

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 25 September 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Environment

SUBJECT: Local Transport Plan Interim Review Report

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1. The purpose of this report is to advise members on the contents of the Local Transport Plan (LTP2) Interim Review Report and to seek approval to submit the Report to Government Office North West (GONW). The deadline for submission is the 30th September 2008.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) the contents of the LTP2 Interim Review Report are noted;**
- (2) the Board approves the LTP2 Interim Review Report and its submission to Government Office North West (GONW), subject to any minor amendments being delegated to the Operational Director of Highways, Transportation & Logistics in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Planning, Transportation, Regeneration & Renewal.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1. The Local Transport Plan is a statutory document setting out Halton's objectives, strategies and policies for transport. Halton's second Local Transport Plan (LTP2) covers the period from 2005/06 to 2010/11 and gives a summary of the initiatives that will be delivered along with projected expenditure, performance indicators and targets.

3.2. Under the reporting arrangements agreed for LTP2, Halton Borough Council must review progress in 2008, partway through the LTP period, and submit a report to GONW. In reviewing progress, authorities are encouraged to engage with GONW, raise key issues and instigate dialogue to find solutions. Officers from Halton have met with representatives from GONW on three separate occasions and discussed draft copies of the Interim Review Report.

3.3. The indicators and targets reported on in the Interim Review are taken from the original LTP2 produced in 2005. 17 of the indicators are mandatory indicators required by the Department for Transport (DfT) and the rest are local indicators agreed with DfT. Authorities have been told that the DfT expects authorities to continue to collect and report on these indicators for the remainder of LTP2. However,

the DfT has acknowledged that some local authorities may wish to stop or amend the monitoring of certain indicators based on BVPIs which are not part of the new National Indicator set or make amendments to local indicators where circumstances have changed. Any proposed changes must have a clear rationale set out in the Interim Review Report.

- 3.4. Unlike previous LTP reporting, the LTP2 2008 Interim Review Reports will not be formally classified by the Department for Transport (DfT) and LTP funding will not be allocated on the basis of the report.

4.0 CONTENTS OF THE INTERIM REVIEW REPORT

- 4.1. The Interim Review Report has been structured around the 4-shared transport priorities agreed between Government and Local Authorities: 'Tackling Congestion', 'Delivering Accessibility', 'Safer Roads' and 'Better Air Quality'. Network Management Duties have been included under 'Tackling Congestion'. The report discusses each of the priorities in turn; setting out the background and highlighting case studies of work undertaken before reporting on relevant indicators, spend and future risks to delivery. An overview of: progress as measured by indicators; spend during the two years; and a risk assessment, is provided at the end of the report. Throughout the report, key links between the LTP and Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) priorities have been identified and highlighted.

- 4.2. Analysis of the indicators presented in the Interim Review Report shows that, over the two year period (2006/07 & 2007/08):

- 72% of LTP mandatory indicator targets have been met or are on-target to be met.
- 73% of LTP local indicator targets have been met or are on-target to be met.

These figures exclude the mandatory indicators 'LTP2 - Change in area wide road traffic mileage' and 'LTP7 – Congestion' for which data collected by the DfT is not available for Halton.

- 4.3. Data on spend shows that actual total LTP capital spend (£8,534,000) has been very close to the predicted spend for the two years, with only a minor overspend of +0.7%. Over the same period, HBC revenue spend on transport, including staff costs, totalled £16,971,000, which was -1.5% lower than the predicted spend. In addition, £9,633,000 external capital funding and £773,000 external revenue funding was secured towards LTP transport initiatives over the same period.

4.4. Key highlights from the LTP period include:

- Continued progress on the Mersey Gateway crossing including development of a Sustainable Transport Strategy.
- Development of a new scheme to feedback journey time information to drivers for the strategic route across the Silver Jubilee Bridge (SJB). The journey time information being displayed on roadside Variable Message Signs (VMS).
- Commissioning of research into critical wind speeds on the SJB.
- Introduction of a 'Links2Work' service to help people accessing employment in industrial areas.
- Independent Travel Training to support people who need extra help in gaining the essential skills to access public transport.
- Introduction of a 'Halton Hopper' weekly multi-operator ticket and subsequent development of a student hopper ticket and a 'Young Person's Hopper'.
- Continued development of the Greenway network for walking and cycling.
- Implementation of a sustainable travel project for the Widnes Waterfront EDZ development.
- Development of a new 'Door2Door' service integrating accessible services offered by Halton Community Transport (HCT) with HBC's fleet transport, accompanied by investment in new vehicles and vehicle scheduling/booking software.
- Increased emphasis on the role of Road Safety Education, Training and Publicity (RSET&P) with initiatives such as 'Crucial Crew', 'Megadrive', 'Fit Bar', 'Pass-Plus' and 'Powerbikes'.
- Introduction of the first 'Red Routes' in the Borough, targeting drivers on routes that have been identified as having a high level of collisions.
- Enhanced air quality monitoring in key areas of the Borough.

The projects listed above are only part of the wider LTP funded work programme. The wider programme also includes spending on; structural maintenance of highways, footways and cycleways; street lighting; bridge assessment, strengthening and maintenance; local safety schemes; quality corridor improvements; and improvements to walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure.

4.5. The assessment of future risk for key areas of LTP related work has been based on a traffic light system (Green = Low Risk, Amber = Medium Risk and Red = High Risk). Of the seven areas of LTP work, 5 have been graded as 'Green' and 2 as 'Amber'. Asset Management has been graded as 'Amber' to reflect that although progress has been made on developing the Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) for the borough, considerable work is still required to complete the plan and the plan is likely to be in place

only at the very end of the LTP2 period. Accessibility, which includes Public Rights of Way (PRoW), has also been graded as 'Amber'. Good progress has been made so far on Accessibility but this priority is currently facing a number of challenges including: rising operating costs for public transport operators and voluntary sector transport operators; limited availability of revenue funding and in particular sustained revenue funding; and increasing demands being placed on existing revenue funding supporting services.

4.6. The LTP Interim Review Report proposes changes to the following indicators:

- *BVPI 187: Percentage of category 1,1a & 2 footway network where structural maintenance should be considered.* It is proposed that a new performance indicator reporting on the whole of Halton's footway and footpath network should be developed (LTP Mandatory Indicator).
- *LTP5 (c): Percentage of buses on time at non-timing points.* Following DfT advice, Halton proposes to cease monitoring this indicator (LTP Mandatory Indicator)
- *BVPI 103: Percentage of users who are satisfied with local provision of public transport information.* This indicator is collected once every three years via a survey that is unable to differentiate between users and non-users and the data serves little purpose other than reporting BVPI 103. Halton therefore proposes to cease monitoring this indicator (LTP Local Indicator).

4.7. In addition, the Interim Review Report proposes a number of adjustments to targets for LTP indicators for the remaining years of LTP2. Details of these can be found in Appendix B of the draft Interim Review Report.

5.0 PROCESS & TIMETABLE FOR SUBMITTING THE INTERIM REVIEW REPORT

5.1. Government Office North West requested that all authorities submit a draft version of their LTP2 Interim Review Report by 31st July 2008. Halton Borough Council has met this deadline.

5.2. The draft Report is now being worked-up into a final version. The draft Report was circulated internally to key contacts within the Council for comments and these comments have been incorporated, where appropriate, into the final document. The draft Report was taken to the Urban Renewal Policy & Performance Board (PPB) meeting held on 17th September 2008. Any comments from the Urban Renewal PPB will be verbally reported to this Board.

5.3. This report is seeking approval from the Executive Board for the LTP2 Interim Review Report, subject to any minor amendments

being delegated to the Operational Director of Highways, Transportation & Logistics in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Planning, Transportation. The report is also seeking approval from the Executive Board to submit the final LTP2 Interim Review Report in electronic form to GONW by the deadline of 30th September 2008.

- 5.4. Printing of the paper copies of the report will take place in early October 2008. Copies will be distributed internally and sent to all individuals currently on the LTP external mailing list. The final document will also be made available to view/download on the Council website.
- 5.5. Government Office North West (GONW) has arranged for senior officers from Halton to make a verbal presentation on the results of the Interim Review to GONW officers and other invited representatives in early October.
- 5.6. Following the submission of the final report and completion of the presentation, Government Office North West (GONW) will make an assessment of the review. GONW have indicated that the results of the assessment will be sent to the Authority by the end of December 2008.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The LTP2 Interim Review reports progress on the implementation of Halton's Local Transport Plan. There are no other specific policy implications resulting from this report.

7.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The only resource implication is the cost of producing the LTP2 Interim Review Report, estimated to be around £7,000, which can be accommodated from within existing budgets. Social Inclusion and Sustainability are a fundamental part of Halton's Local Transport Plan and many LTP funded projects directly seek to improve local residents access to jobs and services and/or increase the use of sustainable transport such as walking, cycling and public transport. With regard to Best Value, the LTP2 Interim Review includes proposed changes to monitoring BVPIs and these are discussed in the Report. There are no Legal Implications or Crime and Disorder Issues associated with the Report.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

8.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The LTP2 Interim Review Report reports on progress that has helped to improve accessibility for Children and Young People. Examples of initiatives include: the introduction of the Young

Person's Hopper Ticket; an Independent Travel Training programme; and Road Safety Education, Training and Publicity.

8.2. Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The LTP2 Interim Review Report reports on progress that has helped to improve access to Employment, Learning and Skills. Examples of initiatives include: the introduction of a 'Links2Work' service and the Widnes Waterfront EDZ Sustainable Travel Project.

8.3. A Healthy Halton

The LTP2 Interim Review Report reports on progress that has helped to contribute to A Healthy Halton. Examples of initiatives include: the introduction of a 'Hospital Link' service; joint working with Halton Community Transport to provide accessible transport services; continuation of the 'Greenway' programme and other Rights of Way improvements; Road Safety Education, Training and Publicity; and work on Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).

8.4. A Safer Halton

The LTP2 Interim Review Report reports on progress that has helped to contribute to A Safer Halton. Examples of initiatives include: Local Safety Partnerships; 'Fit Bar' Driver Impairment Initiative; the introduction of Red Routes; and Road Safety Education, Training and Publicity.

8.5. Halton's Urban Renewal

The LTP2 Interim Review Report reports on progress that has helped to contribute to Halton's Urban Renewal. Examples of initiatives include: Working in Partnership to Tackle Congestion; the development of the Mersey Gateway Sustainable Transport Strategy; Merseyside & Halton Freight Partnership; and Widnes Waterfront EDZ Sustainable Travel Project.

9.0 RISK ANALYSIS

9.1. The second Local Transport Plan (LTP2) is closely managed by officers and annual assessments are made on the progress the Council is making against delivery. Performance management minimises the risk of failing to deliver and has helped the authority to achieve a high level of performance. Arrangements are in place to ensure that the Council meets all the deadlines for the LTP2 Interim Review.

10.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

10.1. One of the main objectives of LTP2 is to ensure that everyone, living, working and visiting the Borough enjoys convenient, affordable, safe access to a wide range of everyday facilities. Equality and diversity issues are therefore considered in the design and implementation of LTP projects. There are no specific equality

or diversity issues linked to the LTP Interim Review process. Large print and other formats of the LTP2 Interim Review Report document will be made available on request at no charge.

11.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Halton Borough Council Final Local Transport Plan 2006/07 to 2010/11	Rutland House	Claire Maclaine 0151 424 2061 ext. 3129
Department for Transport Guidance on Second Local Transport Plan (LTP2) Progress Reports (2008)	Rutland House	Claire Maclaine 0151 424 2061 ext. 3129