

APPENDIX A

Extract from the Local Transport Plan for Greater Nottingham Final Plan – 2005-2011

12.6.1 Hucknall Town Centre Improvement Scheme

The Hucknall town centre improvements scheme is an integrated package of proposals for Hucknall town centre including pedestrianisation, bus priority, improved cycle accessibility and greater integration with the tram/rail interchange in the town. The scheme scored highly against regional objectives in the Regional Funding Allocation process and was included in the preferred package for funding within five years. It is the County Council's top priority major scheme in the Greater Nottingham Plan area and the Major Scheme Business Case will be submitted to DfT in Autumn 2006.

The proposals are being finalised but are likely to include the construction of a new section of road which will remove most of the traffic from the town centre and provide the opportunity to pedestrianise the High Street. A network of new and improved pedestrian and cycle facilities is to be incorporated into the scheme. The proposals will also include measures to assist buses and link services with the tram and rail interchange.

Modelling indicates that the current road safety and congestion problems within the town are set to worsen as traffic levels continue to rise. Over 3,000 houses and 7 hectares of industrial development will have been built by 2011, adding to the travel demands through and within the town centre. The provision of investment in a package of integrated measures for the town would ensure that the cycle of retail and business decline is arrested and reversed and that additional travel demands are catered for.

Scheme Selection

The scheme involves considerable partnership working. Public consultation on early scheme options has taken place on three separate occasions. A great deal of consultation has been carried out with the public, local business forum and district council.

A range of options are being considered and the final scheme details are currently being finalised. It has been determined that the scheme will have very localised impacts with no impact on the trunk road network. Once a scheme has been agreed with key local stakeholders further consultation will be undertaken with statutory bodies including the Highways Agency.

Once the scheme has been finalised, a full risk assessment will be included as part of the Major Scheme Business Case.

Scheme Objectives

The scheme objectives should help improve the following aspects within Hucknall:

- **Accessibility** – the scheme will reduce social exclusion by providing improved accessibility for those without access to a car. This will be achieved by providing

improvements to the quality of the local bus services as well as improvements to cycling and walking facilities/network.

- **Reducing congestion/improving air quality** – several of the objectives of the scheme aim to reduce congestion by encouraging people not to use private cars, and thereby improve air quality, including;
- Significantly improving the environment in Hucknall town centre by the removal of the through traffic (approximately 15,000 vehicles daily),
 - Improving cycling and walking facilities and networks such as routes between the tram and rail station and town centre,
 - Making cycling, walking and public transport journeys safer and more attractive,
 - Improving bus punctuality and reliability, thereby enhancing the status of public transport by, and
 - Improving the interchanges between bus and rail as well as bus and tram.
- **Safety** – road safety in the town centre is an issue as there have been 26 injury accidents along the High Street since January 2000 of which nine involved pedestrians, two involved cyclists and two involved motor cyclists. This emphasises the plight of vulnerable road users in this location and the scheme aims to address this issue.
- **Regeneration** – areas of Hucknall are in urgent need of renewal and regeneration. The High Street retail and business core is generally run down with many vacant or low quality retail units. The scheme aims to promote the urgent renewal and regeneration of Hucknall town centre and create an attractive and prosperous retail centre. The scheme will also assist accommodating new development in and around the town, creating job and employment opportunities.
- **Quality of Life** – in addition to regenerating the area the scheme aims to improve the quality of the environment in the town centre and enhance the public realm within Hucknall. By promoting non-car use and encouraging walking and cycling it is also anticipated that the scheme will encourage more physical exercise and promote a healthier lifestyle.
- **Making best use of existing assets** – the scheme will improve the highway infrastructure and provide improved access to proposed housing and industrial development land in the area, some of which is brownfield land on the former Hucknall Colliery site.

Scheme Benefits

The economic appraisal has yet to be carried out but the benefit to cost ratio is expected to be 'high' (as defined by the DfT). The full assessment has yet to be undertaken however the following positive impacts are anticipated:

- Highly beneficial impacts are anticipated on the townscape, road safety, severance, heritage, access to transport system and transport interchange, journey time savings/delay savings,
- Moderately beneficial impacts are anticipated on security and integration,
- Slightly beneficial impacts are anticipated on physical fitness, noise, journey ambience, air quality and green house gases.

It is not anticipated that the scheme will have any negative impacts, with neutral impacts anticipated on water, environment, biodiversity and landscape.