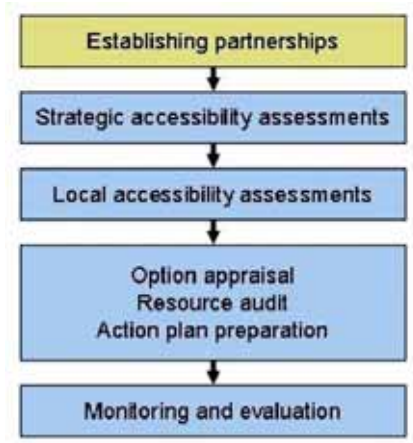


# 3. PARTNERSHIPS AND CONSULTATION



As highlighted in DfT’s guidance, a cross-sector partnership approach is critical to the development of accessibility planning as a variety of bodies have responsibilities for managing and delivering services, promoting the needs of key people and for the planning and location of facilities. This has been adopted in North Nottinghamshire for the development of the Accessibility Strategy through a variety of methods.

## 3.1 DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT'S ACCESSIBILITY PLANNING PILOTS

As a Beacon Council for Better Access and Mobility in 2002-3, Nottinghamshire County Council was asked to participate in DfT’s pilot accessibility planning work that took place during 2003/4. The pilot trialled DfT’s proposed methodology for access to employment opportunities in Bassetlaw.

Partners in the Bassetlaw pilot included Bassetlaw District Council, Jobcentre Plus, Connexions, and later the Learning & Skills Council, although many other organisations were involved or kept informed.

The pilot commenced in summer 2003 with explanatory meetings to engage internal and external representatives. Strategic and local accessibility assessments were undertaken for the area, reviewing existing strategies and studies, together with mapping based on nationally and locally-available data sources. Additional surveying was undertaken in Autumn 2003 with Jobcentre Plus advisors at Worksop and Retford, and individual jobseekers, which served the purpose of ‘reality checking’ the mapping work and providing detailed, postcoded data. Options for actions which could realistically be achieved in the lifecycle of the study were assessed, and resources which could support those actions appraised. The action plan for the pilot was agreed in early 2004 as follows:

### To develop a protocol for collecting and using jobseeker data for Accessibility Planning

The pilot found that data was not readily available for mapping, despite the enthusiasm of local Jobcentre Plus staff for the project. Some data on jobseekers or job vacancies was not held digitally by postcode and Data Protection Act constraints were problematic, limiting a comprehensive assessment. This task identified the data currently collected by Jobcentres and assessed it against the data which ideally would be used for accessibility planning. Having specified the data needed, the case was set out to Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) recommending how data transfer could easily be achieved.

### **To engage with Manton Colliery and Manton Wood employers in addressing the accessibility needs of their current and potential workforce**

Consultation with Jobcentre staff confirmed that car ownership can be very low amongst jobseekers, some of whom may be banned from driving. Schemes such as Wheels to Work (which offers a 12-month loan of a moped to young people or the long term unemployed to get over the initial problem of getting to work, training or education) are useful but are not available to all, and may be over-subscribed. Public transport solutions are therefore likely to be of considerable importance to enabling the transition to employment. This action focused on the need to develop public transport services to a high profile and extensive employment site, the Manton Colliery estate. Officers engaged with the developer and planning authority at an early stage to discuss travel planning, including revising the timetable of a supported bus service running to the nearby Manton Wood estate to serve Manton Colliery. The timetable has now been amended to complement shift patterns at the sites. Discussions with the developer on the expenditure of its Sustainable Transport Fund have focused on supporting this service, and other travel plan measures. This will increase accessibility for the potential workforce to both sites and support the long-term viability of bus provision to the area.

### **To scope solutions to travel problems of certain people excluded from labour market**

A final issue identified was the need to support planned Jobcentre Plus initiatives to address the needs of hard to reach groups, targeting groups which Jobcentre Plus, Connexions and Learning and Skills Council have prioritised, such as assisting lone parents or people on incapacity benefit back into work. This sub-group collated much useful data to support the Framework Accessibility Strategy, and which will inform an ongoing programme.

## **3.2 ACCESSIBILITY PARTNERSHIP FOR NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

Nottinghamshire County Council launched the accessibility planning process in Nottinghamshire through the development of an Accessibility Partnership for Nottinghamshire. The partnership itself is composed of two main elements, a wider reference group and a steering group, and has the following remit:

- To assess accessibility need at a countywide, LTP-area, and local level, drawing on expert knowledge and previous studies and research, backed up with nationally and locally available data presented as accessibility indices and maps.
- To achieve consensus locally on the issues and communities which should be prioritised for action to address poor accessibility.
- To identify a long-list of options to incorporate within action plans, and to evaluate them according to effectiveness and deliverability, including an audit of resources available.
- To approve action plans jointly owned by organisations participating in the partnership, including policy changes and specific actions to tackle accessibility problems where appropriate.
- To identify and agree a portfolio of local accessibility indicators and targets to measure progress and performance towards the accessibility strategy during the LTP period.
- To review and recast local action plans according to the agreed performance management procedures.



Picture 3.1 Bus service linking rural areas

## Wider Reference Group

The wider reference group (WRG) includes organisations from the employment, health, education, leisure and food and essential services sectors together with transport and land use planning, transport operators, lobby groups, user groups and other local authorities. The WRG has met on a number of occasions and their focused input has assisted greatly in identifying datasets, identifying accessibility studies previously commissioned and identifying those issues and priorities for each sector during the second Local Transport Plan period together with solutions and interventions that could address them.

The internet link to the framework Accessibility Strategy (July 2005) was sent to all of the individuals, organisations and professionals that had an input into its development to allow them to view how Nottinghamshire County Council had incorporated the work they had been involved in.

In February 2006, a consultation draft of the full Accessibility Strategy was circulated to members of the WRG to enable them to consider its content. The WRG met during the consultation period in February 2006 to consider the Accessibility Strategy's:

- vision and objectives;
- priorities for action during the 5-year Local Transport Plan period, derived from discussions with stakeholders and mapping work;
- resulting action plans; and
- indicators and targets to be used to monitor progress.

At the event, the WRG was presented with the Accessibility Action Programme Index for North Nottinghamshire as highlighted in chapter 7. This was to ensure that members of the WRG had input into the priorities and programmes included together with their stages of development throughout the Local Transport Plan period. The WRG were asked to identify any innovative solutions, particularly for year one for the priority issues identified. The Local Accessibility Action Plans (LAAPs) in chapter 7 take into account the solutions identified by the members of the wider reference group.

## Steering Group

At the strategic level, the steering group drives the development of the Accessibility Strategy and aims to be representative of the five core sectors of accessibility planning. The steering group meets on a bi-monthly basis to maintain the partnership's approach to accessibility planning and members have been a valuable source of information on their own sector's policies, plans and in mainstreaming accessibility issues through their sector's strategic networks.

In addition to representation from the five core destinations' sectors, it was also judged to be important to have input to the steering group from organisations with more 'overarching' remits. With this in mind, the group is also attended by the Rural Community Council and Newark & Sherwood CVS, (which has a role in representing social car schemes) to inform the group on rural transport issues. In addition, a planning officer from Bassetlaw District Council represents the land-use planning interest on the group.

The Terms of Reference for the Accessibility Partnership for Nottinghamshire state that the steering group members will endeavour to:

- supply or assist in sourcing data and relevant studies to identify where accessibility can be improved;
- oversee the accessibility mapping and modelling of need to be undertaken by Environment Department;
- agree the needs and problems within the LTP areas;
- set out priorities for the 5-year LTP period (2006-2011);
- agree the content of the Framework and final Accessibility Strategy, due for submission to DfT in July 2005 and March 2006 respectively;

- demonstrate how a range of interventions can address the problems;
- agree the priority of issues, areas and key groups to take forward through Local Accessibility Action Plans;
- prepare Local Accessibility Action Plans to tackle specific problems and priorities;
- assist with surveys and consultation with communities where required;
- outline accessibility objectives and targets;
- identify resources within the control of their own organisation and outside to support measures to improve accessibility;
- measure performance; and
- impart their local knowledge and expertise throughout the process.

### 3.3 PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION AND PRIORITY SETTING WORKSHOPS

DfT in its guidance has encouraged Local Transport Authorities to utilise and build upon existing partnerships wherever possible. A series of themed problem identification workshops were held between April to December 2005 with professionals and organisations that have knowledge of the issues and problems experienced by people in accessing jobs and services. The organisations that were represented at each of the themed workshops is tabled below:

Workshop	Participating organisations
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashfield District Council</li> <li>• Bassetlaw District Council</li> <li>• Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Jobcentre Plus</li> <li>• Mansfield District Council</li> <li>• Newark and Sherwood District Council</li> <li>• Nottinghamshire County Council</li> </ul>
Education (held jointly for the North Nottinghamshire and Greater Nottingham LTP areas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connexions Nottinghamshire</li> <li>• JMP Consulting</li> <li>• Nottingham City Council</li> <li>• Nottingham City Local Education Authority (LEA)</li> <li>• Nottinghamshire County Council</li> <li>• Nottinghamshire LEA</li> <li>• Nottinghamshire Learning and Skills Council</li> </ul>
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashfield and Mansfield District PCT</li> <li>• Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</li> <li>• Newark and Sherwood CVS</li> <li>• Newark and Sherwood PCT</li> <li>• Nottinghamshire County Council</li> <li>• Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust</li> <li>• Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust</li> <li>• Sport England</li> </ul>
Food and Essential Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashfield and Mansfield District PCT</li> <li>• Mansfield District Council</li> <li>• Newark and Sherwood CVS</li> <li>• Newark and Sherwood PCT</li> <li>• Nottinghamshire County Council</li> <li>• Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council</li> </ul>

Workshop	Participating organisations
Leisure, Culture and Tourism (held jointly for the North Nottinghamshire and Greater Nottingham LTP areas).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashfield District Council</li> <li>• Broxtowe Borough Council</li> <li>• Gedling Borough Council</li> <li>• Newark and Sherwood District Council</li> <li>• Nottingham City Council</li> <li>• Nottinghamshire County Council</li> <li>• Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council</li> </ul>
Disabled and Older People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alzheimer's Society</li> <li>• Learning Disabilities Partnership Board</li> <li>• Nottinghamshire County Council</li> <li>• Nottinghamshire Disabled People's Movement</li> <li>• Nottinghamshire Older Persons Advisory Group</li> <li>• Retinitis Pigmentosa Society</li> </ul>

The issues and problems that people experience in accessing key jobs and services are outlined in chapter 6.

### 3.4 LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Government sees Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) as the main mechanism for co-ordination in the delivery of better services, including accessibility planning. LSPs involve all sectors of society; public, private, community and voluntary organisations that have expertise and detailed knowledge in the various themes of accessibility planning.

LSPs have a number of sub-partnerships concentrating on the areas that are of importance to the local area. The overall membership of an LSP is decided locally, but may include representation from some or all of the following organisations:

- Area or neighbourhood forums/partnerships
- Chamber of Commerce
- Community and Voluntary Service
- Connexions
- Countryside Agency
- Culture/sport/leisure agencies
- Fire Service
- Government Office
- Health Authority/NHS/PCT
- Higher Education/Further Education Colleges and Universities
- Individual businesses
- Jobcentre Plus
- Learning and Skills Council
- Local Authority
- Local Education Authority
- MPs/MEPs
- Police
- Residents groups
- Transport Operators
- Transport Authority

LSPs monitor and manage the delivery of the LSP's strategies and plans, assess the effectiveness of partnership working, facilitate consultation with community level structures and identify strategies and actions to improve the quality of life in a particular locality.

There are seven LSPs within the County Council's administrative boundary; the authority is a proactive member of all LSPs and representation from the authority is included on the sub-partnerships of the LSPs.

In addition, the LSPs within Nottinghamshire have been involved in discussions on accessibility through the Local Area Agreement (LAA) for Nottinghamshire. Accessibility has been identified as a key local priority within the LAA for the area and an outcome has been included on accessibility, with two targets to measure performance.



The LSPs the Council has been involved with for the plan area are outlined below.

### **Ashfield Local Strategic Partnership**

The environmental thematic task group of the Ashfield LSP have been engaged through an explanation of the concept and themes of accessibility planning and have been asked to identify the key areas for development and consider ongoing participation in accessibility planning throughout the second local transport plan period.

### **Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership**

Officers from within the Environment department have engaged with the access task group and Board of the Bassetlaw LSP on the development of the Accessibility Strategy through detailed discussions on their priorities for action during the second LTP period. The LSP has contributed to the process and developed a paper on the prevalent access issues for the Bassetlaw district. The key areas for development for Bassetlaw LSP are access to employment and access to healthcare; these priorities are reflected in the action plan for the LTP period.

### **Mansfield Local Strategic Partnership**

Officers with the detailed knowledge of accessibility planning will offer their assistance and expertise on accessibility planning throughout the planning and development stages of the Mansfield Masterplan, and will feed this work back to Mansfield LSP; please see the associated Local Accessibility Action Plan in chapter 7.

### **Newark and Sherwood Local Strategic Partnership**

The access to health sub-group of Newark & Sherwood LSP has been involved in the development of the accessibility strategy through the identification of the problems people experience in accessing healthcare within Newark & Sherwood District. The LSP has collated the short-term, medium-term and long term priorities of the access to health sub-group.



Picture 3.2 Effective improvements to a local facility

The Council will be forging stronger relationships with the LSPs throughout the plan period for progressing accessibility improvements.

## **3.5 CROSS BOUNDARY AND REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS**

Nottinghamshire County Council has looked at cross boundary issues in the development of the Accessibility Strategy, as destinations may be easier to get to, or people may want to access jobs and services that are outside of the area.

### **Cross boundary partnerships**

Derbyshire County Council held a number of themed problem identification workshops in autumn 2005 to identify the difficulties that people experience when accessing key jobs and services. Nottinghamshire County Council participated in these workshops to address any cross border issues.

Nottinghamshire County Council has worked very closely with Nottingham City Council through the development of the Greater Nottingham Accessibility Strategy that the authorities jointly produce. This close partnership with the City Council has assisted with the development of the North Nottinghamshire Accessibility Strategy in the identification of any cross-boundary issues. Two of the problem identification and priority setting workshops were held jointly with the city council to identify issues for the North Nottinghamshire and Greater Nottingham LTP areas.

To progress improvements to cross-border travel to Robin Hood Airport Doncaster Sheffield (RHADS) which is located in South Yorkshire close to the Nottinghamshire border, a partnership was established to undertake accessibility assessment and transport feasibility work. With potential benefits to jobseekers, students and leisure travellers alike, as well as knock-on inbound tourism and inward investment rewards, the airport is a major attractor, which should be within easy reach of Nottinghamshire – but whose location in another region has generated significant cross-border travel difficulties. An explanation of this partnership work is given in the 'Access to jobs, training and leisure opportunities at a new airport' Local Accessibility Action Plan and case study in Chapter 7.

North East Bassetlaw Forum has identified a number of cross-border transport issues related to the partnership's geographical position on the borders of South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire. As part of their Rural Excellence Mentoring Programme, a national scheme based on a pilot mentoring programme run by the 'Supporting the Rural Economy' Beacon Councils in 2004, a strand focusing on rural transport is proposed, in particular how to enhance voluntary sector led interventions. The scheme aims to increase the capacity of rural councils and their partners to act as community leaders, facilitating the regeneration of their rural economies and communities. Nottinghamshire County Council officers are exploring how they might offer assistance to this future work.

### **Regional partnerships**

Nottinghamshire County Council has been involved in the establishment of the Accessibility sub-group of the East Midlands Rural Affairs Forum (EMRAF). The need for this sub-group was established at the East Midlands Rural Transport Conference in autumn 2005, and first met in February 2006. The following are amongst its aims:

- Commissioning research to inform the development and delivery of strategies and action plans
- Rural proofing regional documents and strategies
- Promoting the effective delivery of accessibility strategies
- Sharing best practice and providing a focus for discussion on rural accessibility issues.

Representatives of transport authorities surrounding the plan area, as well as regional bodies, have been invited to wider reference group and other events to ensure cross-border input.

## **3.6 REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS**

Other local interest groups have an equally important role to play in the development of the Accessibility Strategy as they can be representative of the different themes of accessibility planning with membership encompassing professionals or members of the public with an interest and the expertise of the local area. Below are some examples of other representative groups that Nottinghamshire County Council has engaged.

### **Bassetlaw Health Modernisation Board**

The Modernisation Board brings together public and front line staff to influence the implementation of the NHS Plan in the Bassetlaw district and includes representatives of the PCT, hospitals, Nottinghamshire County Council Social Services department, Older Persons Advisory Group, ambulance service, and community and voluntary groups. Bassetlaw Health Modernisation Board has assisted in the development of the plan through the identification of the issues and problems experience in accessing healthcare within the Bassetlaw district.

## Action for Rural Care and Health in Nottinghamshire

This is a county wide group that meets on a quarterly basis to give a rural perspective to agencies that commission and deliver services to people in the rural areas of Nottinghamshire. The group includes the district councils, PCTs, Nottinghamshire County Council's Social Services department, Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council together with interested community and voluntary groups. The group tries to influence PCTs, Local Authorities and Local Strategic Partnerships to consider rural issues in relation to health and care when developing strategies.

## East Midlands Passenger Transport User Forum

On 6<sup>th</sup> September 2005, Nottinghamshire County Council hosted the first event of the East Midlands Passenger Transport User Forum (EMPTUF), a new alliance of groups representing the consumer interest across all modes of public transport, and initially set up by the former Rail Passengers Council for the region. EMPTUF's mission is to champion public transport so that it becomes accessible to everyone, affordable and socially inclusive, available when and where needed, acceptable to all, and attractive.

## Bus Users' Forum

With aims so closely related to reducing social exclusion through increased accessibility, the authority also launched its Bus Users' Forum at the September 2005 EMPTUF event. The Forum aims to complement EMPTUF, consider strategic issues relating to passenger transport provision and investment in the County, and provide an essential reference point for relevant consultation processes. Operators, Chambers of Commerce, District Councils, educational establishments, those representing non-public transport users, Councils for Voluntary Service, Local Strategic Partnerships, and the health sector, together with environmental, older persons', rail and bus users groups, have been invited to be part of the Forum.

## 3.7 INTERNAL NETWORKS

Key officers across the County Council's departments were briefed during Summer 2004, and asked to advise how their contacts, knowledge and experience might be used to build up a multi-sector partnership. Cross-departmental working was already critical to the Authority's work on a range of transport-related initiatives. Examples of this include the Flexible Transport Working Group involving Environment and Social Services, and the drafting of a Post-16 Education Transport Policy by Environment and Education Departments. Accessibility planning provides a way of placing this work into a comprehensive structure for addressing accessibility to all of the authority's services, and supporting work already undertaken by the Council on access to its services.

Colleagues from other departments have assisted greatly with the development of the accessibility planning process to date, as service providers in their own right. Colleagues attended the themed problem identification workshops that were held between April 2005 and December 2005 and assisted in identifying the problems people experience in accessing certain destinations.

### Major Build and Service Development Programmes

In winter 2005, an internal workshop was held with key colleagues to list major build or service development programmes and projects that are already underway or planned for the future and the related timescales of development. The scope of the workshop was to focus on projects led by the authority, or where the organisation is involved in partnership working arrangements with others. The outline timetable for each major build or service development project is given in the table below. More detailed information can be viewed in chapter 7.

Theme	Project	Development timetable
Education & Training	Extended services in and around schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>By 2008 50% of primary schools and 30% of secondary schools will provide access to extended</li></ul>



Theme	Project	Development timetable
		services. This will cover every school by 2010 and will include video conferencing facilities.
	Building Schools for the Future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nottinghamshire County Council is currently awaiting a Government decision on entry into this national scheme. It is likely to be several years before work starts and completes.</li> </ul>
Employment	Jobcentre Plus services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New contracts for New Deal services have been awarded by Jobcentre Plus, and will run for 2 years from July 2006.</li> <li>Jobcentre Plus services will be centralised and customers will make greater use of telephone, electronic kiosks and web services. New facilities already exist in many locations.</li> </ul>
	Employment areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The authority liaises with district planning authorities on the accessibility and transport issues related to the allocation of employment land.</li> <li>Partnership work is underway to encourage businesses to employment land around Mansfield and Ashfield Regeneration Route (MARR).</li> </ul>
Food & Essential Services	Ashfield Access to Food Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The authority is contributing to a research project into the availability or otherwise of healthy food in Ashfield. Accession is being used to inform the research and to identify solutions. The study report is due in October 2006; future work depends on the results and available funding.</li> </ul>
Health	Bassetlaw LIFT sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work has commenced on Retford LIFT and Harworth LIFT; both will be completed by 2007. The authority will be assisting with the development of travel plans at the sites.</li> </ul>
	Healthy Living Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following exist in the LTP area: Bassetlaw HLC Network, Get Together – Access a Healthy Ashfield, Newstead HLC, and Positive Futures HLC (Mansfield).</li> </ul>
	SureStart Children's Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>27 centres to be developed by 2008. Notts CC is closely involved in type and location of services.</li> </ul>
Leisure, Culture & Tourism	Libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop library will be rebuilt; a decision on timescale will be taken in March 2006. An implementation programme will follow.</li> </ul>
	Refurbishment of libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A programme has been developed for the refurbishment of existing buildings at Forest Town, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Clipstone, Retford, Langold, Carlton, and Mansfield Woodhouse for the period to 2008.</li> </ul>

Theme	Project	Development timetable
	Extended services in and around schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please see 'Education' section above; some schools facilities will be open to community leisure use.</li> </ul>
	Sherwood Forest Regional Park & Visitor Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A £50m Lottery bid 'expression of interest' has been submitted; the authority will know by summer 06 whether the scheme has been shortlisted. Following shortlisting, the proposals will be developed further with the final decision taken by televised public vote in November 2007.</li> </ul>
	Welbeck Estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Defence are vacating the Abbey, with a consequent loss of income for this Grade 1 listed building. Access to the site is regarded as poor.</li> </ul>
	Creswell Crag	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Crag contains recently discovered cave art and are of national importance. A Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £4m is developing the site into a national centre of excellence, and access is to be improved. It is regarded as a catalyst for regeneration of a former mining area.</li> </ul>
Notts CC's services	Customer Contact Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The currently small contact centre will move to the a new facility for 120 advisors. The call centre will provide information on all the services the council provides.</li> </ul>
	Ashfield Area Office & Notts Connect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work has started and is due for completion by May 2007. A building is being provided to house social services, education, culture and community and, environment staff. The building will have static staff, hot desks and a touch down zone for any council employee to use. A travel plan is being prepared for the building.</li> </ul>
	First Point service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A walk in, phone in and email public enquiry facility to allow people to obtain information or advice on any council service. The services currently established are sited in Mansfield, Sutton, Worksop, and Retford.</li> </ul>

The timetables will be used as a mechanism for ensuring that accessibility considerations are taken into account in the planning and development of future facilities service projects.

### **Flexible Transport Working Group**

Nottinghamshire County Council has a Flexible Transport Working Group, initially brought together for Best Value service reviews for Young Disabled Adults and for Older People, which comprises representatives from many departments and the Nottinghamshire Older Persons' Advisory Group. This group has been proactively working on promoting independence, particularly in relation to travel issues.

The original terms of reference for the Flexible Transport for Vulnerable Users Working Group individual actions:

1. To review the effectiveness of the demand responsive transport pilot in the context of the Best Value Review Recommendations that a demand responsive model be developed for older people across the County, particularly in rural areas.
2. To review, and bring up to date, the Joint Investment Plan (J.I.P.) Welfare to Work action plan, in the area of transport development.
3. To contribute to the County Council Best Value Service Review of Young Disabled Adults, (aged 16-25) by examining the transport dimensions of independent living. In particular the working party will analyse transport need, identify a range of options and actions for improvement, and cost implications for approval by Cabinet.
4. To review and make recommendations on the respective roles of Social Services transport section and community transport in the Environment Department, with a view to consideration of a range of options, including the potential of integrating their services and/or management.

After the Best Value review was completed, it was decided to continue the work of the Flexible Transport Working Group to provide ongoing input into accessibility planning and provide liaison across departments.

### **3.8 INDIVIDUAL STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSIONS**

Individual stakeholder discussions have taken place with various people and organisations on the difficulties and issues that people experience in accessing particular destinations, including:

- Internal colleagues within Nottinghamshire County Council with a responsibility for promoting health and researching access to post offices, banks and other facilities together with a representative from PostWatch, the watchdog for postal services. They assisted in the identification of issues surrounding access to food and essential services in advance of the establishment of a North Nottinghamshire Food Initiatives Group.
- Discussion with Jobcentre Plus on their corporate priorities over the five-year period and areas of mutual benefit.
- Discussions with Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council to identify joint actions, taking into account any financial or non-financial resources that the partners have available together with the timescales for other partners' current or proposed programmes and initiatives that relate to accessibility.
- Internal colleagues within Nottinghamshire County Council with a responsibility for the SureStart Children's Centres programme of development to identify the appropriate stage(s) where accessibility considerations could be taken into account.

### **3.9 SHARING OUR KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING FROM OTHERS**

As a pilot authority involved in the development of the methodology for accessibility planning (as discussed earlier in this chapter), Nottinghamshire County Council has been keen to share its knowledge of partnership building, data collection, mapping, option appraisal and resourcing, action planning, and monitoring with other authorities. This has been resource intensive but has assisted in developing the North Nottinghamshire Accessibility Strategy through understanding of other authorities' perspectives, priorities and experience, as well as fostering good working relationships with other local authorities and stakeholders, and assisting with the roll-out of the process nationwide.

Nottinghamshire County Council officers have delivered presentations or workshops at the following national and regional events:

### **National**

- Working Neighbourhoods Partnership Launch, London, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2004 – organised by Department for Work and Pensions
- Jobcentre Plus Partnerships Conference, Manchester, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2004 – organised by Department for Work and Pensions
- Accessibility Planning – Are We Getting There?, London, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2005 – organised by Landor
- Accession Users Group Conference, London, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2005 – organised by MVA Consultancy Ltd
- Accessibility Planning 2005: Building Partnerships and Taking Action, Birmingham, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2005 – organised by International Quality & Productivity Centre

### **Regional**

- Seminar on Accessibility Planning, Peterborough, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2004 – organised by Central & Local Government Information Partnership – Transport Statistics (DfT)
- Accessibility Planning Partners' Forum, Lincoln, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2004 – organised by Lincolnshire County Council
- East Midlands Rural Transport Conference, Newark, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2005 – organised by East Midlands Rural Affairs Forum

In addition, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council organised an information sharing event for colleagues in the East Midlands, held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2005.