

Transport Contributions Policy (TCP) List

Background

Approval was given by the Executive Member at his Decision Day meeting on 25 June 2009 for officers to create directories of transport improvement schemes that would sit within and support the current Local Transport Plan (LTP) Area Transport Strategies. These would be the first point of reference for Highways Development Control in negotiating and recommending developer contributions providing confidence to District and Borough Councils in supporting demands for transport contributions. The lists will help to ensure that the transport impact of development (including small scale development) is properly mitigated.

Development

The first phase of work concentrates on collating details of schemes and programmes that have already been identified and have some form of acceptance and status as valid schemes within the transport strategy for the area. Information collection is being centrally coordinated within Transport Team South but with input from:

- (i) Area Teams – Local Transport Policy, Traffic Management and Highway Engineers/Inspectors;
- (ii) School Travel Plan Team and Safer Routes to School;
- (iii) Passenger Transport;
- (iv) Safety Engineering;
- (v) ITS;
- (vi) Landscape, Planning and Heritage;
- (vii) Countryside Services – Rights of Way; and
- (viii) District Councils (transport officers).

It was agreed that once the schedule of schemes for a District or Borough had been drawn up by officers, approval from the Executive Member for Environment would be sought for each list, so that it could be adopted under each of the Area Transport Strategies. It was also agreed that the scheme lists would be 'live' lists, and continual monitoring and review would be undertaken, coordinated by County Council officers. New schemes would be added when identified and any completed schemes removed as appropriate. Local Members will also have the opportunity for input into the list, for example through the Local Area Transport Teams.

Officers from both the County Council and Havant Borough Council have been developing a schedule of local transport improvements which is appended to this report. The list of transport improvement schemes draws from County Council sections, the transportation team at the Borough Council, and previous transport studies. County Members are now asked to approve the formulation and development of the list before it is taken to Borough Members for consultation prior to submitting the list to the Executive Member for approval.

Approval has already been given to the transport scheme lists for Winchester City Council, Test Valley District Council and New Forest District Council and National Parks Authority and these are now being used to assist officers in negotiating and collecting contributions to mitigate the impact of development on the transport and highways network.

This approach has been adopted in order to give greater confidence in collecting developer contributions to mitigate against the impact of development. It also provides a holistic approach across the Borough.

Application

The continued application of the TCP across the County Council is integral to the County Council maximising financial contributions secured towards transport improvements and services from new development. In the absence of a strong and well supported TCP (which can be consistently defended and justified), less external funding will be collected by the County Council towards transportation improvements, leading to reduction in the Capital Programme and increased strain on existing infrastructure and resources.

Failure to provide the necessary schemes to support the collecting of financial contributions in accordance with the TCP may result in a number of districts in Hampshire withdrawing the policy (or limiting its application), thereby failing to collect financial contributions and so failing to adequately mitigate the impact of development. This may, in the future, result in the County Council having to fund improvements to infrastructure and services which should have been funded by development.

Having a functioning and robust Transport Contributions Policy will enable both the County Council (in connection with Strategic Planning Applications and County Matters) and the Borough Council to operate the adopted TCP. It will also enable the County's policy to be better supported when challenged in negotiations, and on appeal.