

Record of Decisions

Torbay Local Transport Action Plan (LTAP) and the Torbay Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 20 April 2021.

Decision

- (i) That the Torbay Local Transport Action Plan 2021-2026 (set out in Appendix 1) be approved with authority delegated to the Assistant Director of Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency to undertake any minor amendments to the document, before publishing on the Council's website.
- (ii) That the Torbay Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (set out in Appendix 2) be approved with authority delegated to the Assistant Director of Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency to undertake any minor amendments to the document, before publishing on the Council's website.
- (iii) That the Cabinet supports a partnership approach with local bus operators and asks the Assistant Director of Planning, Housing and Climate Emergency in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Culture, to begin the process of an Enhanced Partnership as set out under the Bus Services Act 2017, initially with informal discussions to be held with operators with further reports presented to cabinet throughout the process.

Reason for the Decision

To ensure that the LTAP and LCWIP delivery plans were up-to-date (the current Local Transport Implementation Plan had expired) and that both the LTAP and the LCWIP can together form an effective mechanism to deliver the ambitions of the Council and the community.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 4 May 2021 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

The Council has a duty to produce a document (commonly referred to as an implementation or action plan) detailing how its Local Transport Plan will be delivered. The Local Transport Plan was adopted by full Council in 2011 and is a 15 year plan (until 2026). The current Local Transport Implementation Plan 2016-2021 was out of date. It was proposed that this new plan constitutes the proposed Torbay Local Transport Action Plan 2021-2026.

The purpose of the Action Plan was to set out the planned investments and commitment of the transport capital grant received from Government, alongside other funding the Council had or is able to achieve. The Action Plan proposes the delivery of transport schemes across 7 key areas, including:

- Healthy Mobility (Active Travel)
- Public Transport (including Edginswell Station)
- Road Safety, 20mph areas and Minor Works
- Electric Vehicle Charging
- Signal Replacements
- Completing Major Schemes
- Other Key Investment Areas

A key aspect of the proposed Action Plan was to substantially enhance the Council's delivery of active travel infrastructure in Torbay, recognising its role in supporting healthy lives, a thriving economy and tackling the climate emergency.

The Government had underlined its support for significantly enhancing active travel infrastructure nationally. This included a number of funding opportunities available for local authorities. The Government was particularly supportive of the creation of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans as a means to provide a strategic and joined-up approach to delivering a long-term whole-network approach to improve active travel infrastructure. Torbay Council identified value in producing its own plan in order to achieve this and had undertaken this work in conjunction with WSP consultants.

During the course of the consultation on the LTAP and LCWIP, the Government published the National Bus Strategy, 'Bus Back Better'. The strategy makes it clear that funding would be made available to Local Authorities who pursue this vision and seek to make the improvements to their services and network. This had clear direct benefits to the Council, not least in respect of accessibility for the community and supporting the carbon neutrality aims. The LTAP has been updated to reflect the National Bus Strategy and support an Enhanced Partnership approach.

Councillor Morey proposed and Councillor Carter seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

An implementation or action plan to cover the remaining 5 year period of the Local Transport Plan Strategy was required in order to update an expired plan. An alternative option would be not to develop a replacement plan but this would carry risks in terms of funding availability via grants and other sources and would lead to less co-ordinated transport project delivery and higher potential for projects to not meet local needs or aspirations.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

Declarations of interest (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

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23 April 2021

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet