

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	John Blackledge, Director of Community and Environmental Services
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Gillian Campbell, Deputy Leader of the Council (Tourism, Economic Development and Jobs)
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2015

## **FYLDE COAST HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT MASTERPLAN**

### **1.0 Purpose of the report:**

1.1 The Fylde Coast Highways and Transport Masterplan (see Appendix 3a) and the measures/strategies that will allow the masterplan to be taken forward.

### **2.0 Recommendation(s):**

2.1 To approve the Fylde Coast Highways and Transport Masterplan (July 2015).

### **3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):**

3.1 The Masterplan sets the vision for how roads, rail, tram and cycle networks need to be transformed to boost the Fylde Coast economy. This document has been the subject of extensive consultation and supports the Council's key priorities.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

Not to approve the Fylde Coast Highways and Transport Masterplan.

### **4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is:

"Attract sustainable investment and create quality jobs"

## **5.0 Background Information**

- 5.1 Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council have produced a wide-ranging vision for how roads, rail, tram and cycle networks need to be transformed to boost the Fylde Coast economy, avoid gridlock on the roads and support healthy lifestyles over the coming decades.
- 5.2 In order to determine its transport planning and investment priorities, Lancashire County Council is producing a set of five highways and transport masterplans to cover all 12 districts of Lancashire and, where necessary, neighbouring areas, to begin to make the case for multi-million pound investments in the transport infrastructure needed to support future housing and business development. The Fylde Coast Masterplan covers Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde.
- 5.3 A draft document was published in December 2014 and was subject to an extensive consultation exercise in early 2015. Changes have been made for the July 2015 final version.
- 5.4 The Masterplan sets out options for major changes to highways, public transport and walking and cycling facilities to create conditions for economic growth and prepare for predicted increases in traffic.
- 5.5 The document marks the start of a long-term planning exercise to decide the basis of future investment priorities, with a focus on identifying the problems, gaps and opportunities on the highway and public transport systems serving the county.
- 5.6 The Masterplan also outlines travel patterns on the existing transport network, the key business sectors and sites which the network needs to support, sets out projects already in the pipeline and identifies opportunities to attract external funding for improvements from developers or the government through 'growth deals' which combine public and private funding.
- 5.7 For Blackpool, the document reaffirms the council's commitment to the following 'Growth Deal' schemes:
- Integrated Traffic Management - £2.4m
  - Bridges Major Maintenance - £11.4m (including Department for Transport Local Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund)
  - Town Centre Green Corridors - £7.3m
  - Tramway Extension to North Station - £18.2m (mainly from devolved local major transport scheme funding).

The masterplan identifies that improvements are needed in the following areas:

- Interchange between tram and train at Blackpool North railway station and within the Talbot Gateway Central Business District.
- Improved coach facilities (drop off and pick up) within the Leisure Quarter, with layover facilities at an appropriate location.
- The cycling network on the Fylde Coast, better integrating the Blackpool and Lancashire networks.
- A long term strategy for public transport on the Fylde Coast, including the local rail, tram and bus networks.

5.8 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.9 **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 3a: Fylde Coast Highways and Transport Masterplan

6.0 **Legal considerations:**

6.1 None

7.0 **Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 None

8.0 **Equalities considerations:**

8.1 None

9.0 **Financial considerations:**

9.1 The masterplan will inform proposals to be (in part) funded out of the Council's capital programme, including Local Transport Plan funding. Relevant schemes include: Integrated Traffic Management, Bridges Maintenance, Green Corridors and Tramway Extension (all Local Growth Fund); the latter also from devolved local major transport scheme funding. The Bridge Maintenance scheme is now fully funded, following a successful bid to the Department for Transport's Local Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund.

10.0 **Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 The consultation for six weeks (12th January - 20th February 2015), coordinated by Lancashire County Council (LCC), drew responses from a wide range of organisations and individuals. A consultation event was held in St John's Church between 2pm and 7pm on 28th January 2015. Following public and stakeholder consultation, two important changes to the document relate to issues around the A585(T) and the Poulton - Fleetwood disused railway line, neither of which are in Blackpool. A North Fylde Connectivity Study will now be undertaken by Lancashire County Council, centred on the wider A585(T) corridor. The third significant change to the document has come about both through consultation responses and through changing circumstances. Consequently, an Ultra-Low Emissions Vehicles Strategy for the Fylde Coast will now be pursued, given that funding is likely to become more available for implementation.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 None

**14.0 Key decision information:**

14.1 Is this a key decision? Yes

14.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number: 4/2014

14.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days?

14.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

**15.0 Call-in information:**

15.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

15.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

**16.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):**

Date informed: N/A

Date approved: N/A

**17.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):**

17.1

**18.0 Executive decision:**

18.1

**18.2 Date of Decision:**

**19.0 Reason(s) for decision:**

**19.1 Date Decision published:**

**20.0 Executive Members in attendance:**

20.1

**21.0 Call-in:**

21.1

**22.0 Notes:**

22.1