

Your reference number is ECIA730167246.

Thank you for submitting Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment v3 - Head of service review

**Title of policy / decision:** Decision to consult on the full draft Local Transport Plan 4

**Policy / decision type:** Cabinet Member Action (CMA)

**Overview of policy / decision:** To seek approval to consult on “A better Connected Essex”, the full Draft Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) for Essex. This consultation will provide members of the public and consultees identified within the Department for Transport LTP Guidance with an opportunity to comment on A Better Connected Essex before a further and separate decision is taken by Essex County Council to adopt A better Connected Essex as the formal Local Transport Plan for Essex.

**What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?:** The Local Transport Plan (LTP) covers all aspects of transport and, as a statutory requirement. LTP4 has been developed to be evidence-based and focussed on the delivery of the wider outcomes.

‘A Better Connected Essex’ focuses on the efficient movement of people and goods. Our vision is for a “safe transport system that supports economic growth and prosperity, provides access to our homes, services, education, work and leisure and enables more sustainable choices and journeys to be made.”

Transport is an enabler of other activity and underpins the delivery of wider outcomes:

- Supporting a growing economy by connecting businesses to their customers and suppliers, and enabling the construction of new homes,
- Improving opportunities and life chances, health and wellbeing, by connecting people’s homes to workplaces, schools, colleges, healthcare, shops, friends and family, leisure and open space, and
- Has a key role in the delivery of better environmental outcomes

A Better Connected Essex identifies three strategic themes. These are aligned with both Everyone’s Essex and current Department for Transport priorities:

- The Supporting People, Health, Wellbeing, and Independence theme aims to ensure that people have inclusive and affordable access to key services, to improve physical and mental health and wellbeing, and that the transport network is safe, and feels safe, for all users.
- The Creating Sustainable Places and Communities theme aims to ensure that all places support the transport needs of all residents, Essex County Council works with partners to design sustainable developments from the start, and to reduce transport’s impact on the environment.
- The Connecting People, Places and Businesses theme aims to maximise the business potential of Essex, ensure that people have inclusive and affordable access to employment, education & training, and that the transport network has a secure and long-term future

**Executive Director responsible for policy / decision:** David Gibson (Climate, Environment and Customer Services)

**Cabinet Member responsible for policy / decision:** Cllr Tom Cunningham (Highways, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport)

**Is this a new policy / decision or a change to an existing one?:** Change to an existing policy / decision

**How will the impact of the policy / decision be monitored and evaluated?:** This consultation will provide members of the public and consultees identified within the Department for Transport LTP Guidance with an opportunity to comment on A Better Connected Essex before a further and separate decision is taken by Essex County Council to adopt A better Connected Essex as the formal Local Transport Plan for Essex

**Service users:** No

**Employees:** No

**Wider community or groups of people:** Yes

**What strategic priorities will this policy / decision support?:** Strong, Inclusive and Sustainable Economy, High Quality Environment, Health, Independence and Wellbeing for All Ages, A good place for Children and Families to Grow

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Economy:** Good jobs, Infrastructure, Future growth and investment, Green growth

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Environment:** Net zero, Transport and built environment, Minimise waste, Green communities, Levelling up the environment

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Health:** Healthy lifestyles, Promoting independence, Place based working, Carers, Levelling up health

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Families:** Education outcomes, Family resilience and stability, Safety, Outcomes for vulnerable children, Levelling up outcomes for families

**What geographical areas of Essex will the policy / decision affect?:** All Essex

**Is the new or revised policy / decision likely to negatively impact residents who are digitally excluded?:**  
No

**Is the new or revised policy / decision linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?:** No

**Nature of impact:** None

**Nature of impact:** None

**Nature of impact:** None

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**Nature of impact:** None

**Nature of impact:** None

**Nature of impact:** None

**Nature of impact:** None

**Nature of impact:** None

**Nature of impact:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:**

Consultation will not have a disproportionate impact on any people with a particular characteristic. Recent consultations carried out following the approach that will be applied for this consultation have produced responses broadly in line with the demographics of Essex and have included responses from people of groups with protected characteristics

While this decision to approve consultation on the draft Local Transport Plan 4 does not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic, the final LTP4 is expected to have different impacts on different groups of people. Analysis carried out for the current Essex Transport Strategy (LTP3) in 2010 indicated that the LTP had potential impacts related to age, disability, socio-economic and/or health inequalities, and impacts on rural residents. Consequently, and in line with statutory requirements, LTP4 has been subject to an 'Integrated Sustainability Appraisal' (ISA)

A separate decision to adopt the LTP will require an assessment of its impact on people with protected

characteristics

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:** The consultation will follow best practice developed during recent consultation carried out within the Highways and Transportation Directorate. The consultation will include.

- Online access to consultation materials that explain the role of the Local Transport Plan and the outcomes the LTP aims to deliver written in plain English.
- An Online survey or series of questions will be developed using ECC's Citizen Space platform or the new Engagement HQ platform.
- Contact Parish Councils to promote via newsletters.
- Copies available in libraries.
- Hard copies available on request.
- Dedicated meetings with key partners; e.g., Districts, National Highways, rail operators etc
- Recent online based consultations have generated good responses from a full cross section of the public that is more representative of the population than past methodologies based upon face-to-face public consultation events.
- A comprehensive report will be produced detailing the findings. The report will be made available online and will underpin the finalisation of the draft Local Transport Plan prior to its formal adoption.

**Nature of impact:** None

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**Nature of impact:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** Consultation will not have a disproportionate impact on Levelling Up - Priority Areas & Cohorts

Recent consultations carried out following the approach that will be applied for this consultation have produced responses broadly in line with the demographics of Essex.

While this decision to approve consultation on the draft Local Transport Plan 4 does not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic, the final LTP4 is expected to have different impacts on different groups of people. Analysis carried out for the current Essex Transport Strategy (LTP3) in 2010 indicated that the LTP had potential impacts related to age, disability, socio-economic and/or health inequalities, and impacts on rural residents. Consequently, and in line with statutory requirements, LTP4 has been subject to an 'Integrated Sustainability Appraisal' (ISA)

A separate decision to adopt the LTP will require an assessment of its impact on Levelling Up - Priority Areas & Cohorts

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:** LTP4 has been subject to an 'Integrated Sustainability Appraisal' (ISA)

**Nature of impact:** None

**Nature of impact:** None

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**Nature of impact:** None

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**Nature of impact:** None

**Nature of impact:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:**

Consultation will not have a disproportionate impact on Equalities - Inclusion Health Groups and Other Priority Groups

Recent consultations carried out following the approach that will be applied for this consultation have produced responses broadly in line with the demographics of Essex.

While this decision to approve consultation on the draft Local Transport Plan 4 does not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic, the final LTP4 is expected to have different impacts on different groups of people. Analysis carried out for the current Essex Transport Strategy (LTP3) in 2010 indicated that the LTP had potential impacts related to age, disability, socio-economic and/or health inequalities, and impacts on rural residents. Consequently, and in line with statutory requirements, LTP4 has been subject to an 'Integrated Sustainability Appraisal' (ISA)

A separate decision to adopt the LTP will require an assessment of its impact on Equalities - Inclusion Health Groups and Other Priority Groups

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:** LTP4 has been subject to an 'Integrated Sustainability Appraisal' (ISA)

**Nature of impact:** None

**Nature of impact:** None

**Nature of impact:** None

**Nature of impact:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** Consultation will not have a disproportionate impact on Equalities - Geographical Groups

Recent consultations carried out following the approach that will be applied for this consultation have produced responses broadly in line with the demographics of Essex.

While this decision to approve consultation on the draft Local Transport Plan 4 does not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic, the final LTP4 is expected to have different impacts on different groups of people. Analysis carried out for the current Essex Transport Strategy (LTP3) in 2010 indicated that the LTP had potential impacts related to age, disability, socio-economic and/or health inequalities, and impacts on rural residents. Consequently, and in line with statutory requirements, LTP4 has been subject to an 'Integrated Sustainability Appraisal' (ISA)

A separate decision to adopt the LTP will require an assessment of its impact on Equalities - Geographical Groups

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:** LTP4 has been subject to an 'Integrated Sustainability Appraisal' (ISA).

**Nature of impact:** None

**Nature of impact:** None

**Nature of impact:** None

**Nature of impact:** None

**Nature of impact:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** Consultation will not have a disproportionate impact on families

Recent consultations carried out following the approach that will be applied for this consultation have produced responses broadly in line with the demographics of Essex. While people in their 30's are the least well represented in recent consultations, the shift to online has increased representation from this underrepresented group.

While this decision to approve consultation on the draft Local Transport Plan 4 does not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic, the final LTP4 is expected to have different impacts on different groups of people. Analysis carried out for the current Essex Transport Strategy (LTP3) in 2010 indicated that the LTP had potential impacts related to age, disability, socio-economic and/or health inequalities, and impacts on rural residents. Consequently, and in line with statutory requirements, LTP4 has been subject to an 'Integrated Sustainability Appraisal' (ISA)

A separate decision to adopt the LTP will require an assessment of its impact on families

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:** While people in their 30's are the least well represented in recent consultations, the shift to online has increased representation from this underrepresented group.

LTP4 has been subject to an 'Integrated Sustainability Appraisal' (ISA).

**Nature of impact:** None

**Nature of impact:** None

**Nature of impact:** None

**Nature of impact:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** Consultation will not have a disproportionate impact on Crime & Disorder

Recent consultations carried out following the approach that will be applied for this consultation have produced responses broadly in line with the demographics of Essex.

While this decision to approve consultation on the draft Local Transport Plan 4 does not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic, the final LTP4 is expected to have different impacts on different groups of people. Analysis carried out for the current Essex Transport Strategy (LTP3) in 2010 indicated that the LTP had potential impacts related to age, disability, socio-economic and/or health inequalities, and impacts on rural residents. Consequently, and in line with statutory requirements, LTP4 has been subject to an 'Integrated Sustainability Appraisal' (ISA)

A separate decision to adopt the LTP will require an assessment of its impact on crime and disorder.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:** LTP4 has been subject to an 'Integrated Sustainability Appraisal' (ISA).

**Does your decision / policy involve development or re-development of buildings or infrastructure?:** No

**Does your decision / policy take place in, or make use of, existing buildings or infrastructure?:** Yes

**The use of existing buildings will always have a climate impact because it requires energy consumption.**

**Please outline how you will mitigate against this impact:** The consultation will be carried out online minimising the need for travel to in person events and minimising the requirement for physical paper copies of documents. Individual residents and businesses will be responding from their own homes or places of work.

**Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to transport, travel or vehicles? This includes travel needs / requirements of both service users and staff (including staff you're planning to recruit):** Yes

**Where are staff or service users coming from and how are they travelling?:** The consultation will be carried out online minimising the need for travel to in person events and minimising the requirement for physical paper copies of documents. Individual residents and businesses will be responding from their own homes or places of work.

While this decision to approve consultation on the draft Local Transport Plan 4 does not have a disproportionately adverse impact on climate, the final LTP4 will formalise ECC policy in the area of transport and decarbonisation. Consequently, and in line with statutory requirements, LTP4 has been subject to an 'Integrated Sustainability Appraisal' (ISA) and an assessment of current carbon impacts of transport in Essex and future carbon trajectories.

A separate decision to adopt the LTP will require an assessment of its impact on climate

**If car travel is unavoidable, are you specifying electric cars and vehicles?:** No

**What is your transition plan to introduce electric vehicles?:** This is contained within the ECC EV strategy

**Are you undertaking a procurement exercise?:** No

**How does the procurement contribute positively towards the council's net zero targets and emissions reduction?:** N/A

**Please list which carbon hotspots (specific areas or activities that generate the most carbon emissions) are included within your procurement exercise:** N/A

**Have you considered making use of solutions that already exist in the organisation, or using second-hand equipment in line with circular economy thinking of reuse, repair, recycle, repurpose and refurbishment to minimise waste?:** N/A

**Will you engage the market to determine the carbon maturity of your procurement exercise?:** N/A

**Will the environmental impact be measured and reported during the contract duration of your project?:** N/A

**Will you source from a local provider where possible to reduce travel emissions?:** N/A

**Will any waste be generated by this decision? This includes waste from construction, waste generated by service users / staff, and waste generated by replacing existing products / materials with new:** No

**Built Environment / Energy:** None

**Sustainable Transport / Travel:** None

**Waste:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** The consultation will be carried out online minimising the need for travel to in person events and minimising the requirement for physical paper copies of documents. Individual residents and businesses will be responding from their own homes or places of work.

A separate decision to adopt the LTP will require an assessment of its impact on waste

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:** The consultation will be carried out online minimising the need for travel to in person events and minimising the requirement for physical paper copies of documents.

**Does your ECIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more of the groups / areas identified?:** No

**I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance:** I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

**Date ECIA completed:** 10/07/2025

**Name of person completing the ECIA:** Alastair Southgate

**Email address of person completing the ECIA:** alastair.southgate@essex.gov.uk

**Your function:** Climate, Environment and Customer Services

**Your service area:** Highways and Transportation

**Your team:** Sustainable Transport / Transport Strategy

**Are you submitting this ECIA on behalf of another function, service area or team?:** No

**Email address of Head of Service:** Tracey.vickers@essex.gov.uk

**Do you approve this ECIA or wish to send it back to the originator?:** Approve