



To: Executive Councillor for Planning and Climate Change
Report by: Head of Planning Services
Relevant scrutiny committee: Development Plan Scrutiny Sub Committee 11/09/2012
Wards affected: All Wards

Draft Response to Consultation on the Issues and Options stage of the proposed Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire (TSCSC)

Non Key Decision

1.0 Executive summary

- 1.1 Cambridgeshire County Council is consulting on what a new Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire (TSCSC) should look like. This is the first step in the process and the document (Appendix B) highlights some of the main issues and challenges for transport in the area, and asks what approach they should take in developing a new transport strategy to address these issues.
- 1.2 The TSCSC is being prepared in parallel with the Local Plan Reviews for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.
- 1.3 This report sets out the key highlights of the consultation for the City Council, including its links to the Cambridge Local Plan Review, the timetable and the suggested response to the County Council (Appendix A). The Council's suggested response to South Cambridgeshire's Issues and Options Report is also on this agenda.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 This report is being submitted to the Development Plan Scrutiny Sub-Committee for prior consideration and comment before decision by the Executive Councillor for Planning and Climate Change.
- 2.2 The Executive Councillor is recommended to agree the City Council's proposed representations to the County Council consultation on a Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, as set out in Appendix A.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire are popular places to live and work, and have continued to experience high levels of jobs, housing and population growth. New development is being built on the fringes of the city and is also planned for Northstowe. The new Local Plan will set the future level of housing provision to 2031.
- 3.2 The continuing growth and prosperity of the local economy has led to growing pressure on the county's transport network and increasing demand for housing. Growing prosperity has also contributed to an increase in the number of cars on the roads, with overall traffic levels in the county continuing to rise and congestion increasing, despite increases in cycling and public transport use.
- 3.3 The TSCSC needs to take account of the predicted growth in the area to ensure that current and future transport needs are met, that people can access work and services, and that the character of the area can be preserved. This will help to ensure that people in the area continue to enjoy a high quality of life.
- 3.4 The TSCSC will sit under the Third Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 (LTP3), the main transport policy document for the whole county. LTP3 sets out the transport challenges across the County and outlines the policies and plans for transport and aims to contribute towards the County Council's stated vision of 'creating communities where people want to live and work: now and in the future.' The TSCSC will provide a more detailed policy framework and programme of schemes for the area, consistent with the LTP3, and building on previous successful strategies.
- 3.5 A new transport strategy is vital for the future of the area and will allow further transport improvements to be put in place, so that the transport network can continue to meet the needs of local people and accommodate growth.

4.0 Link to the Local Plan Review

- 4.1 In order to ensure the link between the level and nature of growth planned in the city and in South Cambridgeshire is aligned to the proposed transport strategy, the TSCSC is being prepared in parallel with the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan Reviews, and consultation is being undertaken at the same time. Officers from the County Council have been present at all of the City Council Issues and Options Exhibitions, and this is a pattern that will continue throughout the South Cambridgeshire District Council exhibitions.

- 4.2 The TSCSC will also be looking at the longer-term picture for the area, tying in with the two Council's Local Plans, which both look towards 2031.

5.0 The Consultation Document (Appendix B)

- 5.1 The full consultation document is appended to this report (Appendix B) along with the suggested response (Appendix A). However, some key aspects to the document are listed below:
- 5.2 The document is very much at a 'high level' and at an early stage in its preparation. The document asks for views on transport issues, challenges and approaches, so that production on a draft Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire can commence.
- 5.3 The document is set out in 3 sections:
- The information in Part 1 of the document sets out to give a picture of how the area is expected to develop and change, what the current transport situation is, including more details about the current approach to tackling transport issues, and how the situation is expected to change in future;
 - Part 2 then asks for views on the issues and challenges faced by the area, and on the proposed vision and objectives for the transport strategy;
 - Finally, Part 3 asks for views on different approaches to dealing with transport in future.
- 5.4 A number of transport issues for the area have already been identified, along with a series of potential options for overcoming or mitigating them. These include the Cambridge Core Scheme to restrict general vehicular traffic from the central area of Cambridge and major new pedestrian/cycle bridges at Milton, Coldhams Lane and Riverside, the replacement Cutter Ferry Bridge and the refurbishment of the Carter Bridge. Many of the projects listed in paragraph 3.1 of the TSCSC comprise past and current schemes that have been carried out by the County Council, and the question is asked whether more of the same is needed, or indeed if more ambition should be shown. This is not intended to be a prescriptive list of options, but merely a guide towards the type of schemes that can be used within the strategy.
- 5.5 The funding situation is also explained in the document. The key message from this is that funding from central Government is much reduced on previous years, as explained in LTP3. Therefore,

ambitions for the strategy need to be managed accordingly, and alternative sources of funding (such as developer contributions for example) will play a key role in delivering options above the 'do minimum' response.

- 5.6 Appendix A sets out the suggested consultation response to be submitted to the County Council.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 The consultation began on 15th June, running alongside the City Council's Local Plan – Towards 2031 Issues and Options consultation, and ends on the 28th September 2012, to coincide with the close of the South Cambridgeshire District Council's Local Plan Issues and Options consultation.
- 6.2 Once the County Council have considered the responses submitted on the transport issues, challenges and approaches for the area, a draft TSCSC will be produced.
- 6.3 Further consultation on the draft TSCSC will take place during 2013, at the same time as Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council are consulting on their draft Local Plans. The County Council will consider representations and make amendments to the strategy prior to adoption of the TSCSC as part of the Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 (LTP3).

7.0 Implications

Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Staffing Implications

- 7.2 There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report.

Equal Opportunities Implications

- 7.3 There are no direct equal opportunities implications arising from this report.

Environmental Implications

- 7.4 Transport planning has a direct interrelationship with the City Council's spatial planning for its administrative area. It is vital that Cambridge

City Council works effectively with Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council to progress improvements to transport infrastructure.

Community Safety

- 7.5 There are no direct community safety implications arising from this report.

8.0 Background papers

- 8.1 These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Issues for a New Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire – Consultation Document, June 2012 (Cambridgeshire County Council)
<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/strategies/currenttransportplans/Transport+Strategy+for+Cambridge+and+South+Cambridgeshire.htm>
<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/7333F934-E242-4B02-BC94-59E300858B5E/0/TSCConsultationDocumentFINAL.pdf>
- Local Transport Plan 3 (Cambridgeshire County Council)
<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/strategies/currenttransportplans/local+transport+plan.htm>
<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/81A57E02-48D8-4C24-862F-B42A900F70D8/0/LTP3PoliciesandStrategy.pdf>
<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/EDB8478E-9462-49D0-A1F0-763FEFD96CB3/0/LTP3ImplementationPlan.pdf>
- Cambridge Local Plan – Towards 2031, Issues and Options Report, June 2012 (Cambridge City Council)
<http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/public/docs/local-plan-review-issues-and-options-report.pdf>

9.0 Appendices

- Appendix A –Suggested Response by Cambridge City Council to the Issues for a new Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire (TSCSC)
- Appendix B - Issues for a New Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire – Consultation Document, June 2012 (Cambridgeshire County Council)

10.0 Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

Author's Name: Matthew Bowles

Author's Phone Number: 01223 457172

Author's Email: matthew.bowles@cambridge.gov.uk