

PLACE SHAPING POLICY DEVELOPMENT PANEL

Minutes of a meeting of the Place Shaping Policy Development Panel of Broadland District Council, held at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich on Monday 4 October 2021 at 6pm.

Committee Members Present:	Councillors: J M Ward (Chairman), D G Harrison, K G Leggett MBE, G K Nurden, D M Thomas and J L Thomas.
Officers in Attendance:	The Place Shaping Manager and the Democratic Services Officer (JO)

4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Brennan and Cllr Moncur.

5 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

6 TRANSPORT FOR NORWICH (TfN) STRATEGY CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The Place Shaping Manager introduced the report, which he explained was being brought to the Panel for further consultation at the request of Cabinet.

Members were advised that Norfolk County Council was reviewing its transport policies for Norfolk. This would include replacing the Norwich Area Transport Strategy (NATS) with the Transport for Norwich (TfN) Strategy, which was currently being consulted upon.

The Strategy would ensure that transport policies remained up-to-date and met the vision, objectives and longer-term aspirations for Norwich and the wider geographical area. The Strategy would be accompanied by an Action Plan that would set out the major initiatives that would be undertaken to achieve the vision, objectives and aspirations of the plan. It was anticipated that these interventions would in turn be consulted upon as they were developed

The Panel was informed that the TfN Strategy had a less defined boundary than the NATS that it would replace and whilst it would focus on the City and the strategic growth areas around it, it also considered longer distance journeys into Norwich from the county and beyond.

The key drivers of the Strategy were to enable people and businesses to thrive, whilst facilitating the transition to net zero emissions by 2050 and improving air quality. These were outcomes that would likely require significant changes to how people move around either through embracing low carbon technologies or behavioural changes from residents, with greater levels of walking, cycling or public transport use, to achieve.

The main themes raised in the Council's response were meeting the needs of all residents, by covering issues such as accessibility, rurality, low income and health.

Other issues raised in the response were:

- High quality transport options for growth areas in order to change habits towards more sustainable forms of transport.
- Access to the city centre for those with mobility issues and limited transport options.
- The phasing of interventions or restrictions to ensure people continued to have viable travel options.

It had also been recommended that to address the expected ongoing need for reliance on private transport that there should be a dovetailing of the Strategy with any wider Local Transport Plan interventions where appropriate, for example to support electric vehicle infrastructure in rural areas.

In response to a query about further studies such as those listed for some market towns, it was confirmed that whilst investigation as part of the local transport plan would be for Norfolk County Council to decide, further areas could be put forward by Broadland Council for consideration, if it was felt there was sufficient need.

Discussion turned to Broadland Northway and in particular the roundabouts on it, which some members considered unsafe due to confusing road markings. It was noted, however, that the County Council had deemed the roundabouts to be safe.

In answer to a query about the wider area of Norfolk it was confirmed that comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the importance of improving transport connections between rural areas and services in larger settlements had been included in the Council's response; although it had been recognised that this issue was more related to the Local Transport Plan, rather than the TfN Strategy.

It was confirmed that the previous consultation on the Local Transport Plan had been responded to by the Assistant Director for Planning in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning in 2020.

The Chairman noted that the proposed Electric Vehicle Strategy lacked incentives, such as free parking or the use of bus lanes.

In response, the Place Shaping Manager confirmed that it was expected that the Action Plan would explore such areas in more detail to facilitate their implementation.

Members were advised that there was no map for the Strategy as such, as it was recognised that there was no absolute fixed boundary for the area covered, which reflected consideration of trips into Norwich as part of the strategy.

It was also recognised that reconciling the reliance on private cars in rural areas and reducing car use in Norwich would be a significant challenge, which would need to be explored in the Action Plan.

The Panel proposed adding a comment in the Council's response under 'Problems, Issues and Challenges' regarding unsatisfactory road markings on Broadland Northway, which it considered needed to be addressed.

AGREED

to recommend that the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Leader agree the proposed response to the Transport for Norwich (TfN) Strategy Consultation, subject to the inclusion of Panel's amendment regarding improvements to road markings on Broadland Northway.

(The meeting concluded at 6.24pm)

Chairman