

**A Draft Summary Of The Process To
Date: Towards A New LTP**

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Hertfordshire Context – Growth, Transport, Challenges & Opportunities

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This paper contains a draft summary of the evidence behind the proposed content of the new LTP4. In particular, it details the current Hertfordshire context, its growth proposals and its transport challenges and opportunities

Process to date

Development of a new Local Transport Plan for Hertfordshire has progressed through a number of stages since work commenced in 2014.

Stage 1

This defined what a positive future transport vision for Hertfordshire would be, and the challenges, issues and opportunities faced by the county now and in future years.

It outlined both positive and negative variations on what Hertfordshire could look like in the future. It also looked into the challenges and opportunities that Hertfordshire would face, and the role of transport in addressing these. In exploring the future long term vision a number of ‘drivers of change’ (society, technology, economy, environment and political) were considered, and a review of the county’s transport problems and issues was also undertaken.

Stakeholders were engaged on the initial Stage 1 findings with feedback reflected in the final Stage 1 report.

Stage 2

This provided a greater understanding of how transport can support local economic growth, and outlined some broad transport strategy options and packages of schemes to support this. It also considered the interaction of land use and transport planning during and beyond the current Local Plan period (up to 2031).

Work involved further developing the Vision evidence base to gain a better understanding on how transport can best contribute to future economic growth (currently the primary public policy objective and a necessary consideration in securing investment in the local transport system). The study also outlined options for future packages of major transport schemes/interventions. These were presented in two timeframes, up to 2031 (the known local land use plan period) and the period after this up to 2050, to recognise the interaction of long term land use and transport planning.

The Stage 2 work was subject to a stakeholder engagement exercise in the Autumn of 2015, to gain feedback on the transport objectives, challenges and issues, major transport schemes, and long term planning scenarios. One of the main outcomes of this engagement exercise was that the objectives presented in the Stage 2 Vision Report needed to have a broader focus than economic growth and recognise transport's contribution to other important policy areas, and that the major projects presented were not considered sufficient to tackle the challenges faced by the county.

Some travel pattern analysis was also carried out during this time to aid the early development of the major schemes long list.

In addition, the wider policy context was taken into account at this time:

Policy Context

The Transport Act 2000 (amended 2008) places a statutory requirement on Local Transport Authorities to produce a Local Transport Plan and regularly review this. The previous Local Transport Plan (LTP3) was based around the Government's DaSTS goals (Delivering a Sustainable Transport System, 2008), which focused on delivering economic growth whilst reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The current Government has yet to publish any overarching national transport policy to replace the DaSTS strategy, therefore this Local Transport Plan and its guiding vision will be developed with reference to a combination of current National and Local Policies (see Figure). The Bus Act and a National Air Quality Plan are notable forthcoming national policy statements, which the finalised LTP will need to acknowledge.

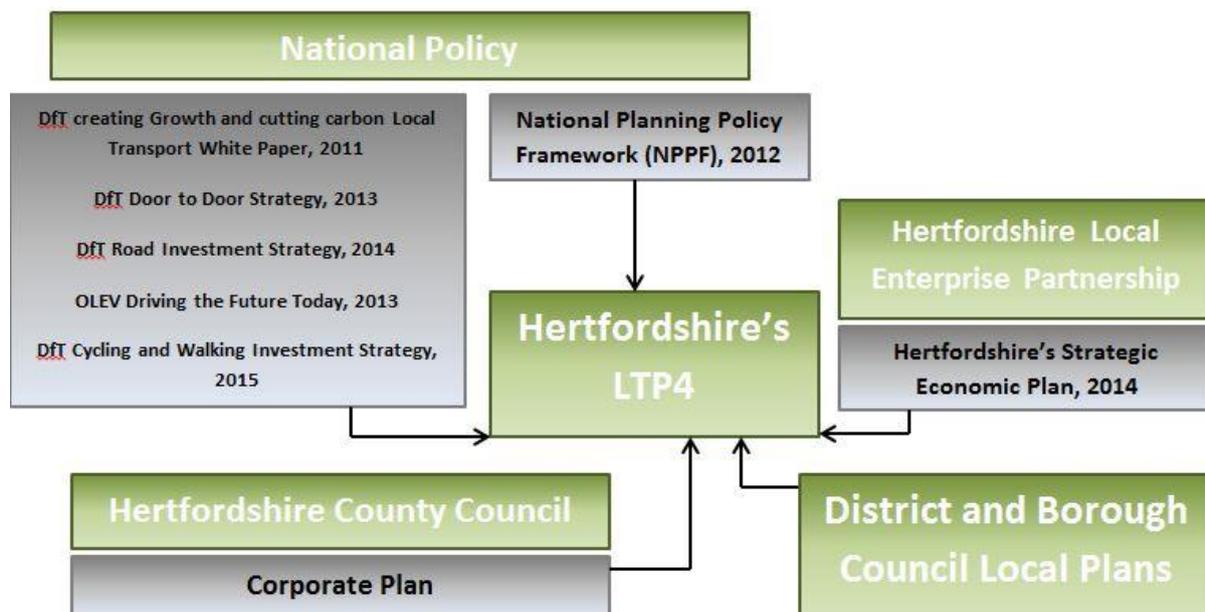


Figure 1: Primary National and Local Policy documents that have influenced the development of this fourth Local Transport Plan.

Hertfordshire County Council’s current Corporate Plan (2013-2017) identifies the four key priorities which this LTP seeks to support and reflect in its vision and objectives. These priorities are for residents to have the opportunity to:

- Thrive
- Prosper
- Be healthy and safe
- Take part

Stage 3

This consultation marks the end of Stage 3 in the development of the new LTP. This stage has analysed evidence on each of the LTP objectives outlined in the main consultation document, and developed options for new local transport policy. Stage 3 also identified a preferred package of major transport schemes that could form part of the new plan, and The Hertfordshire Major Schemes Option Development and Assessment Report provides more information on these and how they have been identified.

An important source of evidence during Stage 3 has been the development of a new countywide multimodal transport model (COMET). This has provided a better understanding of current and future travel patterns, transport conditions and the ability to test the impact and value of the proposed major transport schemes detailed later in this document.

Next Steps

Following this consultation the development of the new plan will enter its final phase, where the feedback received will shape the full draft plan and updated set of transport policies. This will then be subject to a further round of consultation in advance of its adoption by the County Council.

As well as taking into account national and local policy, the new plan will consider various reports on its impact on the county's communities, environment and natural habitats throughout its development. These reports are also available for comment during this public consultation, and will be updated during further development of the strategy.

Strategic Environmental Assessment and other Impact Assessments

It is necessary by law (EU Directive 2001/42/EC) to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on certain plans and programmes that are likely to have a significant effect upon the environment. A mini SEA has been undertaken alongside this consultation to assess the proposed content that and policy changes. A more rigorous and full environmental appraisal (SEA) that will examine the likely effects of a plan or programme on environmental, social and economic objectives will be undertaken alongside the draft LTP next summer.

A number of parallel assessment processes will also need to be carried out at the same time as the main SEA when the draft LTP is consulted on, including a Habitats Regulations Assessment (to assess impacts on protected European sites of interest in and around Hertfordshire), and an Equality Impact Assessment (so as to not discriminate against protected groups of people). Again, smaller versions of these have been carried out for this consultation.