

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Acting Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development (Land and Environment)

Housing, Environment & Economic Development Committee : 9 January 2008

Subject: West Dunbartonshire Local Transport Strategy 2007-2010

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Committee for the West Dunbartonshire Local Transport Strategy 2007-2010.

2. Background

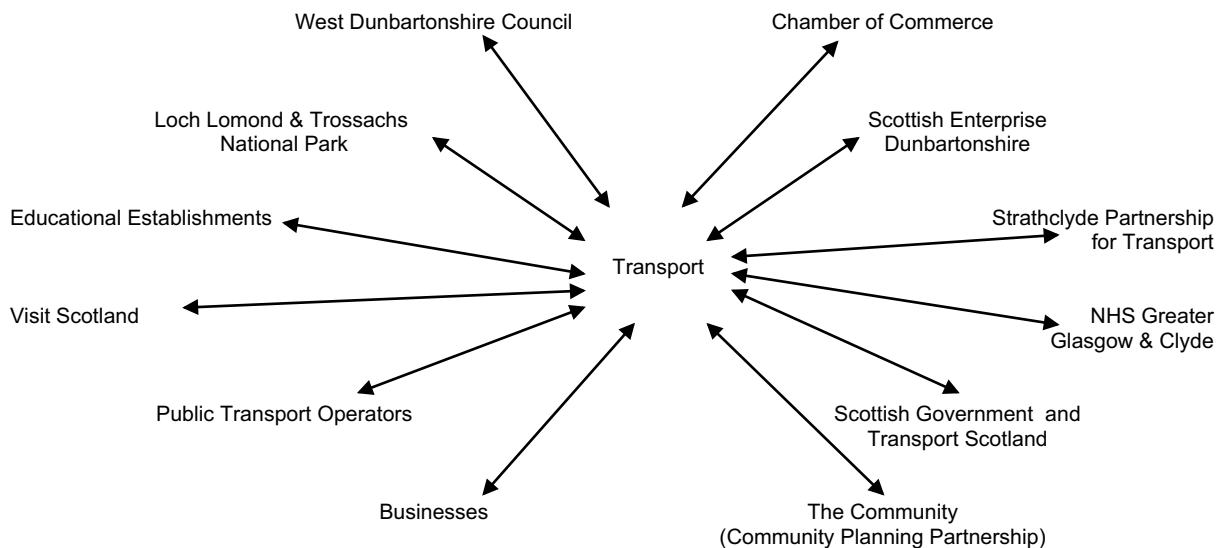
- 2.1** A report was presented to the Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee on 7 February 2007 providing the draft consultation Local Transport Strategy for approval. Following this, extensive public consultation has taken place, in particular to comply with the statutory requirement to carry out Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the strategy.
- 2.2** The SEA process was undertaken in conjunction with the consultation on the strategy itself and ensured that the highest levels of environmental sensitivity and quality have been built in to the strategy. The final consultation on the SEA work was concluded on 24 December 2007 and comments incorporated into the final Local Transport Strategy, which is now being brought forward to Members.
- 2.3** The 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.
- 2.4** The introduction of Regional Transport Strategies (RTS) and the 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.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The LTS aims to deliver the vision and objectives at the end of the strategy's 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.
- 3.2** In addition to the on-the-ground changes, 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. The LTS will ensure that future transport strategies set by the Council will have a clear framework to build upon.

- 3.3 The LTS faces 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. Encouragement of sustainable travel is at the forefront of our strategy. This Council is at the forefront of transportation behaviour change in this country. For example, the Travelling Green Project (now launched nationally after being developed here), and the development of our own Travel Plan. New approaches and methods continue to be developed.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 We have faced up to the challenge of effective public engagement focussed around the very successful West Dunbartonshire Transport Forum.
- 3.6 We have carried out a comprehensive consultation programme on this LTS. The theme of partnership unites the whole of our strategy – 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.
- 3.7 The diagram below was produced in the previous report but is repeated here as it clearly illustrates the principal partners who have a role to play in the delivery of the LTS in West Dunbartonshire.



- 3.8** Through the Transport Forum (part of the WD Community Planning Partnership) we have taken the opportunity to bring together all of our local partners and other organisations interested in transport, to work together to improve transportation services for our communities.
- 3.9** The need to limit the environmental impact of transport has been raised and tackled through the Strategic Environmental Assessment process. Social exclusion, peripherality, lack of accessibility to employment, health, higher education and leisure facilities, availability and affordability of public transport, are all key concerns which have been tackled in this strategy.

Impact Assessment

- 3.10** No formal impact assessment has been undertaken, but the strategy has been developed in full consultation with the relevant Council officers and appropriate community organisations.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** 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. This will be a blend of internal and external funding sources. The Action Plan identifies potential partners and gives initial cost information where appropriate.

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 LTS is now being brought forward for approval by Members after 18 months of development through partnership and consultation. It represents a milestone in establishing this Council's environmental commitments in terms of transport .
- 7.2** The strategy brings together a wide range of aspirations and commitments, which meet the emerging regional and national transport objectives. The strategy is far ranging and provides a wide range of actions along with challenging targets.

7.3 A final publication stage is now required to add illustrations and provide alternative formats. It is expected to take three weeks from approval for this.

8. Recommendations

8.1 It is recommended that **Committee approve the Local Transport Strategy 2007-2010 and authorise its immediate introduction and publication.**

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Date: 16 December 2007

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Appendices: None

Background Papers: West Dunbartonshire Local Transport Strategy 2007-2010
(available in Members' Lounges) – text version.

Wards Affected: All