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## **LOCAL ACCESS AND TRANSPORT STRATEGY**

### **Report by Service Director Regulatory Services**

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### **EXECUTIVE**

**9 June 2015**

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#### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 **To advise members of the progress that has been made on the development of a Local Access and Transport Strategy for the Scottish Borders.**
- 1.2 The development of a Local Access and Transport Strategy (LATS) is a key document for the Scottish Borders, providing a focus for transport issues throughout the local authority area and beyond, whilst detailing key projects and longer term aspirations.
- 1.3 The publication of the previous Local Transport Strategy for the Scottish Borders was in 2008 and was designed to have approximately a three to five year working life and incorporating elements of a longer term transport related vision for the area.
- 1.4 An important aspect in the preparation of this strategy document is the incorporation of countryside access alongside transport which it is felt will offer a more comprehensive and meaningful document.
- 1.5 The Main Issues Report (MIR) provides the basis for consultation and asks a number of specific questions that will help mould our overall approach. A copy of the proposed draft MIR document is provided in **Appendix A**.
- 1.6 It is anticipated that the MIR will be available for consultation over a twelve week period.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Executive:**
  - a) **Notes the progress made in the development of a Local Access and Transport Strategy for the Scottish Borders; and**
  - b) **Approves the Main Issues Report to be issued for consultation.**

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Following the publication of the Scottish Integrated Transport White Paper in July 1988, the first Local Transport Strategy (LTS) document for the Scottish Borders was produced in 2001, covering a five year period. The second LTS document for the Scottish Borders was produced in 2008.
- 3.2 The LTS is informed by both the National and Regional Transport Strategy documents, produced by Scottish Government and the South East Transport Partnership (SEStran) respectively. The first National Transport Strategy (NTS) document was published in 2007. At the present time Scottish Government is considering a refresh of the NTS and SEStran has recently agreed a revised regional strategy document for the south east of Scotland.
- 3.3 The LTS also has strong planning related linkages with the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) and the Local Development Plan (LDP) produced by SESplan and Scottish Borders Council respectively.

### **4 MAIN ISSUES REPORT**

- 4.1 The MIR identifies a number of key transport and access related issues that will form the basis for consultation with the general public and a wide range of interested groups and statutory consultees.
- 4.2 The MIR has been developed by a working group of Council Officers and was submitted to the Development Plan Working Group in November 2014 and subsequently in April 2015 where members were offered the opportunity to provide comments and to suggest amendments to the document.

### **5 NEXT STEPS**

- 5.1 It is anticipated that the MIR will be available for consultation over a twelve week period during which there will be a number of events to help publicise and explain the proposed strategy in more detail and to encourage public participation.
- 5.2 Following the consultation period a report will be brought back to committee to consider the public response and to agree the proposed strategy approach.
- 5.3 It is expected that a draft Local Access and Transport Strategy (LATS) document will be finalised in the Spring of 2016.

## **6 IMPLICATIONS**

### **6.1 Financial**

The direct cost implications to the Council with regard to the document will be in relation to the printing and publishing of the final document. However the LATS will have an impact on how transport proposals are subsequently delivered in the Scottish Borders.

### **6.2 Risk and Mitigations**

The report sets out the need for and progress that has been made on the development of a Local Access and Transport Strategy (LATS) which will have an impact on how transport proposals are subsequently delivered in the Scottish Borders. It also describes the recommended approval of the Main Issues Report to be issued for consultation which will enable the Council to consult with appropriate stakeholders in compliance with regulations and guidance and ensuring that the LATS is up-to-date and relevant.

### **6.3 Equalities**

There are no adverse impacts due to race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation or religion/belief arising from this report.

### **6.4 Acting Sustainably**

One of the key strands of the strategy is the promotion of sustainable transport and the promotion of non-motorised modes such as walking and cycling.

### **6.5 Carbon Management**

There are no significant carbon emission impacts as a result of this report. However, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) will be carried out as part of the main strategy development.

### **6.6 Rural Proofing**

The LATS is designed to help identify strategies and potential schemes that could help improve accessibility and social inclusion for the area and could help to initiate the development of tourism and economic related opportunities for the whole of the Scottish Borders.

### **6.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

No changes to the Scheme of Administration or Delegation are required as a result of this report.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Service Director Strategy and Policy, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR and the Clerk to the Council are being consulted and any comments received will be incorporated into the report.

7.2 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive Place, Corporate Transformation & Services Director, Service Director Neighbourhood Services and Service Director Commercial Services have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the report.

**Approved by**

**Director of Regulatory Services**

**Signature .....**

**Author(s)**

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**Background Papers:**

**Previous Minute Reference:** None

**Note** – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Jacqueline Whitelaw can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at Jacqueline Whitelaw, Environment and Infrastructure, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA, Tel 01835 825431, Fax 01835 825071, email [e&translationrequest@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:translationrequest@scotborders.gov.uk).

**APPENDIX A**