

## 2. VISION AND OBJECTIVES

The vision and objectives have been derived from detailed appraisal work conducted with stakeholders, using mapping generated by the Department for Transport's 'Accession' software. This chapter explains how the vision and objectives for improving accessibility in North Nottinghamshire is influenced by and contributes towards national, regional and local policy and strategies.

Transport is a means to enable people to access employment, education, health services, shopping, leisure, and other services, and is part of a wider pattern of land use. For these reasons, transport strategy must be closely integrated with other plans and strategies designed to improve quality of life for local people and to encourage sustainable communities. The Local Transport Plan and its associated Accessibility Strategy must be consistent with the national and regional policy framework, which can be illustrated as follows:



Picture 2.1 First phase of improving wheelchair access to leisure facility

| Plans and Strategies     | Multi-Policy                                                                                                     | Spatial (i.e. Land Use Plans)                                                                                                                       | Transport Specific                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| National                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sustainable communities</li></ul>                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Planning Policy Statements</li></ul>                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Future of Transport White Paper (2004)</li></ul>                                                             |
| Regional (East Midlands) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Integrated Regional Strategy</li></ul>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Regional Spatial Strategy</li></ul>                                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Regional Transport Strategy</li></ul>                                                                            |
| Local                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Nottinghamshire Community Strategy</li><li>Local Area Agreements</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Joint Structure Plan</li><li>Local Plans/Local Development Framework</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Local Transport Plans (including Bus Strategies, Information Strategies, and Accessibility Strategies)</li></ul> |

## 2.1 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

A Local Area Agreement (LAA) is a three-year agreement that sets out the priorities for an area, agreed between central government and local area partners, such as the local authority, Local Strategic Partnerships and other key partners. It is focused on local priorities identified through the community strategies for the area, and in particular on those which can benefit from improved partnership working.



Picture 2.2 Local action is needed to solve local problems

The Local Area Agreement for Nottinghamshire will give authorities and their partners the flexibility to find solutions to local problems and to prioritise spending to achieve the outcomes identified in an LAA. The LAA is due to be signed by the government and a number of local partners in March 2006, with commencement of the LAA from April 2006.

The agreement is made up of outcomes, indicators and targets aimed at delivering a better quality of life for people through improving performance on a range of national and local priorities. The priorities are grouped around 4 blocks:

- Children and young people;
- Safer and stronger communities;
- Healthier communities and older people; and
- Economic development and enterprise.

Accessibility has been identified as a key local priority within the LTP area, and the Nottinghamshire LAA has included an outcome on accessibility within the safer and stronger communities block. One specific target concerns general accessibility to key services, but there are also targets relating to the uptake and use of concessionary travel passes. This reflects the need to address in particular the accessibility needs of the elderly and disabled, which has become evident from both the LAA and accessibility planning consultation processes.

The LAA also makes provision for “pooling” Rural Bus Subsidy Grant, which is an important funding stream for improving accessibility in rural areas, and seeks greater flexibility in its use. This should help to ensure that the money available is best used to meet accessibility need.

## 2.2 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The overall vision for North Nottinghamshire, as part of the wider County, is set out in Nottinghamshire’s Community Strategy for 2005-9 ‘All Together Better’. This landmark strategy was adopted in September 2005 by the Nottinghamshire Partnership, ([www.nottinghamshirepartnership.org.uk](http://www.nottinghamshirepartnership.org.uk)), which includes over 70 of the key organisations which have an influence over people’s lives in the County. This includes the County Council, Police, District/Borough Councils, voluntary and community sector, Primary Care Trusts and Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue.

'All Together Better' draws closely from the more localised vision set out in District Community Strategies, including those for Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Mansfield and Newark & Sherwood which fall within the North Nottinghamshire LTP area. This integration of vision between local and County level is reinforced by the strong representation on the Nottinghamshire Partnership of District Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs).

An element of the vision for Nottinghamshire, set out in the Community Strategy, is of 'a place in which everyone can succeed, with fair access to opportunities and support'. This clearly illustrates the critical role which accessibility to jobs, learning, affordable food, essential services, health care, and leisure and cultural facilities have on life chances and well being. Matching people more effectively with where they need to get to can help to make inclusion in society possible for the whole community. The goal that opportunities and benefits should be available to everyone is a cornerstone of the transport strategy for North Nottinghamshire, as well as one of the shared priorities of national government and local transport authorities.

### **LTP consistency with the Community Strategy vision**

The Local Transport Plan has a major part to play in delivering elements of this vision. Travel and access feature prominently as a priority in their own right, reflecting the importance that partners place on achieving an efficient and effective transport network which provides people with the accessibility they need. However, transport also has a major role to play in delivering the other four key priorities of:

- Safer and stronger – making Nottinghamshire safer, building a strong sense of community and enriching lives
- Healthier – improving health and wellbeing
- Learning and earning – helping everyone to reach their potential
- Cleaner and greener – protecting and improving the environment

A full analysis of the Local Transport Plan's contribution to the Community Strategy is given in the Local Transport Plan itself.

### **Accessibility Strategy consistency with the Community Strategy vision**

The Accessibility Strategy works towards the Community Strategy by:

- lying at the heart of the LTP;
- complementing LTP public transport infrastructure proposals with historically high levels of County Council investment in revenue support for local bus services, education transport, and fare subsidy through the concessionary travel scheme;
- placing a high priority on access to job opportunities, health services, education and training;
- stressing the role that accessible transport can play in promoting exercise, through cycling and walking schemes and the Rights of Way Improvement Plan;
- emphasising the need, and providing support for facilities and services being located close to people, partly to generate more cohesive communities;



Picture 2.3 The rights of way network provides access to rural recreation

- reducing transport related crime and the fear of crime, through measures such as lighting and CCTV; and
- ensuring revenue support for passenger transport provision is used in the most efficient and effective way.

The transport vision for North Nottinghamshire is to establish sustainable communities and includes the desire to achieve 'a first class public transport system that is accessible to all'.

## **2.3 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN**

Nottinghamshire County Council's Strategic Plan has been prepared following the election of the authority's new administration in May 2005; it is consistent with the Community Strategy and is currently undergoing consultation. It will be effective from April 2006 for the four-year period to March 2010. The Local Transport Plan and this accompanying Accessibility Strategy contribute towards the Strategic Plan, and adopts the same strands as the Community Strategy (i.e. Safer and Stronger, Healthier, Learning and Earning, Cleaner and Greener, and Transport and Access).

The political priorities established following the elections which are outlined by the Plan all have a positive effect on enabling local people to reach jobs and services; they include:

- placing schools at the centre of local communities
- renovating fifteen local libraries
- refurbishing or rebuilding bus stations in major towns
- improving and expanding community care services
- supporting the introduction of Police Community Support Officers and Neighbourhood Wardens.

It recognises the need for local government to make significant efficiency savings whilst coping with increased demand; accessibility planning works towards this by joining up the efforts of a range of partners to achieve more with less. The expectation that public services will be more accessible, responsive and able to offer greater choice is also highlighted.

## 2.4 VISION OF ACCESSIBILITY FOR NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

The Accessibility Strategy for North Nottinghamshire will support and complement Nottinghamshire's emerging Community Strategy.

The vision for accessibility in North Nottinghamshire is for everyone, particularly people from less affluent backgrounds, to be able to reach the opportunities and services that they need. This will be achieved through multi sector action including:

- mainstreaming accessibility considerations into land-use planning and locational decisions in the longer term;
- innovative, accessible service delivery and transport in the medium term; and
- travel planning and information provision in the shorter term.

This vision, derived from the local context in the plan area, will guide future actions. Nottinghamshire County Council will therefore work with stakeholder organisations from a range of sectors to improve accessibility for all, but particularly for those without access to a car.

Monitoring of progress and review of the strategy will continue throughout the LTP period and beyond. The vision will be revisited, particularly towards the end of the plan period, when a new vision and objectives will need to be set.



Picture 2.4 Low floor buses enable wheelchair users to live independent lives

## 2.5 ACCESSIBILITY STRATEGY OBJECTIVES FOR NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

The objectives of the Accessibility Strategy are as follows:

### **School, college and training**

- To improve access to schools for children aged 16 and under, and to further or higher education and training for students aged 16 and over.

### **Work**

- To improve access to major employment sites.

### **Food and important services**

- To increase the accessibility of healthy and affordable food, and essential services to be found in town and district centres.

### **Hospital appointments and the doctor's**

- To improve access to hospitals and General Practitioners' surgeries.

### **'Free time' activities**

- To increase the accessibility of leisure, culture and tourism destinations.

### **Better accessibility for older people and disabled people**

- To improve access to education, training, jobs, food and essential services, GPs, hospitals, and leisure, culture and tourism destinations for older people and disabled people.

### **Nottinghamshire County Council's services**

- To enable people to access Nottinghamshire County Council's services more easily, to improve consultation on the public transport that the authority provides, and streamline the way in which our transport services are delivered.

### **Planning for better accessibility**

- To integrate accessibility considerations into local planning decisions by providing support and infrastructure mapping, and to maximise the accessibility of local plan allocations by assisting with site design where possible.