

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration & Environmental Services (Land and Environmental Services)

Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee : 7 February 2007

Subject: Local Transport Strategy 2006-2009 - Consultation Draft

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Committee of a Consultation Draft of the proposed West Dunbartonshire Local Transport Strategy.

2. Background

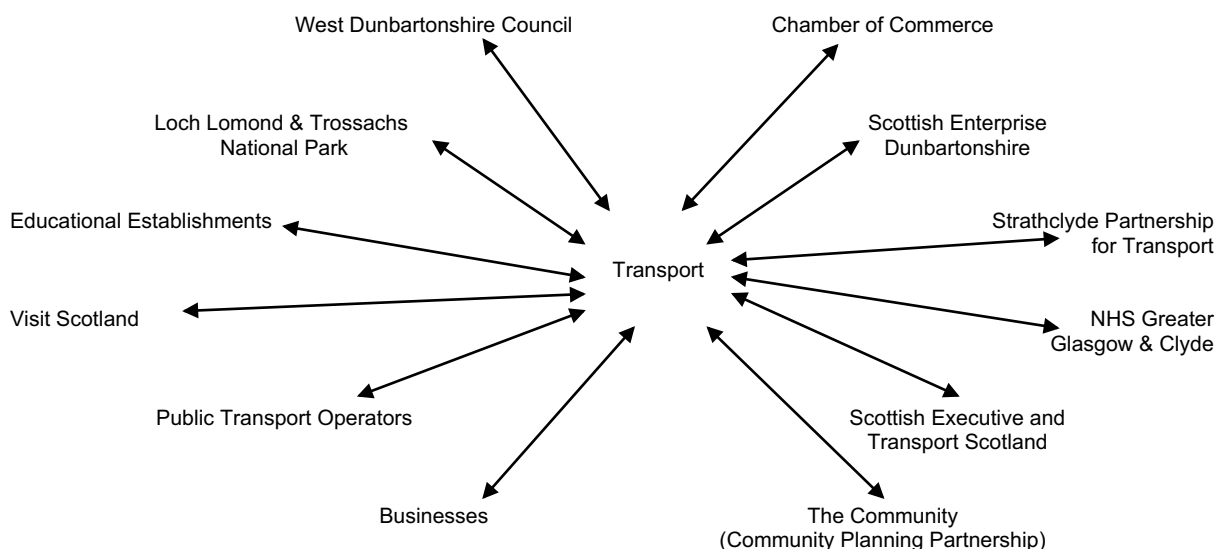
- 2.1** West Dunbartonshire's Local Transport Strategy (LTS) sets out the Transport Vision and Objectives of the Council and provides a three-year Action Plan for meeting local challenges and needs.
- 2.2** The introduction of Regional Transport Strategies (RTS) and Scotland's first ever National Transport Strategy (NTS), has increased the importance of developing a robust and relevant LTS that can influence and complement transport initiatives at the regional and national level.
- 2.3** Following consultation the adoption of the LTS (expected to come to Members for final approval in April), will deliver the vision and objectives at the end of the LTS lifespan. In particular, it is hoped that significant progress is made in raising awareness on the importance of changing travel behaviour towards more sustainable modes of transport.
- 2.4** In addition to the on-the-ground changes, it will be stressed that the robust approach that has gone into developing this LTS will ensure that a number of other strategic changes are made. For example, we realise that there is a need for integration of transport strategies with other local objectives including education, social services, health and development planning. This LTS will ensure that future transport strategies set by the Council will have a clear framework to build upon.
- 2.5** The adoption of the LTS requires to be accompanied by funding which will enable the delivery of our vision, objectives, and the imperative of facilitating travel behaviour change.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The LTS needs to face up to tough and uncomfortable realities. The biggest challenge is the transport sector's ever-increasing contribution to carbon dioxide emissions, which is fuelling global climate change.

- 3.2** A further challenge is effective public engagement. West Dunbartonshire Council has been at the forefront of transportation behaviour change for example, with the Travelling Green Project, and the development of its own Travel Plan. New approaches and methods continue to be developed. However, the dichotomy of society's continued and growing demand for mobility and apparent desire for investment in road infrastructure, versus an approach based on behaviour change and sustainability, cannot be ignored.
- 3.3** The transport vision for our LTS is "to provide all citizens of West Dunbartonshire with a genuine choice of transport which fulfils their needs and provides sustainable, high quality transport opportunities for work, healthcare and leisure".
- 3.4** The following objectives have been adopted for the purposes of the LTS:
- to promote economic growth by working in partnership with stakeholders to manage, maintain and improve access to transport services, and construct new infrastructure where appropriate
 - to protect and improve our environment and health
 - to improve integration for all transport users and between all transport modes
 - to widen accessibility and tackle social inclusion by increasing the opportunities of remote and disadvantaged people to reach more readily the transport network and lifeline services
 - to meet all national road safety targets and to continuously improve the safety and security of all people making journeys
 - to maintain the transport network to a high and safe standard based on Asset Management principles.
- 3.5** At the outset, recognising that transport affects all our lives, we are carrying out a comprehensive consultation programme on this LTS. The theme of partnership unites the whole of our LTS – partnership with our communities as a whole, with our community planning partners in particular and with neighbouring authorities and the voluntary sector to name but a few.

- 3.6** The diagram below illustrates the principal partners who have a role to play in the delivery of the LTS in West Dunbartonshire.



- 3.7** Through the Transport Forum (part of the WD Community Planning Partnership) an opportunity exists to bring together all local organisations interested in Transport to work in partnership to improve transport services for our communities.
- 3.8** The need to limit the environmental impact of transport has been raised as a key concern and objective for the new LTS to address. Social exclusion; peripherality; lack of accessibility to employment, health, higher education and leisure facilities; availability and affordability of public transport; are other key concerns which have been identified by the Council's public consultation.
- 3.9** The LTS supports the sustainable land use vision established in the Structure and Local Plans recognising that land use in conjunction with sustainable development control policies, are key elements of a sustainable local transport policy.
- 3.10** This Consultation Draft will be used for extensive public consultation during February and March 2007 with a final LTS being submitted for approval by Members soon after this.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** The final LTS will be presented to a future Committee for approval in due course and funding implications will be detailed in a developed Action Plan.

6. Risk Assessment

- 6.1** No formal risk assessment is required for this work. The Strategy itself includes a rigorous appraisal process which incorporates a range of potential risk factors, including failure to maintain the existing road network, failure to achieve accident reduction targets, failure to act to reduce traffic congestion etc.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1** The Consultation Draft of the proposed LTS represents a milestone in preparing this key strategic document and is the culmination of considerable research and consultation. This LTS builds upon the successes of the previous LTS and brings together a range of aspirations and commitments which meet the emerging regional and national transport objectives. The draft LTS following approval will be used for extensive public consultation. A final strategy will be submitted to Committee after the consultation period has been completed and feedback assessed.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1** It is recommended that Committee approve this Consultation Draft Local Transport Strategy and note that this will be subject to wide public consultation during February and March

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Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	West Dunbartonshire Local Transport Strategy Consultation Draft (available in Members' Lounge)
Wards Affected:	All