

REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

CEC LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN CONSULTATION

Report Reference ET-25-15
Meeting Date 17th November 2025
Agenda Item 8
Prepared by Town Clerk



1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Cheshire East Council is consulting on a new Local Transport Plan. The borough council is required to produce a plan to set out the policies and plans to address transport challenges and deliver the vision for transport across the local authority. The strategy document sets out the council's vision and supporting aims for improving transport for everyone across Cheshire East through to 2040. It will replace the 2019 plan.

The draft plan notes that the Cheshire and Warrington Combined Authority will be established from 2026 and it is expected that this will deliver additional investment in transport, along with the combined authority holding additional transport powers.

The key documents are:

- [Local Transport Plan Strategy](#)
- [Local Transport Plan Investment Framework](#)

A consultation brochure has also been prepared which summarises the documents.

1.2 POLICIES IN STRATEGY

The plan sets out four policies, these are explained in more detail in the consultation brochure and full strategy.

- LTP1 Support the delivery of growth within the borough through improved connections
- LTP2 Ensure transport improvements are fair and inclusive, actively reduce inequalities, and promote better health and wellbeing
- LTP3 Promote initiatives and infrastructure that support environmental sustainability and the drive to carbon neutrality
- LTP4 Prioritise improvements in line with the transport user hierarchy
- LTP5 A place-based approach that responds to the specific needs of people living and travelling across the borough
- LTP6 Effective enhancement and development of the transport network, adopting a Manage-Maintain-Invest hierarchy

1.3 INVESTMENT PLAN EXTRACTS

The following three packages are of particular relevance to Knutsford:

Connecting Manchester Airport

Improved sustainable travel connections with Manchester Airport through measures such as a rail/light rail service, bus connections and improvements to active travel, including links to the Orbital walking and cycling loop and development of the Bollin Valley Trail.

Connecting Warrington

Improved access along key routes to and from key locations in Warrington, including increased bus services to access employment and education from Knutsford.

Knutsford Package

Improved connectivity within Knutsford and to transport hubs through active travel schemes connecting the town centre and enhanced accessibility to employment sites, including Booths Park Business Complex, major employers and leisure attractions (e.g. Tatton Park). Addressing pinch points on the highway network (e.g. A537/ B5085 junction).

Bus Network Enhancement

Enhanced bus network including improved service frequencies, fares and ticketing schemes, real time information, improved bus stop infrastructure and bus priority. Deliver against the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) vision and objectives with a focus on providing quality improvements and supporting network growth.

2.0 POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

The policy document is strategic and high-level, therefore any response to the consultation should predominantly be pitched at a similar level.

The strategy aligns with:

- a) The Town Council's strategic plan aim to promote active travel and public transport to enable residents to reduce their reliance on cars
- b) The Town Council's bus stop infrastructure survey results highlighting the need for investment in, for example, real time information displays

A consultation response from the Town Council could specifically highlight this concordance.

The investment plan refers to the reopening of Middlewich Station, which infers support for the Mid Cheshire Rail Link which would reopen the Middlewich Branch line for passenger rail, connecting the Mid Cheshire Line with the Manchester to Crewe line. A consultation response from the Town Council could specifically call for this to be referred to as how one of the "achieved by" bullets under "Supporting the deliver of growth within the borough through improved connections".

The objective of improved bus connectivity with Manchester Airport and Warrington have also long been highlighted as beneficial to Knutsford. This could be specifically endorsed in a response from the Town Council. It would also be an opportunity to re-echo the demand for a town circular bus in relation to the Knutsford Package.

3.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED

The committee a response to the consultation.