

REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

LOCAL TRANSPORT DELIVERY PLAN CONSULTATION

Report Reference EN-20-05
Meeting Date 25th January 2021
Agenda Item 6
Prepared by Town Clerk



1.0 BACKGROUND

The Cheshire East Council Local Transport Plan was adopted in October 2019 and covers the period 2019-2024. The plan sets out a range of actions that it is taking across the borough including fixing potholes and maintaining public rights of way; managing car parking; coordinating public transport; developing a electric vehicle infrastructure strategy and developing local cycling and walking plans.

The Borough Council is also developing town specific delivery plans which set out a range of scheme options that could be delivered to improve the transport network and support the recovery of individual town centres in Cheshire East.

Cheshire East Council is undertaking a consultation (closes 31st January) on its Local Transport Town Delivery Plans which identify where it should prioritise investment and seek funding for transport initiatives, with the overall aim of improving:

- accessibility for all – considering all travel needs
- sustainability – improving walking, cycling and public transport
- quality of the public realm – managing traffic to support town centres and the visitor economy
- better neighbourhoods – improving amenity where people live
- connectivity – the strategic links needs to access work, education and essential services, such as hospitals

Following this consultation feedback will be reviewed and schemes will be prioritised to shape the final Town Delivery Plans for each area of the borough.

The survey was circulated to all members in December and the Town Clerk asked members to send their responses to him to enable a draft council response to be prepared. Three members submitted responses. The Town Clerk has reviewed the survey in relation to the output from the *From Top to Bottom Street* proposals and the council's resolved positions.

2.0 PROPOSALS IN THE TOWN DELIVERY PLAN

The Knutsford Town Delivery Plan covers Knutsford and its wide rural hinterland. It sets out six proposed objectives:

1. Improving access to the town centre and the train station to support a thriving town centre
2. Supporting access to education and employment sites such as Booths Park, Radbroke Park, Alderley Park, Manchester Airport and Jodrell Bank

3. Supporting access from Mobberley and rural communities around Knutsford to key services and employment centres
4. Improving access on key travel corridors such as the A50
5. Improving connectivity to leisure and tourism locations such as Tatton Park and Jodrell Bank
6. Strengthening the transport network to accommodate development sites within the Local Plan such as North West Knutsford, Parkgate Extension and Land South of Longridge.

The plan identifies 48 objectives (see the full plan detail here: [CEC LTP Delivery Plan Consultation](#))

The plan is comprehensive and incorporates improvements/projects from the From Top to Bottom Street report, Neighbourhood Plan and Cycle Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

3.0 DRAFT CONSULTATION RESPONSE

Knutsford Town Council commends Cheshire East Council on producing a comprehensive series of objectives to support sustainable travel around Knutsford and notes it incorporates many of the community's objectives as set out in the Knutsford Neighbourhood Plan, From Top to Bottom Street Report and the Cycle Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

The Town Council is keen to be involved in preparing the detail of schemes, providing our local knowledge to ensure proposals continue to meet the needs of our community; we commit to working with Cheshire East Council on this basis.

The identified objectives are all commendable; the plan is ambitious and forward thinking and it is difficult to prioritise projects without an understanding of how many of these projects are realistically going to be delivered and we wish to work with Cheshire East Council in determining the prioritisation of projects over time.

The Town Council considers that one of the highest priorities for improve transport to Knutsford is an increase in the frequency of rail services to be at least half-hourly. A direct rail and cycle connection to Manchester Airport is also a high priority to sustainably connect to a major employment and transport hub which is frustratingly challenging to get to considering its close proximity.

The Town Council also considers that the traffic and transport assessment of the From Top to Bottom Street proposals is a high priority; this will help ascertain the feasibility of these proposals and the programming of arising projects into the Town Delivery Plan and forthcoming Town Centre Masterplan.

As the strategic development sites with Knutsford are developed the Town will be placed under additional stress; projects which ease this are also considered a high priority.

The Town Council considers one omission from the plan is investigating the creation of a secondary vehicular access to the Parkgate Industrial Estate / Parkgate Strategic Development via Rookwood Way; the singular access to these areas via a narrow railway bridge is considered a severe pinch point and the community strongly believes will cause significant problems once development takes place.

4.0 DECISION REQUIRED

The committee should consider the draft consultation response.