

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Local Transport Plan

Summary 2017-2030



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Cheshire West
and Chester

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For full details about our transport strategy and its supporting documents visit our website:

<http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/transport-and-roads/public-transport/transport-strategy.aspx>

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Foreword

Welcome to Cheshire West and Chester Council's revised and updated **Local Transport Plan** (LTP3). This has been prepared to review and set out our plans and proposals for taking forward our transport priorities between now and 2030.

A lot has happened since we published our previous LTP in 2011 and it is timely that we have updated this document to reflect these changes and how we intend to respond to them.

Listening to local views and those of our partners remains central to our thinking. We have made sure that information collected from Community Surveys, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, our Let's Talk consultation and other recent transport studies as well as examining the wealth of transport information contained in the 2011 census have closely informed and provided evidence to update this strategy.

There continues to be strong local support for ensuring that our roads are well maintained and steps are taken to reduce congestion in our town centres and on our main strategic roads and motorways linking us to neighbouring areas. Rail modernisation, electrification and the opportunities presented by the HS2 hub at Crewe will be vital to ensure that Cheshire West and Chester is well positioned to take full advantage of its location as the gateway to the Northern Powerhouse alongside its strong inter-relationship with the North Wales economy. At a local level residents are telling us that we need act to improve bus services so they can take people where they want to go and times that are convenient to the passenger; that we improve road safety and reduce the number of casualties on our roads; we encourage the use of more sustainable



types of transport, especially walking and cycling, and we fully embrace the opportunities presented by new technology and ultra-low emission vehicles.

All of this will be essential if we are to deliver the key targets set out in the Council Plan for 2016 to 2020. This includes seeking to provide 5,000 new jobs, 4,400 new homes and securing £277m of capital investment in regeneration, housing and key infrastructure. Indeed, in the period up to 2030 the Council's Local Plan is seeking to deliver at least 22,000 new homes along with over 360 hectares of employment land. Good transport access and connectivity will be vital to enable this to happen.

The next few years will be very challenging as we work to deliver our priorities. The Council still faces considerable spending reductions and savings. Nevertheless, we will work to make the best use of our existing transport networks and invest in schemes which will provide the best possible outcomes and value for money to enable further economic growth and wider objectives to be achieved.

Our overall goal is to work towards providing and managing a well maintained, safe, integrated, sustainable transport network for the future. This is essential to support the Council's wider social, economic and environmental goals and priorities. It will also help to underpin our approach to localism and aspirations to help the Borough thrive as we work to boost our economy, address inequalities, tackle health and wellbeing, enhance our local environment and neighbourhoods and improve safety and security.

This plan provides the basis to turn our vision, and that of our partners, into a reality.

Councillor Samantha Dixon

Leader of Cheshire West and Chester Council

Councillor Brian Clarke

Cabinet Member,
Economic Development and Infrastructure



2 Why we have updated our Local Transport Plan

Transport is an issue for everybody. It is a key factor in helping to support economic growth and regeneration, improving links to jobs and everyday services, improving the environment, helping to reduce the impact of climate change, and helping to tackle disadvantage. The opportunities available to people in how, when and where they travel have a major impact on transport patterns as well as our wider quality of life.

Cheshire West and Chester Council's published its Local Transport Plan (LTP3) in March 2011. This set out our over-arching strategy and objectives for improving local transport in the Borough for the next 15 years.

There have been many significant changes to both the national and local transport agenda since 2011 and, as a statutory document, the Council has a duty to keep the LTP under review to ensure that it remains relevant. As a result, it was decided that the time was right to revisit and refresh our strategy in order to bring it up to date, to account for the changes that have occurred over the last five years and to respond to the likely challenges and opportunities that are to come in the years ahead.

3 The format of the LTP

The LTP remains a statutory document and needs to cover a number of themes and topics. These include:

- An assessment of the characteristics, future trends and issues that will have an impact on travel in West Cheshire and the surrounding area in the years to come;
- An overview of local views and ambitions relating to transport;
- Our goals and objectives that support both national and local aspirations for transport; and
- An analysis of local transport issues, challenges and opportunities alongside a series of policies and suggested actions to deliver our transport priorities over the lifetime of the plan.

This summary sets out an outline of our updated LTP proposals. These have only been amended where appropriate to take into account new evidence and the main changes since 2011 that build on our existing objectives rather than replacing them.

The plan has also been extended by four years to 2030 so that it runs concurrently with the Council's Local Plan (Part One) which was adopted in 2015.

4 Understanding local concerns and issues

Continuing to listen and respond to local views and sharing ideas with our partners has been an important part of our work to update this LTP.

Building on the consultation information that we used to prepare the last LTP in 2011, we have also made use of the results of a number of more recent consultation and engagement exercises to ensure that work is as relevant as possible. These include:

- Let's Talk Consultation (2016) – This helped to gather views and on the Council's Four Year Plan and how the Council's budget would be best used to deliver this; and
- Our Community Survey (2011) - Undertaken and published after the preparation of the last LTP. This was based on a questionnaire sent to a random sample of 28,000 households at the end of 2011.
- Chester Transport Strategy (2014);
- Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Examination in Public (2014);
- Cheshire West and Chester Inequalities Report (2015);
- Health and Wellbeing Statistics Report and Strategy (2015); and
- Winsford Transport Strategy (2016).

We have also made extensive use of data from the national Census undertaken in 2011 alongside the results of various transport related consultations managed by the Council in recent years including:

- Chester Parking Review and Strategy (2012);
- Cheshire West and Chester Cycling Strategy (2013);

Results show that the need to maintain our roads and footpaths to an acceptable standard remains the top priority for action by our residents. There was also strong support for steps to reduce traffic congestion, help boost the local economy while, at the same time, people recognised that transport must help to reduce problems associated with climate change.





5 Our vision and goals

The Council's over-arching vision is set out in the Council Plan. **To help the Borough, including residents, communities and the local economy, to thrive by 2020.**

In addition, the Local Plan 2015 – 2030 sets out a strategic objective to: **Provide and develop reliable, efficient transport networks that support sustainable growth and improve accessibility to jobs and services.**

Also of importance, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015 – 2020 seeks: **To reduce health inequalities and improve the health and wellbeing of people in the Borough, enabling our residents to live more fulfilling, independent and healthy lives. We will do this by working with communities and residents to improve opportunities for all to have a healthy, safe and fulfilling life.**

The Local transport is essentially one of the key strategies to enable the delivery of these plans. To achieve this, we have set the following goals and supporting objectives for transport in the Borough.



1 Provide and develop reliable and efficient transport networks that support sustainable economic growth in West Cheshire and the surrounding area.

This includes plans to:

- Reduce traffic congestion problems on our roads;
- Develop transport schemes that help to support the economy;
- Support the delivery of new development and housing while reducing the impact of additional traffic; and
- Improve links between West Cheshire and surrounding areas particularly to Cheshire East, North East Wales and Warrington along with Merseyside, Greater Manchester and to local airports.

2 Reduce carbon emissions from transport and take steps to adapt our transport networks to the effects of climate change.

This includes plans to:

- Improve and encourage the use of sustainable (low carbon) transport;
- Promote the use of new technology and alternative fuels to reduce carbon emissions from transport;
- Ensure that new development takes place in accessible locations which minimise the need for travel; and
- Ensure that local transport networks are resistant and adaptable to the impacts of climate change, including adverse weather conditions.

3. Manage a well maintained transport network.

This includes plans to:

- Improve the condition of the highway network;
- Reduce the maintenance backlog in the Borough;
- Maintain the highway network in a safe and serviceable condition for the use of vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians, equestrians and all other road users; and
- Ensure that the highway is kept in an acceptable condition environmentally.

4 Contribute to safer and secure transport in West Cheshire and to promote types of transport which are beneficial to health.

This includes plans to:

- Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads;
- Encourage healthier lifestyles by promoting more active forms of transport such as cycling and walking;
- Reduce transport related air quality problems in the Borough;
- Ensure that new transport schemes improve public safety and help reduce fear of crime; and
- Plan for and respond to incidents which may have a significant impact on the transport network.

5 Improve accessibility to jobs and key services which help support greater equality of opportunity.

This includes plans to:

- Ensure that new developments and local services are built in accessible locations;
- Work to improve transport links to employment and training opportunities to key services from rural areas, and to health services; and
- Improve physical accessibility by removing barriers to mobility especially for disabled and older people.

6 Ensure that transport helps improve quality of life and enhances the local environment in West Cheshire.

This includes plans to:

- Ensure that new transport schemes complement local character and enhance the built and natural environment and biodiversity;
- Promote access to leisure activities by improving pedestrian, cycle, greenway and Public Rights of Way networks; and
- Work to reduce noise levels that arise from transport.

6 Delivering our proposals

The LTP contains a series of proposed short, medium and long term actions that will help us meet our goals and objectives. These include:

- An extensive programme of highway and bridge maintenance;
- The continued development of major transport scheme projects to improve our strategic road and rail connections and open up development opportunities;
- Tackling local congestion including the delivery of local pinch point schemes;
- Improving road safety including the further introduction of 20mph speed limits, where appropriate, such as by schools and in certain residential areas;
- Promoting cycling across the Borough and maintaining and improving local cycle networks to help encourage healthy and active lifestyles;
- Improving passenger transport including the introduction of more efficient ticketing technology such as the use of smart cards on local buses and trains;
- Delivering the new car parking strategy for the Borough;
- Dealing with poor air quality associated with transport; and
- A programme of local area based improvement schemes to meet locally determined priorities.





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