

Response to the Local Transport Plan

Responses are entered via an online portal but below are the explanations and questions (Note that questions 1-4 are about the organisation).

Carbon Emissions

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) sets out a comprehensive strategy to reduce carbon emissions from transport across Somerset. Here is a summary of the key proposals:

Shift to Cleaner Vehicles

- Support the transition to electric vehicles (EVs) by expanding EV charging infrastructure, especially in rural and hard-to-reach areas.
- Promote peer-to-peer charging networks and ensure equitable access to EV charging for homes without off-street parking.

Encourage Active Travel

- Invest in walking, wheeling, and cycling infrastructure, including strategic multi-use trails like the Strawberry Line and Steam Coast Trail.
- Support community-led active travel schemes and improve safety to encourage more people to choose active travel.

Improve Public and Shared Transport

- Enhance bus and rail services, including mobility hubs and shared transport options like car clubs and e-bike schemes.
- Expand Digital Demand Responsive Transport (DDRT) to improve access in rural areas.

Plan for Sustainable Development

- Ensure new developments prioritise sustainable transport and reduce car dependency.
- Use planning policies to secure active travel and public transport improvements.

Reduce Emissions from Infrastructure

- Lower the carbon footprint of highway maintenance and construction through better contract management and materials.
- Trial innovative technologies to reduce environmental impact and improve efficiency.

Evidence-Based Approach

- Use Quantifiable Carbon Reduction (QCR) modelling to identify where emissions are highest and target interventions accordingly.
- Focus on reducing short car journeys (under 10 miles), which make up a significant portion of local emissions.

Most of our transport funding comes from the central government and is restricted, meaning it cannot be allocated to other services.

5. Do you agree that reducing carbon emissions from transportation is an important priority?

Strongly Disagree
Disagree
Neither Disagree nor Agree
Agree
Strongly Agree

6. In your opinion, is the new Local Transport Plan making sufficient progress in reducing carbon emissions from our transportation system?

Yes
No
Do not Know

7. Do you agree with of our approach to reduce, shift, avoid and improve to help us lower carbon emissions?

Yes

No

Don't Know

8. Which interventions do you support the most and the least? Please rank the following, with 1 being your top choice.

Encouraging the reduction of private vehicle mileage

Expanding and improving the public transport network

Introducing shared mobility options such as car clubs

Improving walking and wheeling options (also known as active travel)

Supporting the development of localised services

Enable more electric vehicle uptake

Improving highway maintenance and construction through better contract management

9. Do you have any recommendations on how we can enhance efforts to reduce carbon emissions more effectively?

Vision and Approach

Sustainable First Choice

Encourage and enable more people to choose sustainable travel options

Objectives:

- Expand walking, wheeling, and cycling networks
- Improve bus and rail services and schedules
- Provide better travel information and promote behaviour change
- Ensure new developments prioritise sustainable transport

A Great & Healthy Place to Live

Create safer, healthier, and more accessible communities

Objectives:

- Halve the number of people killed or seriously injured on Somerset's roads by 2030
- Make it safer for children to walk or wheel to school
- Support physical and mental wellbeing through active travel
- Enhance access to green spaces and support tourism

Reduce Environmental Impacts

Support Somerset's transition to net zero and protect the environment.

Objectives:

- Help meet the UK's 2050 net zero transport target
- Improve air quality and expand electric vehicle infrastructure
- Support biodiversity and nature recovery
- Reduce emissions from transport and infrastructure

Reliable & Resilient Network

Maintain and improve the transport network to support growth and withstand future challenges.

Objectives:

- Keep roads and infrastructure in good condition
- Improve public transport reliability and connectivity
- Build resilience to climate events and disruptions
- Support economic development through better connectivity

10. Please rate your level of agreement with our Visions and Approaches on a scale from strongly disagree to strongly agree for each.

Choices are Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neither Disagree or Agree, Agree, Strongly Agree

Sustainable First Choice
A Great and Healthy Place to Live
Reduce Environmental Impacts
Reliable & Resilient Network

11. What (if anything) are we missing?

Place Types

Place Types in Somerset

To ensure transport solutions are tailored and effective, the LTP identifies seven distinct place types across the county. Each has unique characteristics and priorities:

Larger Urban Areas

Taunton, Yeovil, Bridgwater, Frome

- Major population centres with key services, employment, and transport hubs
- Focus on reducing car dominance, improving public transport, and expanding active travel networks

Linked Towns

Wells, Glastonbury, Shepton Mallet, Street

- Interconnected towns with shared travel-to-work areas
- Emphasis on strategic bus corridors, active travel links (e.g. Strawberry Line), and safer streets

Coastal Towns

Minehead, Burnham-on-Sea, Highbridge

- Popular with tourists and retirees, with seasonal travel patterns
- Priorities include sustainable tourism transport, EV charging, and improved rail and bus access

Mid-sized Towns

Chard, Crewkerne, Wellington

- Growing towns with local services and development potential
- Strategies focus on new rail stations, safer junctions, and better bus-rail integration

Rural Somerset

- Covers villages, hamlets, and isolated homes—home to 30% of the population.
- Focus on community transport, digital demand-responsive services, and safer rural roads.

Primary Service Centres

e.g. - Bruton, Cheddar, Ilminster, Langport, Wincanton

- Local hubs with schools, shops, and health services
- Targeted for mobility hubs, EV charging, and improved walking and cycling access

Local & Smaller Rural Centres

e.g. - Bishops Lydiard, Dulverton, Watchet, Milverton

- Smaller settlements with limited services
- Emphasis on safer speeds, community-led transport, and digital access to reduce travel need

12. How do you feel about our approach of categorising people and places to shape transport strategies and interventions?

Choices are Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neither Disagree or Agree, Agree, Strongly Agree

Categorising People

Categorising Places

13. If you disagree, what approach should we be taking?

14. Our policy approach seeks to move away from a 'one size fits all' model in favour of a more tailored method. Do you agree with this?

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Neither Disagree nor Agree

Agree

Strongly Agree

15. If you disagreed, what alternative approach would you recommend we take?

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16. In which place type do you live?

Larger urban area

Rural area

Linked settlement

Coastal town

Mid-sized town

17. Please rank the mode of transport you use the most.

Rank the following from using 1, 2, or 3

Car
Car as a passenger
Mobility Vehicle
Electric Scooter
Pedal Bike
Cargo Bike
Walking
Bus
Community Transport (for example – Slinky bus)
Train
Other

18. Do you combine different modes of transport in one single journey?

Yes
No
Dont Know

19. If a car is your normal mode of transport, what would encourage you to use a more sustainable mode?

Respond with Yes, No or Don't Know

I would walk more if there were more sufficient walking routes, paths, etc
I would cycle more if there were sufficient cycling routes, paths, etc
If public transport was more reliable
If I had the opportunity to use an electric vehicle

20. What prevents you from using a more sustainable mode of transport?

Electric Vehicles

An **electric vehicle (EV)** is a mode of transport that runs fully or partially on electricity rather than traditional fossil fuels like petrol or diesel.

21. Do you own an electric vehicle?

Yes
No

22. Do you plan to own an electric vehicle in the next 2 years?

Yes
No
Don't Know

23. If you do own/use an electric vehicle/car. How has your experience been?

If you do - what's your experience

24. What challenges or concerns would stop you from making the switch to an electric vehicle?

25. When you walk or wheel in your local area, do you feel safe?

Yes

No

Don't walk or wheel

26. If you answered no, what is the barrier for making you feel unsafe?

27. Do you use either of the below?

Public Transport

Demand Responsive Transport (booking journeys for pick-up and drop-off)

Neither

28. In your view...

Choices are Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neither Disagree or Agree, Agree, Strongly Agree

The bus services provide good access to local amenities (eg shops and hospitals)

The bus services are well connected to other forms of public transport (eg trains)

The bus services are frequent and convenient

There are good ticking options and passes available

The bus services are reasonably prices

Bus service information is clear and easily understandable

I feel safe travelling on local buses.

29. What improvements to bus services would you like to see?

30. Do you wish to comment on the Travel Plan Guidance and the Decide and Provide plan?

Yes

No

(The following questions are if you answered yes on the above question)

31. Does the guidance improve Travel Plan Policy and support sustainable travel choices?

Yes

No

Dont Know

32. Please share your views on the guidance you have seen.

33. The proposed 'Decide and Provide' approach will have a positive impact on transport and planning in Somerset?

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Neither Disagree nor Agree

Agree

Strongly Agree

34. The 'Decide and Provide' approach will be able to facilitate access to high-quality public transport and active travel proposals.

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Neither Disagree nor Agree

Agree

Strongly Agree

35. What improvements, if any, would you look to include in the document?