

Dear Sir/Madam,

Local Transport Plan Capital Programme 2025-26

We are starting the process of preparing our Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital Programme for 2025/26. As part of this process, we would like to know what the highways and transport priority issues are for your area. This will assist with programme development and ensure that no issues are overlooked.

The annual LTP capital programme is a programme of interventions designed to achieve the objectives of the North East Transport Plan (NETP).

The NETP provides a transport strategy for the seven local authorities in North East England, (Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, and Sunderland), and is centred on connecting people to good employment opportunities and generating economic growth, while enabling the region and its people to move to healthier and more sustainable ways of travel. Our criteria when assessing priorities submitted is aligned with those of the NETP.

Your input on issues which you consider are a local priority is valued and assists us to develop an LTP Capital Programme that reflects local needs. As I'm sure you will appreciate, it isn't possible for everyone's priorities to make it into the final agreed programme, but all eligible priority issues you submit will be considered against the criteria, and those with the highest ranking will be considered for inclusion in the Programme.

To assist you in deciding your priorities:

- Guidance notes are enclosed with this letter.
- Also enclosed is a record of requests contained in our 'Directory of Requests' Database relating to your area. Please note this is simply a record of requests previously received and not proposals. This is included for your information only.
- Any relevant issue can be submitted as a priority even if it is not on the Directory of Requests.
- Previous years priorities can be re-submitted.
- Due to the large number of submissions received, a maximum of 3 priorities will be considered per parish.
- Inclusion on a combined list of priorities for consideration does not imply that a scheme will be successfully included in the capital programme.

You are asked to submit your priorities by email to **highwaysprogramme@northumberland.gov.uk** before **Friday 27th September**.

Finally, I would also like to confirm that the LTP Capital Programme for 2024/25 has now been approved and is underway. If you submitted priorities for consideration for the 2024/2 programme, feedback on these is enclosed with this letter. Copies of the delegated decision report and appendices detailing the approved programme for 2024/25 can be found under LTP Programme on the following webpage

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Highways/Transport-policy/Transport-plan.aspx>.

Should you have any queries when it comes to submitting your future priorities, officers will be happy to provide advice as necessary.

Yours sincerely,
Robin McCartney, Highway Infrastructure Manager

Northumberland Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital Programme
Town and Parish Council notes for Guidance
Criteria for LTP Schemes

Introduction

Each year we prepare a capital programme of works in line with the long term LTP strategy. The long term Northumberland LTP strategy has been replaced with the North East Transport Plan (NETP).

Significant work goes on throughout the year to develop this programme from existing known issues and from collected data.

As part of preparing the annual LTP capital programme we like to know what your top three highways and transport priority issues are for your area, so that they can be considered for inclusion in the LTP Capital Programme.

Requests for improvements and maintenance received from the local community over time are recorded in the Directory of Requests database held by the County Council. Details of the requests that have been made within your area throughout the year are provided to assist in consideration of potential priorities.

When submitting priorities, please give as much information as possible, including the location and the reason for the priority, i.e., what is the issue that needs to be addressed? (e.g., pedestrian safety, speeding traffic). In each case it is the “issue” that is assessed, not any proposed solution.

The requests are assessed by officers in Technical Services. Our assessment criteria are aligned with those of the NETP.

The priorities submitted are discussed with County Council Members in the autumn for their comment before the final draft programme is developed and presented to the Local Area Councils for final comment (usually in February), prior to the final approval of the LTP capital programme in March.

The LTP programme is capital funding. It cannot be used for revenue funded schemes, such as public transport services or pothole repairs or general maintenance. Requests for new or improved bus or rail services will therefore be forwarded to the Public Transport Team who liaise with operators, (public transport infrastructure, e.g. raised kerbs at bus stops, is eligible for LTP funding). Routine maintenance requests such as pothole filling or ditch clearance will be forwarded to the relevant Highway Area.

We would note that as the demand for schemes significantly outweighs the funding available it is impossible to approve all the requests that we receive in the annual programme.

