

Appendix A

Local Area Transport Plans Consultation Process

Overview of Process

As part of the development of the Local Area Transport Plans, a comprehensive programme of engagement with a range of local stakeholders and the public was undertaken by Central Bedfordshire Council.

The outcomes of these activities have provided evidence to inform the development of the Plans. This appendix outlines the methods of engagement used and how these have been addressed in the development of the LATPs.

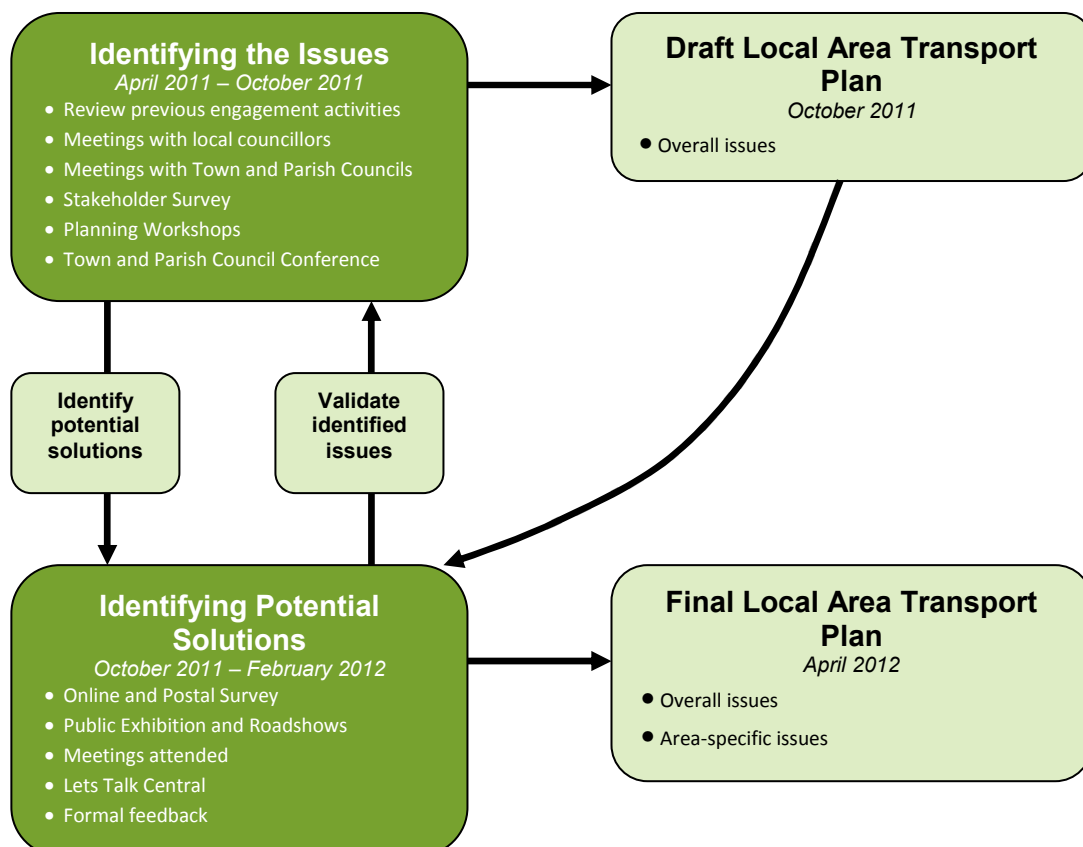
Engagement on the LATPs was split into two key phases:

- Identifying the Issues, and
- Identifying Potential Solutions.

As the figure below shows, “Identifying the Issues” influenced the development of the Draft Local Area Transport Plans, and “Identifying Potential Solutions” influenced the development of the Final Local Area Transport Plans.

In practice, issues and solutions were identified at both stages by many stakeholders and members of the public, all of which have informed the development of the documents.

Process of engagement in the Local Area Transport Plans



Identifying the Issues

The methods used through which to identify the main issues of importance to local stakeholders are detailed below:

- **Review of Previous Engagement Activities:** A review was undertaken of responses to previous engagement activities to identify the local transport issues that had been raised historically in each LATP area. This included reviewing responses to the consultation on the Local Transport Plan, and reviewing Town and Parish Plans where they had been developed.
- **Meeting with Local Councillors:** A meeting with local Central Bedfordshire Councillors to brief them on the LATPs and identify their key issues relating to all transport modes and journey purposes.
- **Meeting Town and Parish Councils:** A meeting was held with Town and Parish Councils to brief them on the Plans, and provide an opportunity to discuss issues relating to all transport modes and journey purposes. Individual meetings were held with specific Town and Parish Councils upon request.
- **Stakeholder Survey:** The authority sent out a survey form to key local stakeholders including bus and rail operators, requesting their input on identifying local issues in the area.
- **Planning Workshops:** The Central Bedfordshire Transport Strategy Team attended two planning workshops held for the local community at Priory House, Chicksands. This gave the team the opportunity to discuss issues related to planning and transport with local stakeholders.
- **Town and Parish Council Conference:** An LATP stand was manned at the Town and Parish Council Conference at Priory House, Chicksands on. This gave the team the chance to discuss transport issues with representatives of Town and Parish Councils from across Central Bedfordshire.
- **Other correspondence:** The Transport Strategy Team also received correspondence from local stakeholders and local people on transport issues in their area.
- **Identifying Potential Solutions Stage:** Comments were also received on local transport issues as part of the identifying potential solutions stage. These comments were used to validate issues identified in the Draft Local Area Transport Plan, as well as identifying new issues to be included.

Identifying Potential Solutions

The methods used through which to identify the potential solutions to the issues identified in the LATPs are detailed below:

- **Online and Postal Survey:** An online and postal survey was undertaken to give additional opportunities to identify local transport issues, and also to identify what solutions would enable these issues to be resolved. These included general improvements, as well as more specific schemes the respondents would like to see delivered.

The online survey was available during the formal consultation period on the Draft LATP between 24 October 2011 and 3 February 2012. Postal surveys were made available at local libraries and Town and Parish Council offices.

- **Public Exhibitions and Roadshows:** A series of public exhibitions and roadshows were held throughout the Plan areas, so that members of the public could come and talk to members of the Transport Strategy Team about the LATP, and identify the improvements that they would like to see. Exhibitions and roadshows that took place in this area were:
- **Meetings Attended:** Members of the Transport Strategy Team also attended meetings with a number of stakeholders to discuss potential solutions that they would like to see in the LATP.
- **Let's Talk Central:** Central Bedfordshire Council's discussion website, Let's Talk Together, was available for people to leave their comments on transport improvements that they would like to see in their area. This was available during the formal consultation period on the Draft LATP between 24 October 2011 and 3 February 2012.
- **Formal Feedback:** Members of the public and stakeholders also had the opportunity to email, write, and telephone their comments on the Draft LATP, and what transport improvements they would like to see, as part of the consultation into the Draft LATP. This was available during the formal consultation period on the Draft LATP between 24 October 2011 and 3 February 2012.
- **Identifying the Issues Stage:** Some comments were also received on local transport issues as part of the identifying the issues stage. These comments were used to inform the development of the Final Local Area Transport Plans, including the programme.