

EXECUTIVE, 13 OCTOBER 2009

RESPONSE OF THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, 7 OCTOBER 2009 TO:

Item 12 Local Transport Plan 3

- 1.1 At its reconvened meeting on 7 October 2009, the Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee (SCOSC) considered the report of the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Communities – Planning and Sustainable Development, which sought Members views on how the Council should produce a Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Central Bedfordshire.
- 1.2 The Committee received a report which set out two possible approaches for the development of the Council's LTP3. In summary these were to develop one LTP for the whole of Central Bedfordshire or to develop two separate plans, the first covering the discreet area appropriate for the Luton and South Bedfordshire conurbation and the second covering the residual area of Central Bedfordshire.
- 1.3 Members noted that Luton Borough Council had raised concerns regarding the development of a single LTP for the whole of Central Bedfordshire as it feared that its views might not be considered in the preparation of such a plan and that there could be insufficient focus for transport planning in and around the Luton/Dunstable/Houghton Regis Growth Area. However, taking full account of travel to work and other travel patterns in relation to other centres it was acknowledged that there were significant transport issues for which plans would have to be developed, these included links between Luton, Dunstable and Houghton Regis and other major urban centres, which would need to be given full consideration. Members therefore agreed it was important LTP3 was representative of the whole of Central Bedfordshire and considered that the development of a single LTP would enable the Council to agree a set of objective criteria that could be applied across the whole Central Bedfordshire area to prioritise transport schemes.
- 1.4 Taking into account the advantages of a single plan option Members of the Committee were unanimously supportive of developing one LTP for the whole of the Central Bedfordshire area whilst strengthening partnerships with all of our neighbours, particularly Luton.
- 1.5 Members discussed the current Joint Transport Committee and were told that legal advice was still being clarified, but it might be that its terms of reference would need to be reviewed with Luton to ensure they remained 'fit for purpose'. Members commented that it was essential there was an effective means of continuing a partnership approach to developing LTP3, which enhanced the positive experience of the current Joint Transport Committee.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Executive be advised that the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is of the unanimous view that Central Bedfordshire Council should produce a new Local Transport Plan, which would be composed of a single plan as described in the Portfolio Holder's report, and that the Council maintains a formally constituted transport planning partnership body with Luton to oversee preparation of transport planning policy covering the Luton/Dunstable/Houghton Regis Growth Area.**
- 2. That the Executive also be advised that the Committee believes the Council should develop stronger partnerships with all neighbouring authorities covering transport strategy and issues over a broader area with agreed policy responses documented in each authority's own Local Transport Plan, taking account of the priority which needs to be maintained to deliver transport infrastructure and sustainable travel within Growth Areas.**