

TITLE OF REPORT: ROYSTON DRAFT URBAN TRANSPORT PLAN

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Royston Draft Urban Transport Plan (UTP) has been issued for public consultation. The draft UTP is attached at Appendix 1 and the Committee's views on it are welcomed.

2. FORWARD PLAN

- 2.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on an item in the Forward Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan identifies the need for Urban Transport Plans for each of the towns in the district. Following appointment of consultant Transport Planning International, an initial stakeholder consultation on issues for Royston and two Member Steering Groups, a draft Urban Transport Plan for Royston has been produced for consultation.
- 3.2 The consultation will take place over the period 11th January to 19th February 2010. It will include manned public exhibitions on two dates (Tuesday 19th 3.30-8pm and Saturday 23rd January 10-1pm at Royston Town Hall). In addition summary leaflets will be issued with the Royston Crow on 14th January which will include a questionnaire and 'postback' facility. The draft UTP will also be available on both HCC and NHDC websites.
- 3.3 The views of the Area Committee are welcomed as an integral part of the consultation process. Following completion of the consultation period the UTP will be finalised and adopted by Hertfordshire County Council. The final plan will then form the basis for investment in transport improvements in the town for the next Local Transport Plan period.

4. ISSUES

- 4.1 The key issue for consideration is whether the UTP has correctly identified existing and likely future transport issues and solutions for the town. The Committee's views on both is welcomed and, in particular how future growth in and around Royston has been considered.

- 4.2 A second key issue is the likelihood that there will be significantly less public funding for transport projects in the foreseeable future. Whilst the Royston Railway Crossing project is progressing according to planned commitments, the committee may wish to consider how transport issues may be addressed in the context of less financial support from local authorities. For example evidence suggests that promoting 'smarter travel choices' may well have as beneficial an impact as traditional infrastructure lead solutions.
- 4.3 The Area Committee's views on the relationship between the draft UTP and NHDC's Town Centre Strategy are also welcomed, especially with regard to pedestrian priority and parking matters.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial or risk implications arising from this report.

7. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no human resource or risk implications arising from this report.

8. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 8.1 A stakeholder consultation meeting took place at the outset of the UTP production and all Members of the Royston Area Committee have been invited to attend Member Steering Groups.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That the Area Committee provide any comments on the draft Royston Urban Transport Plan to the Transport Policy Officer to feedback to the consultant preparing the plan and Hertfordshire County Council.

10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To provide the Area Committee with the opportunity to comment on the emerging Royston Urban Transport Plan.

11. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 11.1 No alternative options are considered necessary.

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 Appendix A – Draft Urban Transport Plan for Royston and associated proformas

13. CONTACT OFFICERS

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14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Royston Urban Transport Plan Part 1 background report
Royston Town Centre Strategy

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