

Local Transport Plan 2025/26

Closes 28 Sep 2025

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Carbon Emissions

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) sets out a comprehensive strategy to reduce carbon emissions from transport across Somerset. Here's 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
- ☐ Don't 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

-- Please Select -- ▾

Expanding and improving the public transport network

-- Please Select -- ▾

Introducing shared mobility options such as car clubs

-- Please Select -- ▾

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

-- Please Select -- ▾

Supporting the development of localised services

-- Please Select -- ▾

Enable more electric vehicle uptake

-- Please Select -- ▾

Improving highway maintenance and construction through better contract management

-- Please Select -- ▾

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

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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.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor 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 Lydeard, 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?

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor 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?

16. In which place type do you live?

(Required)

-- Please Select -- ▾

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

	1	2	3
Car	☐	☐	☐
Car as a passenger	☐	☐	☐
Mobility Vehicle	☐	☐	☐
Electric Scooter	☐	☐	☐
Pedal Bike	☐	☐	☐
Electric Bike	☐	☐	☐
Cargo Bike	☐	☐	☐
Walking	☐	☐	☐
Bus	☐	☐	☐
Community Transport (for example - Slinkly 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?

	Yes	No	Dont Know
I would walk more if there was more sufficient walking routes, paths etc	☐	☐	☐
I would cycle more if there was more 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 a electric vehicle in the next 2 years?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Dont Know

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

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

Active Travel

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?

Public Transport

Demand Responsive Transport - Provides the ability for passengers to book their journeys for pick-up and drop-off at convenient times without the constraints of a fixed schedule or route, providing more convenient access to services.

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...

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The bus services provide good access to local amenities (e.g. shops and hospitals).	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The bus services are well connected to other forms of public transport (e.g. trains).	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The bus services are frequent and convenient.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The bus services are punctual and reliable.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
There are good ticketing options and passes available.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The bus services are reasonably priced.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
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?

Following on...

The next part of the survey will be based on our travel plan guidance and our decide and provide guidance.

Please find the relevant documents here:

[Travel Plan Guidance](#)

[Decide and Provide Guidance](#)

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

(Required)

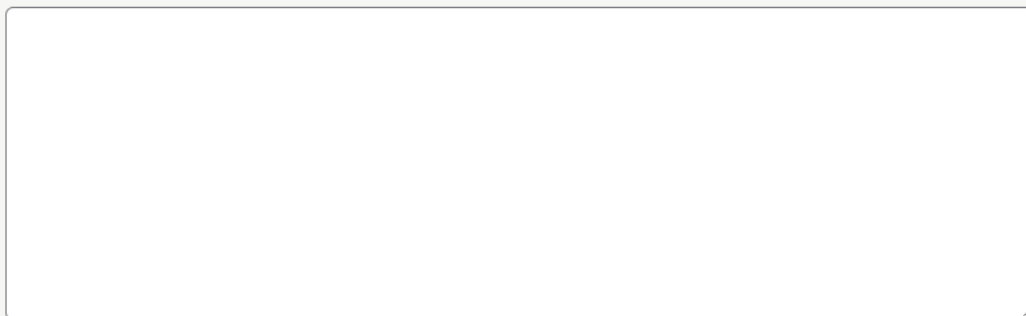
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Travel Plan Guidance

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.



Decide and Provide

The Department for Transport now requires the Local Transport Plan (LTP) to be developed using a **Vision and Validate** approach. This means the plan is shaped collaboratively with stakeholders and grounded in evidence, focusing on how transport in Somerset should function in the future. The aim is to use resources wisely, create opportunities, and balance needs with environmental and social impacts.

Once the LTP is adopted, the next phase—called **Decide and Provide**—will determine what will be delivered and where, based on factors like cost-benefit analysis, environmental impact, scheduling, and safety. Infrastructure and services will then be implemented accordingly.

This replaces the older **Predict and Provide** model, which forecasted traffic volumes and built infrastructure to match. That method proved unsustainable due to financial, environmental, community, and equity concerns.

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?

Equalities Questions

This section is optional.

Please help us understand if these proposals could affect groups differently by answering the following questions.

The information provided will be protected by The Data Protection Act 2018 that ensures the Council and its employees protect the confidentiality of data collected from individuals.

None of the data will be published in such a way that identifies individuals.

36. What is your age?

- ☐ 16-24
- ☐ 25-35
- ☐ 36-45
- ☐ 46-55
- ☐ 56-65
- ☐ 66-74
- ☐ 75+
- ☐ Prefer not to say

37. What gender do you identify as?

- ☐ Woman
- ☐ Man
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ In some other way
- ☐ Prefer not to say

38. What is your ethnic group?

- ☐ White British
- ☐ White other
- ☐ Mixed and multiple ethnic groups
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black/African/Caribbean
- ☐ Other ethnic group
- ☐ Prefer not to say

39. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Gay
- ☐ Heterosexual
- ☐ Lesbian
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

40. Equalities

	Yes	No	Prefer not to say
Do you consider yourself to be disabled?	☐	☐	☐
Are you a carer?	☐	☐	☐

Almost done...

You are about to submit your response. By clicking 'Submit Response' you give us permission to analyse and include your response in our results. After you click Submit, you will no longer be able to go back and change any of your answers.

If you provide an email address you will be sent a receipt and a link to a PDF copy of your response.

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