

Watford Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Scrutiny Task Group Scope and Terms of Reference

Scrutiny review title	Sustainable Transport Strategy Consultation Review
Scrutiny proposer	Cllr Amanda Grimston
Details of specific area for review	<p>In recognition of the Climate Emergency, the borough’s growing economy and the pressures on local infrastructure, Watford Borough Council and Hertfordshire County Council are jointly developing a Sustainable Transport Strategy. The strategy has six objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cutting congestion: Reducing the number of car journeys by making cycling, walking or public transport the natural first choice for local trips. 2. Providing for future journeys: Investing in efficient and green ways to travel for both current and future residents and businesses. 3. Boosting health and wellbeing: Encouraging healthier travel choices that keep people physically fit and active, promote positive mental health, improve air quality, and make our streets safer. 4. Ensuring all our community benefits: Offering equality of access to transport for all. 5. Making best use of new technology: Providing green and environmentally friendly travel solutions. 6. Delivering a great customer experience: Promoting high quality, easy-to-use travel options. <p>The draft Sustainable Transport Strategy sets out key actions to make travel more sustainable which include proposals on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Active travel 2. Longer journeys 3. Alternatives to car ownership 4. Town centre 5. Supporting change 6. Moving goods <p>The draft strategy went out for public consultation in August 2021 for 8 weeks. This provided opportunities for residents and local organisations to feed in their views on the proposals. A number of member engagement events also took place which were open to Watford councillors and local Hertfordshire county councillors. This process followed an initial public consultation on a draft strategy earlier in 2021.</p> <p>The outcome of the consultation and engagement exercises will give the project team the chance to review the draft strategy and make any desired changes in line with the feedback.</p>

	<p>The strategy will be reviewed by Hertfordshire’s Highways and Transport Cabinet Panel on 31 January 2022 before going to Hertfordshire’s Cabinet on 21 February 2022.</p> <p>There is an opportunity for a scrutiny task group to look at certain key areas of the final draft strategy before it goes to Watford’s Cabinet on 28 February 2022. This will provide similar opportunities to non-executive councillors for Hertfordshire who will look at the strategy at their Highways and Transport Cabinet Panel.</p>
<p>Why this has been proposed for review, including the council priorities it supports</p>	<p>This is a significant strategy for Watford to cover the next 20 years and incorporating feedback from the public is vital to its success. The strategy reflects the climate emergency and includes actions which would have a wide impact on travel opportunities and choices for Watford residents. The collaboration with Hertfordshire County Council ensures the reach of the actions. It is important that non-executive members are included in the development of the proposals as they will be key partners in communicating with residents and supporting its delivery. Councillors also have a valuable perspective as community representatives with a strong understanding of the neighbourhoods within Watford.</p> <p>It supports the priority for a thriving, diverse and creative town.</p>
<p>Purpose / objectives of the review, including key questions</p>	<p>To consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of key actions for the areas outlined in the strategy and how well they would address the strategy’s aims. These key areas could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Neighbourhoods including street traffic filters and mini transport hubs - Car parking including the review of supply and demand, parking charges and how to encourage greener travel. - Travel schemes including the HERT link, uses for the Croxley rail line, the DRT and park and ride. - Community engagement including reward schemes and wider engagement plans. - Monitoring including the oversight of the implementation of the strategy. • Whether any appropriate amendments to the activities should be recommended in order to meet the aspirations of the strategy. • To what extent consultation feedback has been incorporated into the strategy. • Whether any other issues raised in the public consultation should be further addressed in the strategy or by other means.
<p>Any areas excluded from the scope</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed review of raw data from the public consultation.
<p>Desired outcomes / indicators of success</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of the aspirations of the strategy. • An understanding of the key areas for action under the strategy.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To secure wider ownership of the strategy by non-executive Watford councillors. • To review key aspects of the strategy supported by an understanding of the feedback received in the public consultation and of wider residents' views. • To make recommendations to Watford BC's Cabinet that contribute to the success of the strategy. These recommendations would be based on the consultation feedback and members' wider local understanding.
Timescale and key dates, including proposed meeting format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation closes 13 October 2021 • Report establishing task group to Overview and Scrutiny 21 October 2021 • Task group to meet during November/December 2021. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings to be held in private with key officers from Watford BC and Hertfordshire CC. • Meetings to take the form of a brief presentation on a key area of the strategy and discussion of the proposed actions and recommendations. • Strategy to go to Hertfordshire's Highways and Transport Cabinet Panel on 31 January 2022. • Task group report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 February 2022. Agenda published 26 January 2022. • Report to Hertfordshire's Cabinet on 21 February 2022. • Report to Watford's Cabinet (to include task group report as an appendix) 28 February 2022
Key departmental lead officer	<p>WBC Tom Dobrashian, Group Head of Place Shaping Ben Martin, Head of Development Management Jack Green, Spatial Planning Manager Alexis Fuller, Sustainable Transport Officer Jodie Kloss, Senior Democratic Services Officer</p> <p>HCC Sue Jackson - HCC Group Manager Strategy, Highways Strategy and Implementation Rupert Thacker - HCC Head of Highways Strategy and Implementation Nicola Ffrench – HCC Strategy and Programme Manager David Swan – HCC Highways Locality Manager</p>
Witnesses	WBC and HCC officers listed above.
What activities need to be taken to achieve the outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing the list of key areas of the strategy where further member input would be valuable. • Producing a summary report of the responses to the public consultation. • The task group to review those key areas of the strategy with an understanding of the summary of the consultation responses.

Key policies / documentation / baseline information needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final draft of the strategy following public consultation. • Report on the summary of responses to the public consultation. • Report on feedback on the draft strategy, May 2021.
Any other sources of evidence (e.g., site visit)	N/A
Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient engagement with non-executive members and subsequent dissatisfaction with the strategy. • Loss of the opportunity to understand residents' views from the wider perspective held by ward councillors.

13 October 2021