

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE RESIDENTIAL TRAVEL PLAN GUIDANCE
(Report by Head of Planning Services)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the draft Cambridgeshire Residential Travel Plan Guidance that has been developed by the County Council in discussion with the City and District Councils.
- 1.2 The report also considers the schedule for taking the Guidance forward, including the Consultation Plan.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 A Residential Travel Plan (RTP) is a package of measures which seeks to increase sustainable travel at a residential development. It does this by reducing the need for travel, reducing single-occupancy car travel and by providing and encouraging the use of more sustainable travel choices, such as walking, cycling, public transport, car sharing and car clubs.
- 2.2 The concept of Travel Plans is one that has become more popular over recent years, particularly due to the environmental and economic benefit of reducing congestion, which in turn reduces the contribution of road transport to air pollution and climate change.
- 2.3 National and regional guidance and policy has not in the past required Local Planning Authorities to request RTPs. However, the draft National Planning Policy Framework (draft NPPF) which the Government is currently consulting on does make it clear (in paragraphs 89 and 90) that Travel Plans are a key tool in facilitating the use of sustainable travel modes which support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and congestion. In particular, the draft NPPF states (in paragraph 90) that "All developments which generate significant amounts of movement, as determined by local criteria, should be required to provide a Travel Plan".
- 2.4 Local Planning Authorities in Cambridgeshire have worked together to develop the draft Cambridgeshire Residential Travel Plan Guidance (or "the draft Guidance") as a means of ensuring that RTPs are provided as part of planning applications by developers. In effect this will enable City and District Councils to request RTPs from

developers for residential developments. The Local Transport Plan (LTP3) also carries reference and support for RTPs, with them being mentioned alongside all other types of travel plans.

- 2.5 This document is being taken forward by the County Council as Supplementary Guidance, which will have similar weight to a statutory Supplementary Planning Document in decision making if it has been subject to a) public consultation, b) Sustainability Appraisal, and c) been endorsed by County, City and District Council Members.
- 2.6 The content of the draft Guidance has been agreed between the County, City and District Officers.
- 2.7 The draft Guidance has been subject to Sustainability Appraisal to ensure that it contributes to sustainable development, by considering all social, economic and environmental factors. The Sustainability Appraisal revealed that the draft Guidance is likely to have positive effects in all social, environmental and economic areas, except for one social area (crime and fear of crime), where the Guidance is likely to have no obvious effects. Both the draft Guidance and the Sustainability Appraisal are available as Background Papers to this report.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 In accordance with national guidance, the schedule to develop the Guidance includes carrying out a 6-week period of public consultation. Prior to any such exercise being undertaken, the City and District Council's are presenting this draft Guidance, including the Sustainability Appraisal and the Consultation Plan to Members, for them to note and to allow them to provide feedback.
- 3.2 The draft Guidance and its supporting Sustainability Appraisal are large documents that can be found on the Member Services pages of Modern Gov at the following link;
http://projects.huntsdc.gov.uk/Members_Services/default.aspx
- 3.3 The detailed Consultation Plan can be found at Appendix 1.
- 3.4 Following this consideration and feedback, the draft Guidance will be revised to allow public consultation to be undertaken and following the completion of this exercise and its consideration thereof and revisions made, it will then be presented for adoption as Supplementary Guidance by all the Cambridgeshire Local Authorities.

4. IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no significant Resource or Performance implications associated with this work.

- 4.2 In terms of Climate Change, the draft Guidance encourages developers to promote sustainable alternatives to the car as part of their developments, such as walking, cycling and public transport. In so doing, this draft Guidance will assist in reducing harmful emissions across the County, thereby assisting in reducing the impact of climate change and will assist in improving air quality.
- 4.3 In terms of Access and Inclusion, the draft Guidance will help to enhance access to services by promoting a wider range of sustainable transport options, and encourage wider social benefits such as promoting active travel that can assist in improving both health and community well-being.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 This work builds on national and local policy and guidance as outlined at Appendix 2 and follows good practice in having a definitive guide for Cambridgeshire and the benefits that will ensue for the County as a whole as outlined in the report.
- 5.2 At the conclusion of the consultation, the results and emerging recommendations will be reported to Members, as well as those at County, City & other District level, at a later date.

6. RECOMMENDATION

It is RECOMMENDED;

- i) **to note the draft Cambridgeshire Residential Travel Plan Guidance as a basis for public consultation**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

LTP 3.

Cambridgeshire Residential Travel Plan Guidance - Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (May 2010).

Cambridgeshire Residential Travel Plan Guidance - Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report (May 2010).

Contact Officer: Paul Bland – Planning Services Manager (Policy)

 **01480 388430**

Appendix 1

Consultation Plan

Document	Consultees	Method of communication	Consultation outcome
Consultations up to December 2010			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Residential Travel Plan (RTP) Guidance 	CCC Teams	Email, meetings	Agreed
	Planning Policy Forum	Email, meetings	Agreed
	Chief Planning Officers	Meetings	Agreed
	CCC Members – Environment Services Spokes	Meeting	Noted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening Report 	Natural England	Email	Approved
	Wildlife Trusts	Email	No comments
	RSPB	Email	No comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Scoping Report 	Natural England	Email	Approved
	Environment Agency	Email	Approved
	English Heritage	Email	No comments
Consultation of County Members prior to District Member consultation and Public Consultation, January/February 2011			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RTP Guidance ▪ SA Scoping Report ▪ Consultation Plan 	CCC Members - Growth and Environment Policy Development Group (PDG)	Meeting	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RTP Guidance ▪ SA Scoping Report ▪ Consultation Plan 	CCC Members - Cabinet	Meeting	
Informal Consultation with District Members, March to September 2011			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RTP Guidance 	Cambridge City Council -	Meeting	

Document	Consultees	Method of communication	Consultation outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SA Scoping Report ▪ Consultation Plan 	Development Plan Steering Group (DPSG)		
	East Cambs District Council (DC) Members	Meeting	
	Fenland DC Members	Meeting	
	Hunts DC Members	Meeting	
	South Cambs DC Members	Meeting	
Public Consultation¹ for 6 weeks – date to be agreed			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RTP Guidance ▪ SA Scoping Report 	Statutory and non-statutory consultees	Email, post, County & District websites and main receptions, press adverts	
County & District Consultation following Public Consultation – to be agreed			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RTP Guidance ▪ Consultation Statement 	Planning Policy Forum	Email or meeting	
	Chief Planning Officers	Meeting	
	Development Control Managers	Meeting	
Endorsement of RTP Guidance – to be agreed			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RTP Guidance ▪ Consultation Statement 	CCC Members - Growth and Environment PDG	Meeting	
	CCC Members - Cabinet	Meeting	
	Cambridge City Council Members	Meeting	
	East Cambs DC Members	Meeting	
	Fenland DC Members	Meeting	
	Hunts DC Members	Meeting	
	South Cambs DC Members	Meeting	

Further Supporting Information on the Guidance

National Policy and Guidance

Currently residential travel plans are not well-established in national planning policy. *Planning Policy Guidance 13 (PPG 13)* explicitly supports local authorities requesting travel plans from developers, but this policy only specifies travel plans for workplaces and for schools.

The draft National Planning Policy Framework (July 2011) is expected to replace existing PPGs and PPSs by the Spring of 2012, and this specifically states that Travel Plans are a key tool in facilitating reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and congestion from all new developments which generate significant amounts of movement..

Department for Transport (DfT) later released the guidance *Making Residential Travel Plans Work (2005)* which seeks to establish the place of residential travel planning in the planning process.

Residential travel planning is further supported by DfT's *Smarter Choices – Changing the Way We Travel (2004)*. This document stresses the importance of using 'softer' measures, such as travel planning, to persuade people to travel sustainably, alongside 'hard' measures such as providing transport infrastructure. The DfT has published proven results of the effectiveness of Smarter Choices in influencing travel behaviour.

Local Policy and Guidance

One of Cambridgeshire's Local Transport Plan (LTP) objectives is "*to develop integrated transport and to promote public transport, walking, cycling and other sustainable forms of transport.*" More specifically, the LTP makes reference to Smarter Choices and dedicates a whole chapter to Smarter Travel Management.

In addition, the County Council's Climate Change and Environment Strategy (CCES) clearly identifies the importance of sustainable travel, as a way of reducing the county's greenhouse emissions:

Climate Change Policy 5 (CC5): "We will work to bring about a shift to more sustainable transport (smarter travel), including walking, cycling and public transport."

The CCES itself has been developed from national policy and indicators. Therefore this Guidance will contribute towards reducing climate change, by encouraging sustainable travelling at new residential developments in Cambridgeshire.

Cambridgeshire County Council has been working collaboratively with local planning authorities to produce the Residential Travel Plan guidance. Once complete, it will allow local planning authorities to use the guidance in preparing their Local Planning Documents. Currently South Cambridgeshire District is the only authority which has an adopted policy, which explicitly requires the preparation of Residential Travel Plans. It is envisaged that local planning authorities will adopt this Guidance as Supplementary Guidance to enable them to have a stronger policy backing to request Residential Travel Plans from developers.

The purpose of the Guidance is to provide a background on Residential Travel Plans,

to explain the residential travel planning process, and to specify the local requirements for Residential Travel Plans.

This Guidance is intended for use by developers, consultants, Cambridgeshire's City and District Councils, and any other stakeholders involved in the residential travel planning process.