

PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION RECORD SHEET

Name of decision maker:	Cllr Andrew Williams
Portfolio:	Planning and Regeneration
Date of Portfolio Holder Decision:	18 October 2013

Title of Decision:	Tring, Northchurch and Berkhamsted Urban Transport Plan
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Decision made and reasons:

The County Council is seeking this Borough's endorsement of the recently completed Tring, Northchurch and Berkhamsted Urban Transport Plan (UTP). The UTP is to be reported to their Highways and Waste Panel on 12th September 2013. They would normally wish to note district support for the final document.

Formal endorsement of the UTP is not a statutory requirement as it is a County document. However, it is best that the Council endorses the UTP. The Core Strategy recognises the essential role played by the UTP. It identifies the UTP as an important element for promoting sustainable transport objectives and for implementing local transport improvements. Not supporting the document undermines the Council's commitment to both sustainable transport planning and for assisting the delivery and funding of local transport improvements.

Reports considered: (here reference can be made to specific documents)
 Draft Tring, Northchurch and Berkhamsted Urban Transport Plan

Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:
 Laura Wood, Strategic Planning
 Alan Story, Strategic Planning and Regeneration
 The document has been subject to consultation as part of the UTP process itself. This has involved a range of key stakeholders, with town and parish councils being involved in early identification of schemes. The document was subject to a public consultation exercise during January-March 2013, including an exhibition in Berkhamsted.

Monitoring Officer comments: No further comments to add

Deputy S151 Officer comments: No further comments to add

Implications: See above.

Risk: If the work is not endorsed then it weakens the Council's commitment to sustainable transport planning and support for delivering and funding a range of local transport improvements.

Value for Money: The document production represents good value for money as it has already been commissioned, funded and produced by the County Council without any financial contribution from the Council.

Options Considered and reasons for rejection:
 There are two options – to endorse or not to endorse.

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Not endorse:

Formal endorsement of the UTP is not a statutory requirement as it is a County document. If the work is not endorsed then it weakens the Council's commitment to sustainable transport planning, the support for funding transport bids, and the delivery of local transport solutions as part of the Place Strategies in the Core Strategy.

Endorse:

It is sensible for the Council to endorse the UTP. This is recommended because the Core Strategy recognises the key role played by the UTP in transport planning. It identifies the UTP as an important element for promoting sustainable transport objectives and for delivering local transport improvements.

Portfolio Holders Signature:

Date:

Details of any interests declared and any dispensations given by the Standards Committee:

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Date Decision Record Sheet received from portfolio holder:17/10/13

Date Decision Published: 18/10/13

Decision No: PH/043/13

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period:25/10/13

Date any Call-In received or decision implemented:

BACKGROUND

The Urban Transport Plan (UTP) has been produced by consultants AECOM on behalf of the County Council. It is one of a number of documents that support and elaborate on the current Local Transport Plan (LTP3). The LTP sets out the general transport policy and Strategy of the County Council.

The UTP provides a framework to identify specific transport improvements and investments over the next 20 years for Tring, Northchurch and Berkhamsted. The UTP also complements the sustainable approach to transport set out in the Core Strategy, and will help deliver local transport solutions for the settlements in the Place Strategies.

An implementation plan has been developed following consultation with interested parties. This has helped identify a number of interventions to enhance local transport provisions and improve transport choice for local residents, commuters and visitors to the towns. 46 schemes have been identified and costed over the short, medium and long term covering:

- Improvements to the existing highway infrastructure;
- Enhancements to the existing cycle network and facilities;
- Accessibility improvements at Berkhamsted and Tring train stations;
- Improvements to signage to encourage greater efficiency of existing car parking;
- Promoting better connectivity between the towns;
- Ensuring speed compliance; and

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- Encouraging Smarter Choices through promoting better local travel planning.

The UTP is to be monitored annually to assess the progress of schemes.