

## **Hereford transport strategy review – upcoming meetings**

Thank you for your continued interest in the Hereford transport strategy review.

Further to my letter in July, this is to let you know that the Hereford transport strategy review, including the peer review of the South Wye and Hereford transport packages, is now complete. The review report will now be considered by the General Scrutiny Committee at a meeting on Monday 9 November, and then subsequently at a meeting in December where Cabinet will consider the review findings, any recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee and look to set out and determine next steps in development of their transport strategy.

I understand that people will be keen to read the review and I had anticipated that the technical work would be completed by the end of September. It became clear during the final stages of the review that there was a considerable amount of technical information to review and interpret - this includes the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic which has changed travel behaviour, alongside emerging national policy changes addressing climate change and the environment. I asked for some further technical work to be undertaken to inform the review and more fully assist members with consideration of these issues.

The review set out to better understand existing and future road conditions in the City, alternative transport options and the changing national policy context, particularly the declared climate emergency, alongside an independent peer assessment of the proposed major road schemes. Herefordshire Council declared a Climate Emergency in March 2019 and set a target of zero carbon emissions by 2030 in September 2019. I took a decision to pause and review the new road elements of the Hereford and South Wye Transport packages to help determine how the Local Transport Plan (LTP) can be compatible with the climate emergency and establish the most suitable way forward.

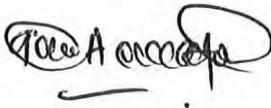
Further, reviewing transport locally is in line with current national policy (Decarbonising Transport) and the statement issued by the Transport Secretary, Grant Schapps - *“We want public transport and active travel to be the natural first choice for our daily activities. An important aspect of reducing emissions from transport will be to use our cars less and be able to rely on a convenient, cost-effective and coherent public transport network”*.

It should also be noted that in adopting the Local Transport Plan 2016-31 (the current transport strategy covering Hereford city as well as the wider county) in May 2016, the council confirmed that it would be reasonable to review the strategy within five years of its adoption, which would be by 2021. The timing of this review is consistent with council's original intention when adopting the current LTP.

The Hereford transport strategy review report will set out the assessment criteria and process undertaken and clearly describe objectives and outcomes against which potential future options could be judged. Alongside the review report, the independent assessments of the proposed road schemes will also be published.

The papers for the General Scrutiny Committee, which will include the review report, are due to be published on 30 October 2020. To read the meeting papers and to view the meetings live online please visit the council website at: [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/meetings](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/meetings) and click on the meeting name.

In the meantime, if you have any questions please email [TransportReview@balfourbeatty.com](mailto:TransportReview@balfourbeatty.com) or call us on 01432 261800.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cllr J Harrington', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Cllr J Harrington**  
**Cabinet Member Infrastructure & Transport**