

Crawley Borough Council

**Report to Cabinet
15 January 2020**

Draft Crawley Transport Strategy

Report of the Head of Economy and Planning, *PES/341*

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to request Cabinet approval to commence a period of public consultation on the draft Crawley Transport Strategy (Appendix A).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To the Cabinet

The Cabinet is recommended to:

- a) Review “New Directions for Crawley”, the borough’s new draft Transport Strategy (attached as Appendix A), and approve the draft for public consultation. .
- b) Delegate authority to the Head of Economy and Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development, to make minor amendments to the Crawley Transport Strategy in response to the consultation. (Generic Delegation 7 will be used to enact this recommendation).

3. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 3.1 To commence the process of establishing a Transport Strategy for Crawley, which:

- Seeks to provide a vision, rationale and framework to enable an integrated approach to improving access and transport throughout Crawley.
- Includes issues and options on how Borough wide transport provision can be improved and how the Council can respond in relation to its own service delivery
- Presents priorities for scheme delivery as the first phase towards delivery of the strategy’s vision
- Seeks to make the case for further external funds to invest in Crawley’s sustainable transport infrastructure.

4. Background

- 4.1 “New Directions for Crawley” is particularly timely as a means to help Crawley Borough Council respond to the Climate and Ecological Emergency. Across the Borough, transport is the primary contributor to climate heating and associated CO₂ emissions are increasing year on year. Transport also has a key impact on declining biodiversity.

- 4.2 Crawley's developing Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) will form an annexe to the draft strategy. This LCWIP will show prioritised proposed cycle routes and walking zones. An outline of key corridors forming the basis for these routes accompanies the current draft strategy.

5. Description of Issue to be resolved

- 5.1 The Sustainability Team coordinates responses to transport issues and plans and aims to help develop Crawley's sustainable transport infrastructure and encourage behaviour change, with the goal of improving transport choice for Crawley residents..
- 5.2 The Strategy has been drafted to take account of the importance of enhancing the Borough's sustainable transport and access, particularly in the light of its underpinning of the Crawley Growth Programme, which is investing in bus, cycle route, highway and pedestrian infrastructure. This has further developed into a draft strategy as its usefulness in providing supporting evidence for the new Local Plan has become clear. The strategy draft has assumed further importance following the declaration of the Climate and Ecological Emergency by Crawley Borough Council at its Full Council meeting in July 2019.
- 5.3 Subject to Cabinet approval of this draft, a period of stakeholder consultation would run for the period from 20 January 2020 until 17 February 2020, ensuring that priorities are in line with stakeholders and residents. The draft strategy will also be reviewed by the Climate Change Scrutiny Panel. The amended document will then return to Cabinet to seek formal approval.

6. Other Partner organisations

- 6.1 Local transport policy and planning is the statutory responsibility of West Sussex County Council (WSCC) as the Local Transport Authority. Crawley Borough Council will need to take many elements of this strategy forward with their agreement and cooperation. To this end, the Council is in discussion with WSCC Transport Planning and Policy staff to ensure that statutory boundaries are respected and the role of the Local Transport Authority is acknowledged as a key stakeholder in terms of both policy development and scheme delivery. To date, this has identified areas requiring further clarification and suggestions for expanding some of the newer ideas, and these have been incorporated into the strategy.
- 6.2 Other transport organisations, including Metrobus, Network Rail and GTR will be consulted prior to submission to Cabinet for formal approval and to date these bodies have been supportive of the initial draft.
- 6.3 A range of stakeholders across the Borough will be consulted, including the Manor Royal Business District, in view of the close links to recognised transport priorities for Manor Royal.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications at this stage.

8. Equality Implications

- 8.1 The Council must have regard to section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. The public sector equality duty requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to:
- a) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under that Act;
 - b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it; and,
 - c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share it, which involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:-
 - (i) tackle prejudice; and,
 - (ii) promote understanding.
- 8.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out and does not identify any action that needs to be taken as a result of the strategy. Any changes to service delivery that result from implementing the strategy may themselves need to be assessed separately for their impact on people with protected characteristics, and at this stage a separate EIA may be required. The EIA is attached as Appendix B.

9. Background Papers

None

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