

**COUNCIL**  
**27 April 2022**  
**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Recommendation to Council made at the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 21 March

**Final report of the Sustainable Travel Task & Finish Group**

The [report of the Sustainable Travel Task & Finish Group](#) summarises work they have undertaken between July 2021 and February 2022. The Group comprised Councillors Mike Croker (Chair), Ruth Fletcher, Gordon Lindsay, Tim Lloyd, Tony Hogben and Bob Platt.

The Terms of reference of the Group were to consider: the Council's relationship with WSCC Highways with regard to specifying and implementing sustainable travel infrastructure within Horsham District; how sustainable transport provision proposals are evaluated; and what internal changes would help the Council meet the ambitions of Gear Change (a document that has recently been produced by the Government).

The recommendations sought to: implement a highways screening process for planning applications; to improve Policy 41 – Sustainable Transport – in the current draft of the Horsham District Local Plan; and to progress the Horsham LCWIP (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan).

The four recommendations to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee are set out below. The Committee resolved that these recommendations should be taken to Council for consideration.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

- (i) For Horsham District Council to consider pursuing implementation of a highway matters screening method similar to that employed by Mid-Sussex District Council for planning applications.
- (ii) For Horsham District Council to consider:
  - a. the Group's recommendations for specific changes to Policy 41 in the draft Horsham District Local Plan as laid out in Appendix 5 of the report
  - b. a much stronger emphasis on sustainable transport, as required by NPPF para 112, incorporating themes expressed in Appendix 6, are reflected in the Local Plan and in supporting design and other planning policy guidance.
  - c. focussing initial capital investment on a single LCWIP project meeting LTN1/20 standards and of sufficient scale to enable people to cycle more complete trips and to act as a flagship for further routes.
- (iii) For Horsham District Council to pursue and enable policy and measures to reduce the need to travel (especially by private car), including shifting trips from private car to active travel and public transport, reducing trip length and enabling the option of working from home.

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- (iv) For Horsham District Council to develop and to support local groups to develop further LCWIPs, especially for larger villages across the District.

#### REASON

- (i) Recommendation (i) will harness local Members' knowledge of potential highway issues associated with proposed development, leading to better decisions from the Highways Authority.
- (ii) Recommendation (ii) reflects the Group's view that, whilst the draft Reg.19 policy 41 is stronger than that at Reg.18, the changes do not go far enough to enable walking and cycling within Horsham district as a whole. Accordingly, both detailed changes to the current Reg.19 draft and, ideally, a rewrite of Policy 41 to better reflect central government policy, are recommended.
- (iii) Recommendation (iii) concerns HDC's own operation, where the Group seeks to encourage further policy changes as part of the 2030 net zero carbon target.
- (iv) Finally, although the Group recognised the funding limitations around LCWIPs, Recommendation (iv) should ensure that the LCWIP process follows central government's policy ambitions, avoiding excessive focus on Horsham town.