

# Report to Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

<b>Subject:</b>	Local Transport Plan (Movement for growth) Review Green Paper
<b>Director:</b>	Interim Director of Regeneration & Growth Tammy Stokes
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## 1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Board notes the contents of the Local Transport Plan review Green Paper (Appendix A) and Summary Document (Appendix B).
- 1.2 That the Board provides comments to inform the next stage of the review of the Local Transport Plan.






## 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Local Transport Plan is a statutory document prepared by Transport for the West Midlands as part of the West Midlands Combined Authority in its role as Integrated Transport Authority. The Plan covers the seven West Midlands metropolitan local authorities. It therefore forms the adopted transport strategy and policies for Sandwell.
- 2.2 It is therefore important that the plan reflects the aspirations of Sandwell's Corporate Plan, its functions as Local Planning and Highway Authority and supports the boroughs economic growth.
- 2.4 A key element in the preparation of the LTP is the involvement of stakeholders, interested parties and the public. The views of the Board are



an important part of this process. The views of the Board, along with other representations received during the consultation period will be used to inform the preparation of the LTP. The final version of the Plan will be reported to Cabinet prior to its approval by WMCA Board.

### 3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<i>People live well and age well:</i> The Local Transport Plan contributes to safe and efficient roads for local people and visitors, and to the health benefits of sustainable active travel.
	<i>Strong resilient communities:</i> Successful communities need access to jobs, services and facilities to enable them to remain healthy and vibrant. The transport network is an important enabler of this.
	<i>Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods:</i> Both new and existing residential developments rely on good quality access and links to shops, services and leisure facilities in order for them to be successful. The Local Transport Plan provides the framework to support bids for funding to ensure the transport network is improved and maintained to support this need.
	<i>A strong and inclusive economy:</i> The provision of a high quality well maintained transport network will reduce journey times and improve journey reliability for Sandwell business who rely on it to connect to their suppliers and customers.
	<i>A connected and accessible Sandwell:</i> The provision of a high quality public transport and highway network is vital to enable Sandwell residents to access jobs, education and services both within and beyond the Borough's boundaries.



## 4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 Local Transport Plans (LTPs) are public documents that set out the highway authority's policies, strategies, objectives and targets for improving transport in their communities. An LTP normally covers a minimum period of 5 years. Annual Progress reports are submitted in each subsequent year.
- 4.2 LTPs and APRs are submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT), so they can be used to;
- inform the development of our policies on local transport
  - Inform and support policies on land use and place-making
  - inform decisions on capital funding for local authorities;
  - monitor the delivery of objectives and targets.
- 4.3 The preparation of a Local Transport Plan is a statutory requirement of the Transport Act 2000. In areas that have an Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) responsibility for the LTP sits with that authority. Since 2016 the role of ITA in the West Midlands has been exercised by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) through its transport arm Transport for West Midlands (TfWM).
- 4.4 The current LTP known as Movement for Growth was approved by the WMCA in 2016 and is the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Plan. It covers the period up to 2026. The associated Implementation Plan was approved in 2017.
- 4.5 The LTP has been instrumental in establishing the 30-year £8bn Investment Programme for transport and has contributed to the securing of;
- £321.5m Transforming Cities Fund
  - £350m Housing Deal
  - £20m WM Future Mobility Zone
- 4.6 In Sandwell, since the adoption of Movement for Growth, delivery of the Wednesbury to Brierley Hill metro extension has commenced, funding has been secured for the improvement of Birchley Island and an extensive programme of walking and cycling projects has either been delivered or is shortly to be.



- 4.7 It is now five years since Movement for growth was approved. In that period the following has occurred;
- The establishment of the role of West Midlands Mayor and mayoral elections.
  - Changing social priorities.
  - Brexit.
  - Devolution.
  - Funding and delivery of several schemes and the development of others. Delivery
  - New Local Plans adopted in several Local Authority areas and other in preparation.
  - Cultural successes (Commonwealth Games and Coventry City of Culture).
  - Climate and Air Quality Crises.
  - Covid-19 Pandemic.

The next iteration of the LTP therefore needs to reflect all of these.

- 4.8 To better inform the preparation of the 5<sup>th</sup> Local transport Plan, TfWM has published a Green Paper called *Reimagining transport in the West Midlands: a conversation about change*. This document will form the basis for engagement with elected members, partner organisations, key stakeholders and the wider public.

- 4.9 The key drivers behind the new LTP will be;

- Tackling Climate Change.
- Creating a fairer society.
- Becoming healthier and more active.
- Supporting places and communities.
- Sustaining economic success.

These align well with the ambitions of the Sandwell Corporate Plan. The LTP will, along with the Black Country Plan which is elsewhere on the agenda, be a key element in the physical and economic development of the Borough.

- 4.10 The reviewed LTP will include separate area strategies for Coventry, Birmingham & Solihull and the Black Country. These area strategies will



provide more specific detail on the application of the strategy and the projects and programmes required to support them.

#### 4.11 The anticipated timetable for preparation of the LTP is;

End 2021 - Completion of Draft LTP (including the Area Strategies).  
 January 2022 - WMCA Board approval of draft for consultation.  
 Feb - April - 12 weeks public consultation.  
 Summer 2022 - Approval by WMCA Board

## 6 Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	The LTP is prepared by Transport for West Midlands and is resourced from its own budgets.  Sandwell MBC officers from Transportation Planning and Highways are engaged in the Plan's preparation as part of the core function of these service areas. There are no direct resource implications for the Council.
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	Since the publication of Local Transport Act 2008 it is a statutory requirement of Integrated Transport Authorities (ITAs) to produce a Local Transport Plan (LTP) to develop policies relating to all aspects of transport, with close collaboration with surrounding Authorities. The ITA function in the West Midlands is exercised by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).
<b>Risk:</b>	There are no direct risk implications resulting from the course of action recommended in this report.
<b>Equality:</b>	TfWM will carry out a full Equality Impact Assessment as part of the preparation of the LTP.
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	The LTP will address a wide range of issues relating to health and wellbeing including tackling climate change, poor air quality and the provision of active travel infrastructure such as cycle facilities which are recognised as supporting fitter and healthier lifestyles.
<b>Social Value</b>	There are no direct social value implications arising from this report as the Plan does not directly authorise



	projects or construction of infrastructure. The social value implications of individual proposals will, where the Council is directly involved in delivery, be assessed as part of the individual approval processes for those projects.
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## 7. Appendices

- Appendix A- Reimagining transport in the West Midlands: a conversation about change.
- Appendix B - Reimagining transport in the West Midlands: a conversation about change – Summary Document

## 8. Background Papers

West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan - Movement for Growth (TfWM, 2016)

Movement for Growth Ten Year Implementation Plan (TfWM, 2017)

