

Mayo County Council is developing a Local Transport Plan for Westport. This note explains what has been done so far, what is happening now and what the next steps will be.

### *What is a Local Transport Plan (LTP) and why does Westport need one?*

A LTP provides the policies and strategies for how people are able to travel to, from and through the town now and in the future. It will include ideas for projects to make the town a more attractive place that is easier, safer and more accessible for people and where they will want to spend time enjoying the facilities and activities the town has to offer.

The Plan will focus on sustainable and active travel, making it easier and safer for people to walk and cycle around the town and have better access to public transport services. As people use more sustainable ways of travelling around the town, this will help to reduce the numbers of vehicles on the town's roads.

The Plan is intended to make sure that Westport's transport network is fit for the future and will enable the town and its communities to thrive.



### *What will the Local Transport Plan (LTP) aim to do?*

The LTP aims to improve the atmosphere, prosperity and health of the town by providing better access and connections across the town.

The objectives of the LTP are :

- ❑ More effective integration of land use and transport planning to reduce number of car trips;
- ❑ Reduce traffic movements through and within the town to reduce vehicle emissions and create opportunities to enhance placemaking by roadspace reallocation;
- ❑ Encourage mode shift to active travel and sustainable modes and improve accessibility for all users and all journey types;
- ❑ Accommodate the needs of businesses and local residents by suitable provision and appropriate allocation and management of parking; and
- ❑ Enhance road safety with focus on vulnerable users.

### *How is the LTP being developed?*

The LTP is being developed using the Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) methodology developed by the National Transport Authority (NTA). The ABTA process has six stages, starting with an assessment of the existing situation. Priorities and objectives are then identified and a range of options for improving transport are developed. The options are assessed to identify the ones that will have the greatest benefit for the town and a plan of action is prepared for the delivery of the proposed projects. Consultants WSP and Transport Insights are working with the Council to develop the LTP.





### *What has been done so far?*

A very detailed assessment of a huge amount of information about transport and travel in Westport has been completed. The assessment reviewed all the existing transport infrastructure and services in the town and included an analysis of how people currently travel to, from and around the town. The analysis used data from traffic, pedestrian and parking surveys, information about travel to work and to school and the seasonal pattern of visitors to the town. A computer model was used to forecast expected future travel demand, especially for vehicles. The assessment was used to identify the main transport issues and future challenges for the town.

A range of options to improve travel around the town are being developed. These include projects to improve safety and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists and to better manage traffic and parking in the town, creating a more attractive town centre.

### *What do you need to know?*

The transport consultants have reviewed the current issues and challenges and are developing project ideas for making it easier, safer and more accessible for people to get around the town, but we need to know what matters to the town's businesses and communities.

Specifically, we need to know whether the LTP objectives include everything that they need to. We want to know what issues are currently affecting people and what the key transport challenges that need to be tackled for the future prosperity of the town are. We also want to hear what transport improvements and projects people think would make Westport an easier, safer and more accessible place to travel around.

### *What is happening now?*

The options for improving transport and travel in the town are being developed and they will be assessed to identify the ideas that will provide the most benefit and achieve the objectives of the LTP. A key part of that process is to find out what businesses and community groups in the town think. The County Council is therefore asking key organisations what their priorities for the town are and for their comments on what should be included in the LTP.

### *What happens next?*

The assessment of the project options will be completed and incorporated into a proposed delivery plan. All the consultation responses will be collected and reviewed. They will be used to modify the proposals for including in the LTP and a final plan will be prepared. Once the plan has been finalised, Council will discuss the delivery timetable and funding with the NTA.



More information and the opportunity to provide your comments is available on <https://consult.mayo.ie/en/browse>  
A summary of the work done so far and the next steps in the LTP development process will be presented at an open meeting on Tuesday 4th April from 7-8pm at the Westport Town Hall Theatre, The Octagon, Cahernamart, Westport, Co. Mayo. If you are not able to join us on the day, the presentation will be available to view on [consult.mayo.ie](https://consult.mayo.ie)