



Local Plan Committee

Item
8

30 August 2017

Report of	Assistant Director Policy and Corporate	Author	Paul Wilkinson ☎ 282787
Title	Local Plan Transport Position Paper		
Wards affected	All wards		

A paper setting out the Transportation work undertaken to inform the Local Plan

1. Decision(s) Required

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to note the content of the report and Appendix. Presentation of the report will provide the opportunity for members to discuss the issues raised.

2. Reasons for Decision(s)

- 2.1 The Local Plan Committee of the 12th June approved the Publication Draft Local Plan for consultation. Through the debate on the Plan members requested further information on transportation.

3. Alternative Options

- 3.1 N/A

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The report below sets out the key issues for transportation and growth associated with the Local Plan. Further detailed information is included as an Appendix.

Context

- 4.2 Planning and transportation are closely linked and referenced in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) with the requirement to develop transport evidence to support the Local Plan as set out in national Planning Policy Guidance (PPG). The responsibility for delivery of transport infrastructure and services lies with a number of public and private sector bodies who the Borough needs to continue to work in partnership with.

Constructing the Evidence Base

- 4.3 Transportation data is available from a range of sources and has been used to develop evidence base material. Specific study work has been undertaken to inform the emerging Local Plan and the proposed Garden Communities. Design work is being undertaken by various bodies to develop solutions for improving the strategic transport infrastructure.

The Evidence

- 4.4 The use of the motor vehicle dominates travel movements. There is a high level of vehicle movements in Colchester in the peak hours, resulting in congestion at certain times of the day in certain locations. The operation of the network has an impact on the economic growth of the Borough through increased journey times and unreliable and unpredictable delivery times for goods and services. The high level of traffic, the mix of vehicles and the nature of some of the streets in the urban area result in poor air quality. In the peak hours there is a high demand on both the road and rail network carrying high volumes of people and goods and the efficient operation in the peak periods is vulnerable to incidents. The town centre area is still the biggest attractor for work, retail, leisure and education purposes for Colchester and neighbouring areas.
- 4.5 Traffic modelling suggests 40% growth by 2032 in the number of vehicle trips in peak periods compared to the modelled base year (2007). A reference case scenario was modelled to enable comparison between the number of vehicle trips generated by those developments built out since 2007 and those developments contained in the current Local Plan, compared with the vehicle trips generated by proposed sites in the new Local Plan. Most of this growth in trips comes from existing allocations in the Local Plan, and from the existing community. The new allocations in the Draft Local Plan represent approximately 6% of the peak hour growth. The traffic modelling suggests an increase in queuing and travel time, and a small decrease in the average speed. Parts of the network are still overcapacity and the modelling suggest some 200 locations in each of the peaks, where the demand is indicated to be greater than the capacity.

Development of Mitigation Measures

- 4.6 Through the traffic modelling, a range of measures and potential solutions have been suggested which include physical and management improvements to the road network as well as investment in sustainable transport. These are listed in the Appendix.
- 4.7 Transport in the emerging Local Plan is covered by Policy SP5 Infrastructure and Connectivity, and the Development Management Policies DM20/21/22. In addition, the Place Policies identify infrastructure required to support growth in specific areas of the Borough. The evidence base identifies a wide range of measures and these measures need to be considered, prioritised and developed further.

- 4.8 The policy approach promotes a range of measures to support growth which could include combinations of traffic management, infrastructure and sustainable transport measures. Improvements will be sought to:
- The local walking and cycle network
 - Local public transport services
 - The local road network
 - Strategic road and rail network and services
 - Parking policy including the provision of electric vehicle charging.
- 4.9 The Garden Community approach provides an opportunity to plan the new communities around a step change in integrated and sustainable transport systems for the North Essex area that put walking, cycling and rapid public transit networks and connections at the heart of growth, encouraging and incentivising more sustainable active travel patterns. Specific study work has been commissioned to inform the Garden Communities and delivery of the principle needs to include rapid transit.
- 4.10 A number of the key strategic projects are already at the feasibility and design stages including:
- A12 Widening junction 19 to 25
 - A120 improvements, Braintree to A12
 - Great Eastern Mainline upgrade
 - Investment in a new train fleet by Greater Anglia
 - Rapid transit.

Funding and Delivery

- 4.11 The Borough will continue to work in partnership with Essex County Council and other transport infrastructure and service providers to develop and deliver solutions. There continues to be a requirement for developers to produce Transport Statements and/or Assessments and mitigate against the impact of their development. Depending on the scale of the mitigation either the developer will be expected to deliver directly or make financial contribution through legal agreements.
- 4.12 Transportation projects have been identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan document which supports the Local Plan and officers have been working with Essex County Council feeding projects to the Essex Growth Infrastructure Framework and subsequent modelling.
- 4.13 To enable funding to be sought from other bodies investment is required in feasibility and design to develop business cases and make submissions for funding. Major funding sources include Central Government through investment in the strategic road and rail network, South East Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Funds, the Housing Infrastructure Fund, the Garden Communities land value capture schemes, and various grant opportunities as they arise.

5. Proposals

- 5.1 This report was developed as a specific request of the Local Plan Committee. The report should be noted and will provide an opportunity to discuss transportation issues at the meeting.

6. Strategic Plan References

- 6.1 The 2015 to 2018 Strategic Plan set out to be:

Vibrant

- transport can help create the right environment for people to develop and flourish in all aspects of life both business and pleasure

Prosperous

- transport can help promote and attract further inward investment and additional businesses, providing greater and more diverse employment and tourism opportunities.
- Identification and Investment in transport to ensure it keeps pace with housing growth to keep the Borough moving

Thriving

- the Borough needs to work continue to work in partnership with public, private and voluntary sectors to achieve more for Colchester than we could on our own

7. Consultation

- 7.1 Consultation on the Local Plan is guided by the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, which is available on the [Council's website](#). Colchester Local Plan Traffic Modelling, Garden Communities Movement and Access Study and Rapid Transit Study have been published as part of the Local Plan evidence base. This work will also be used to help inform the development of the Garden Community Development Plan Documents which are to be developed and consulted on in the coming months.

8. Publicity Considerations

- 8.1 Further information will be released as part of the development of the Local Plan and Garden Communities.

9. Financial Implications

- 9.1 None specifically relating to this report

10. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared for the Local Development Framework and is available to view on the Colchester Borough Council website by following this pathway from the homepage: Council and Democracy > Policies, Strategies and Performance > Equality and Diversity > Equality Impact Assessments > Commercial Services > Local Plan.

10.2 There are no particular Human Rights implications.

11. Community Safety Implications

11.1 None identified.

12. Health and Safety Implications

12.1 None identified.

13. Risk Management Implications

13.1 None identified

14. Disclaimer

14.1 The information in this report was, as far as is known, correct at the date of publication. Colchester Borough Council cannot accept responsibility for any error or omissions.