during the consultation and throughout the plan making process.
- 4.3 The preparation of the plan is regulated by the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. The B&NES Local Plan is currently at Regulation 18 stage (Plan Preparation). The draft plan is due to be published in 2019 (Regulation 19) and then submitted for public examination (Regulation 22) which will include public hearings. The purpose of the examination is to ascertain whether the Plan is 'sound'. This means that the Plan is (in summary);
 - **Positively prepared** – seeks to meet the area's objectively assessed for development;
 - **Justified** – an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence;
 - **Effective** – deliverable over the plan period,; and
 - **Consistent with national policy**
- 4.3 It is important that the plan and by extension the strategic transport options is prepared with these requirements in mind. In light of the dependence of the spatial strategy on transport infrastructure, the UAs will need to have robust evidence to demonstrate effectiveness/ deliverability and to set out the alternative options considered.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 We have commissioned three Transport Studies to examine the transport issues and develop and assess potential interventions to support the delivery of North Keynsham Strategic Development Location and Whitchurch Strategic Development Location identified in the Joint Spatial Plan
- 5.2 The Transport Studies will be consulted on as part of a district wide consultation in conjunction with the Local Plan; the transport studies are:
- 5.3 Hicks Gate Roundabout
- 5.4 A4 to A4175 East Keynsham Corridor Study
- 5.5 South East Bristol and Whitchurch Package
- 5.6 The transport technical studies are following the DfT Transport Appraisal Process², and focus on the following aspects:
- (1) Identification of key transport challenges and transport objectives in the areas of interest;
 - (2) Identification and shortlisting of potential transport options to address the challenges and objectives;
 - (3) Concept design and initial costing of shortlisted options;
 - (4) Desk-based assessment of environmental, social and economic impacts, and value for money of the options; and
 - (5) Initial assessment of financial and delivery case of the options.
- 5.7 The work is currently at the option development and assessment stage³ in most cases, a number of options are being explored rather than a single or preferred option for each area or scheme. Further work, including public consultation, will be required to determine preferred options and to develop formal business cases for the schemes.
- 5.8 Transport scheme definition, costs and benefits will continue to evolve as part of this process.
- 5.9 These technical studies are being used to inform the development of the Local Plan.
- 5.10 Preparation and review of plans is governed by the Town and Country Planning Regulations. Before a Plan draft Plan is published, LPAs are required to consider alternative options and to engage their communities and stakeholders in order to decide on the most appropriate strategy. Therefore the purpose of the consultation in November /December is to present our Transport Studies and the options for the strategic transport infrastructure, seeks the communities view on the most appropriate option and/or any suitable

alternatives. The draft Plan will be prepared, taking in to account the outcome of this process seeking to protect and enshrine in policy the most suitable options for delivery.

5.11 The options at this stage are for public engagement only.

6 RATIONALE

6.1 Maintenance of an up-to-date Local Plan, with at least a 5 yearly review, is a statutory requirement on all Local Planning Authorities. Plan preparation also requires the assessment of reasonable alternative policies and proposals before a plan is finalised. This consultation document is therefore required to meet statutory obligations on the Council.

6.2 The Local Plan is also a critical tool in helping the Council deliver its objectives.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 The Consultation sets out the options for public engagement. These options are subject to possible further technical work to assist in selecting the preferred option/route. Options are constrained by National Planning Policy, the Joint Spatial Plan, Department for Transport Guidance and the Council's objectives

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 Preparation of the Transport Studies document reflects both cross-serviced working and an ongoing engagement with our Cabinet Member.

8.2 The November –December consultation is part of a wider community engagement exercise entailing consultation on further Joint Spatial Plan evidence, Strategic Transport proposals, highlighting the Joint Local Transport Plan4, proposals for Keynsham High Street and proposals for the Somer Valley Enterprise Zone.

8.3 The arrangements for the consultation entail local and district wide publicity, mail outs and four staffed exhibitions around the district. The budget does not enable any further events to be held.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

Contact person	<i>Claire Cornelius, Transport & Developments Manager, Highways 01225 474338</i>
Background papers	<i>West of England Joint Spatial Plan Publication Nov 2017 West of England Joint Transport Study Oct 2017</i>

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