



The countryside charity
Cheshire

Cheshire East Council,
Local Transport Plan Consultation,
Delamere House,
Delamere Street,
Crewe,
CW1 2IL.

December 2nd 2025

Dear Sir or Madam,

CONSULTATION ON CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL'S LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN STRATEGY

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Cheshire Branch welcomes the opportunity to participate in Cheshire East Council's consultation on its Draft Local Transport Plan Strategy.

CPRE is known as 'the countryside charity' because of its work towards achieving a thriving and beautiful countryside for everyone. However, as well as being a member of the Rural Coalition and the Wildlife and Countryside Link, we are also aligned to the 'Smart Growth Coalition' and with sustainable transport bodies. And, promoting urban regeneration, sustainable and active travel and more environmentally friendly logistics is a big part of our work.

CPRE's transport policy sets out its views on every aspect of transport and it is available on our national website, as is the supporting evidence behind its formulation. It was updated last year and is available here: <https://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/cpre-transport-policy/>. This forms the basis of our responses to the consultation questions and our additional comments.

Please include us on any further development of this strategy.

We trust this submission will receive due consideration.

Thank you.

Regards

Yours faithfully,

LILLIAN BURNS

Planning and Transport volunteer, CPRE Cheshire Branch

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CEC YOUR TRANSPORT – YOUR VOICE CONSULTATION

Q.1 Which of the following best describes how you are responding to this consultation?

A.1 On behalf of a group, organisation or club

Q.2 If applicable, please give the name and postcode of the group, organisation, club or business you are responding on behalf of:

A.2 The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Cheshire Branch. CW10 9AT.

**Q.3 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the identified LTP policies?
Please select one option per row only (strongly agree, tend to agree, neither agree nor disagree, tend to disagree, strongly disagree or unsure/ don't know)**

A.3 LTP 1- Support the delivery of growth within the borough through improved connections

Strongly disagree

LTP 2 – Ensure transport improvements are fair and inclusive, actively reduce inequalities and promote better health and wellbeing

Strongly agree

LTP 3 – Promote initiatives and infrastructure that support environmental sustainability

Strongly agree

LTP 4 – Prioritise improvements in line with the transport user hierarchy

Strongly agree – although would prefer to endorse CPRE's transport hierarchy (See Annexe 1)

LTP 5 – A place-based approach that responds to the specific needs of people living and travelling across the borough

Strongly disagree

LTP 6 – Effective enhancement and development of transport network, adopting a Manage-Maintain-Invest hierarchy

Strongly disagree

Do you have any comments on the identified policies or suggestions for other areas we should consider?

It is possible for all the criteria set out in policies LTP 1, 5 and 6 to be met, but for the local authority to interpret them as it being acceptable to build new roads with resultant harm to the environment – hence our strong disagreement. CPRE advocates that the priority should be reducing the need to travel through digital technology, which is at the top of our sustainable transport hierarchy. (See Annexe 1).

Q.4 To what extent do you agree or disagree the key investment packages set out within the Investment Framework? Please select one option per row

A.4 Place specific packages

Connecting Crewe – Unsure/ Don't know

Connecting Macclesfield – Unsure/ Don't know

Connecting Greater Manchester – Unsure/ Don't know

Connecting with Manchester Airport – Unsure/ Don't know

N.B. It is not possible to participate in this rating exercise because of the lack of detail in relation to each package. Simply referring to enhancing or improving certain road corridors or junctions is not adequate. It is not possible to tell from such vague statements the extent of environmental impacts.

Q.6 In general, how strongly do you agree or disagree with the findings and recommendations within the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Health Impact Assessment? Please select one option per row.

A.6 As with the previous question, the problem is the lack of detail, which makes it impossible to come to conclusions and therefore we feel we have no option but to submit 'Unsure/ Don't know'. A key point we would make, however, is that we wish to draw attention to the fact that – at about the same time this consultation was being signed off by Cheshire East Council – the Department for Transport issued new Local Transport quantifiable carbon guidance. It is essential that this is taken into account:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/quantifying-carbon-emissions-for-local-transport-planning>

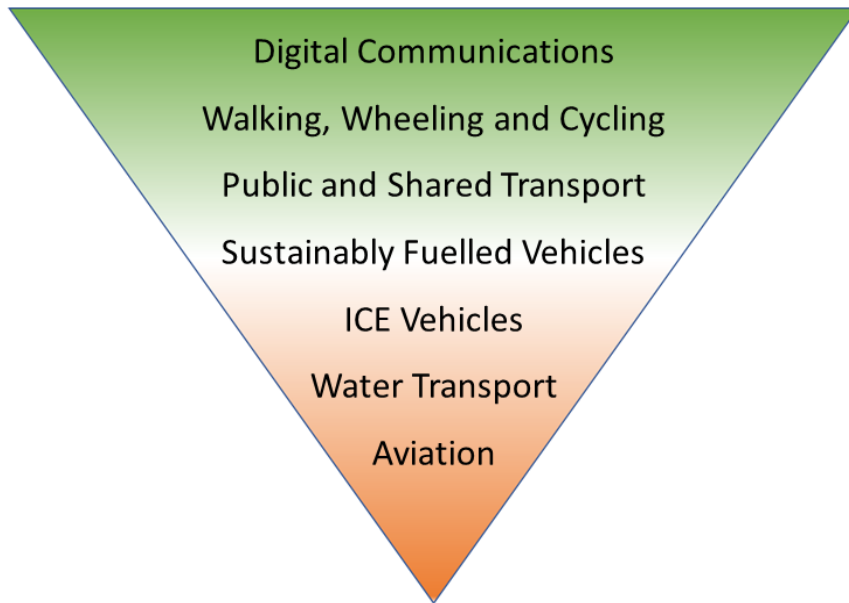
Q.7 Do you have any other comments in relation to the LTP Strategy and/or Investment Framework?

A.7 CPRE commends Cheshire East Council for recognising – in its last bullet under 'Challenges' on page 9 of the Draft LTP – that transport is a major contributor to carbon emissions and air pollution. However, we feel that it should be sharing much more information than it does here on this subject matter, including identifying the Air Quality Management Areas. And we would like to see more investment in future in sustainable transport and less on new highway capacity as evidence of proof that the Council is seriously tackling the carbon emission and air quality problems.

We also commend Cheshire East Council for recognising – in its fourth bullet under 'Opportunities' on page 10 – that technology has a role to play. CPRE believes it has a major role to play in reducing the need to travel. We would like see this recognised in the Council's transport hierarchy in the same way it is recognised in ours. And we contend that aviation should be included in the Council's hierarchy, as it is in ours. (See Annexe 1).

Q.10 – 15 Please note that CPRE has not answered these questions under 'Your Transport – Your Voice' because they are directed at individuals.

ANNEXE 1: CPRE'S SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT HIERARCHY



CPRE's transport policy, which includes a full explanation of its support for this hierarchy, is available here: <https://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/cpre-transport-policy/>