

# ***Local Transport Plan***

**Draft Strategy (2011-2026)**



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### Foreword

Transport and travel is a fundamental part of everyday life – it enables us to visit friends and family, commute to work, access healthcare, education, shopping and leisure activities, and supports a healthy and vibrant economy. The Local Transport Plan (LTP) aims to capitalise on the strengths of the existing transport system in Cheshire East, including excellent transport links to major centres via the rail and motorway network, and set out a strategy of how we will look to improve it into the future.



Good transport connections are integral to our ambitious plans for economic growth and protecting our environment to ensure a sustainable future for all our residents and businesses. The quality of the transport on offer will be influential in meeting our wider aspirations for the borough, as set out in our Sustainable Community Strategy – “Ambition for All”.

We are ambitious about our future in Cheshire East and the role transport will play, but we must also be realistic about the challenges we face. The way we travel is changing to adapt to climate change and new technologies, the age profile of the population and shifts in the global economy. Our travel patterns are car dependent for the majority, which means we will have to find ways to travel smarter, possibly less often and in some cases look to other modes of travel such as public transport, walking and cycling.

The LTP will shape future investment in our highways and public transport network over the next 15 years, so we would welcome your comments on the proposed priorities and strategic direction for transport in Cheshire East.

Once finalised, the strategy will be supported by three year implementation plans which will transform our strategy into action. There will be a period of public consultation on the first draft implementation plan in the New Year.

I look forward to receiving your comments and suggestions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wesley Fitzgerald'.

**Wesley Fitzgerald**

**Leader of Cheshire East Council**

If you have any questions about the consultation process, please email:

[ltip@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:ltip@cheshireeast.gov.uk)



# Foreword

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- 1 Cheshire East has excellent national and international transport links via the motorway network, rail connections and proximity to Manchester airport, which support Cheshire East's ambition to be a premier location for business growth. This level of connectivity also helps make Cheshire East an attractive place to live, along with its diversity of unique natural and built environment, and a strong sense of community.
- 2 Cheshire East's Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) - 'Ambition for All' - sets out the vision for the area and priorities for action. Cohesive, empowered and active communities in which people can influence the decisions that affect their locality is at the heart of the SCS for Cheshire East. Local communities are often best placed to identify their own transport needs and to develop local transport solutions. Achieving a high level of community engagement is seen to be a vital component of how the Council will seek to deliver this transport strategy.
- 3 Cheshire East's draft Local Transport Plan (LTP) relates directly to the seven priorities of the SCS to illustrate how transport contributes to the achievement of wider aspirations and ambitions for the area over the next 15 years (2011-2026). The SCS thematic areas are:
  - Ensure a sustainable future
  - Create conditions for business growth
  - Drive out the sources of poor health
  - Nurture strong communities
  - Support our children and young people
  - Prepare for an increasingly older population
  - Unlock the potential of our towns
- 4 In developing the draft strategy, consideration has been given to the relative priorities across the thematic areas and an understanding of where transport interventions can achieve the greatest results. Following consultation with stakeholders and Member, the proposed priorities for the LTP are “**ensure a sustainable future**” and “**create conditions for business growth**”.
- 5 It is proposed that future investment in transport will be directed towards the policies and interventions which support these priority areas to help grow the economy and tackle carbon emissions. This does not mean that the needs of the other thematic areas will be neglected – rather they will be supported by targeted aspects of the adopted policy solutions, which have a wide sphere of influence in other areas (e.g. needs of young and older people).
- 6 In addition, within each thematic area indicative priority policies have been identified for public consultation and are set out below. The policies within the sustainability and business growth themes are 'core' policies – others are 'complementary' and will be taken forward where resources allow, where they reflect community priorities and/or development aspirations.

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- 7 The challenges for “unlocking the potential of towns” are unique to each place and will be addressed within a series of transport frameworks for principal towns and key service centres (as defined by the Local Development Framework) to be developed post-April 2011. Working with the Local Area Partnerships (LAPs), town & parish councils and community & voluntary groups will facilitate a better understanding of transport and accessibility needs at a local level. The aim will be to enable local communities to determine local interpretation of the LTP, and enable detailed exploration of tailored localised solutions.
- 8 The LTP has been subject to wide ranging community engagement, including integrated public consultation with the SCS, stakeholder and Member workshops, LAP questionnaire and analysis of existing town and parish plans.
- 9 The LTP strategy will be supported by rolling three year implementation plans, translating the strategy into deliverable actions. The first implementation plan will be released for public consultation in January / February 2011 and will include a criteria for prioritisation against which potential initiatives will be judged, as well as performance indicators. The LTP will remain a live document supporting continuous improvement in the planning and delivery of services with a focus on achieving greater outcomes more efficiently, with fully engaged communities.

### Thematic Areas – Key Transport Links

- 10 To ensure a sustainable future, the SCS identifies the key transport role as: improving transport connections and accessible services, but also in supporting provision of appropriate housing, while protecting the countryside and encouraging more sustainable living. This will include ensuring that Cheshire East's ambitious plans for growth in the spatial priority areas of Crewe and Macclesfield encourage sustainable living.
- 11 Hence, the key issues revolve around management of transport impacts through the spatial planning system, and especially minimising the need to travel, and ensuring that there are attractive and available sustainable alternatives for the trips people make. This means walking and cycling for shorter journeys and efficient public transport for longer journeys.
- 12 The scale of the challenge in this area is evidenced by the past and projected growth in CO2 emissions from road transport, which is 37% of the total and is expected to grow by 2020 – whereas other sources of carbon are being reduced. Macclesfield, Knutsford and Wilmslow have the highest emissions from road transport in the borough. This is indicative of a very car dominated area and low public transport use relative to other areas.
- 13 To ensure a sustainable future, the following ‘core’ policies have been identified as indicative priorities:
  - Public Transport (Service Levels & Reliability) – Work with passenger transport operators (bus, rail, community transport & taxis) to explore improvements to service levels and reliability.

- Public Transport (Integration & Facilities) – Work with passenger transport providers (bus, rail and community transport) to improve public transport integration and facilities.
  - Spatial Planning – Seek to minimise the future need to travel through a strategy in the Local Development Framework that focuses most new developments in larger settlements where there is a good range of housing, jobs, shops and services already accessible by public transport, cycling and walking.
- 14** The issues in relation to **business growth** focus on creating the conditions for greater prosperity, and in transport terms centre on the removal of barriers to doing business, such as congestion. Current congestion ‘hotspots’ occur on the inter-urban network including Crewe Green Roundabout and the A500 Barthomley Link in Crewe, as well as the A34 around Congleton and the A6 through Disley. Schemes such as the Crewe Green Link Road will unlock the potential of towns, enable development and make Cheshire East an increasingly attractive location for business growth.
- 15** There are important links to the sustainability chapter above, in that the locations of new commercial activity will create destinations which people will wish to access from both existing and new housing sites. Hence, the two will need to be planned together, particularly where edge of centre sites need improved access provision.
- 16** Further location and access issues are raised by the existence of pockets of deprivation and worklessness in parts of the borough, particularly in Crewe, with a need for jobs at suitable skill levels and which can be reached affordably without the need to run a private car. These issues will be accounted for further in transport frameworks developed locally.
- 17** Attracting investment and fostering growth in the commercial sector will need transport to be reliable and predictable – especially by road, where most goods movement and much business travel takes place. Hence, it will be vital to more effectively maintain and manage this network to ensure delays are minimised and journey quality is acceptable.
- 18** To create conditions for business growth, the following ‘core’ policies have been identified as indicative priorities:
- Maintenance – Adopt a robust and efficient approach to maintenance to minimise deterioration in the highway network and associated infrastructure assets (e.g. lighting, street furniture etc.)
  - Network Management – Effectively manage the highway network to reduce the level of delay and provide for the needs of all road users including pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.
  - Enabling Development – Seek to enable appropriate new development by supporting transport infrastructure, regeneration and/or behaviour change initiatives that will mitigate the potential impact of development proposals.

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- 19** The action to drive out the **sources of poor health** highlights two obvious challenges: the first is to reduce loss of life and injury in transport-related accidents; and the other to ensure people do more walking and cycling, which will help reduce obesity levels and the related health problems of diabetes, heart disease and cancer targeted by the SCS.
- 20** Alongside this, a less obvious positive contribution to health can be made by ensuring that all people have good access to nature and the countryside, which is proven to have a beneficial effect on mental health and well-being, as well as the active travel benefits.
- 21** Although big improvements in road safety have been made in recent years, there are still significant numbers of accidents, with over 68% of residents reporting having been involved in a road traffic collision. The roads remain disproportionately higher risk for motorcyclists, cyclists and people on foot – so creating a further barrier to active travel.
- 22** Within the health thematic area, a number of ‘complementary’ policies have been identified as indicative priorities and will be taken forward where resources allow. These are:
- Public Rights of Way & Green Infrastructure – Protect and enhance public rights of way and transport related green infrastructure and endeavour to create new links where beneficial for health or access to green spaces.
  - Promotion of Active Travel and Healthy Activities – Work in partnership to promote walking, cycling and horse riding as active travel options and healthy activities.
  - Road Safety (Engineering) – Improve road safety through highway design improvements at collision blackspots.
- 23** A Road Safety Strategy is currently being developed for Cheshire East. This will identify the key road safety challenges in the borough and will examine the most effective measures to reduce casualties on the road network. This may result in re-assessment of policies in relation to this evidence. Road safety issues were a key issue of concern within town and parish plans across the borough.
- 24** In nurturing **strong communities**, the key transport issues will be primarily local, so that engagement and consideration of their views prior to determining any course of action will be crucial in achieving the SCS priority to ‘support the community to support itself’.
- 25** Local delivery of services and enabling solutions to emerge from within communities is vital to success – often finding innovative ways to retain service provision more locally, so reducing the need to travel to larger towns to access the facilities that people want. This capacity can be improved by devolving responsibility for delivery and maintenance of some current Council transport-related activity down to town, parish and local level.



- 26 Accessibility to services such as education, employment, shopping and leisure can be challenging for the 39% of Cheshire East's population living in rural areas. Areas within the Nantwich LAP have the greatest distance to travel to reach key services. Accessibility within towns can also be challenging, particularly in areas of deprivation where cost can be a barrier. Improvements in this area can emerge through technology, as well as transport services.
- 27 The best solutions to providing for disabled people, and those who experience difficulty with making longer trips, may also often be found within their local communities. This should however complement measures to ease physical access to public transport and the availability of flexible, on-demand door-to-door services for those who need them.
- 28 Many of the transport issues affecting **children and young people** are closely related to accessibility by modes other than the car, since most will be too young to drive. Here, there are particular challenges associated with ensuring access to education at all stages.
- 29 Additionally, issues remain with younger people's exposure to risk on the roads – with over 10% of those killed or seriously injured being under 16, along with unusually high risks of involvement in an accident for car occupants and motorcyclists under 25. This sits alongside the growing threat to young people's health from rising obesity rates.
- 30 The overall health and accessibility issues identified above are often exacerbated for young people; however, outside of the education sector, better targeting of solutions – rather than additional measures – may be the best way to ease the transition to adulthood.
- 31 Transport issues faced by **older people** are in many ways a subset of the challenges outlined in the community and health thematic areas. Retaining good health longer through life is important, and active travel and access to a range of facilities and services helps older people retain a higher quality of life for longer, postponing the time when availability of specialist transport and access to healthcare services become the primary transport issues affecting them.
- 32 Cheshire East has a large (19%) and growing – but also a largely healthy and prosperous – population of older people, with increasing numbers continuing to drive for longer as well as a high take-up of free concessionary bus travel. However, as people live longer, they eventually require more specialist support and the issues of transport to facilities versus at-home service provision will become acute. Older people have expressed more difficulty accessing hospitals than other facilities, and need for better targeted services.
- 33 Inevitably, physical mobility declines with age, and it is important to ensure that day-to-day use of transport systems and streets is not compromised by unnecessary barriers to older people's mobility such as high kerbs or steps,

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lack of seating, or poor information, as well as minimising the risk of slips, trips and falls on streets and in transport systems. The Poynton shared space scheme is a positive example of where this approach has been implemented.

**34** Within the stronger communities, young people and older people thematic areas, a number of ‘complementary’ policies have been identified as indicative priorities and will be taken forward where resources allow. These are:

- Community – Work in partnership with local communities to support community led solutions that improve accessibility to key services (employment, education, health, shopping and leisure).
- Accessibility of Services – Work with partner organisations and local communities to make key services easier to access with a particular focus on disadvantaged groups and areas, including people living in rural areas, older people, young people and those without access to a car.
- Access for all – Consider the diverse range of needs concerning disabled people and other groups who experience difficulties using the transport system.

### What Happens Next?

**35** The draft LTP strategy will be released for public consultation on **Tuesday 19th October** to ensure that the strategy reflects the views of local communities and key stakeholders as far as possible.

**36** Following public consultation, the transport priorities will be finalised and reflected in rolling three-year implementation plans to allocate resources, as well as in each of the LTP daughter documents (e.g. Transport Asset Management Plan, Network Management Plan, Rights of Way Improvement Plan, Passenger Transport Strategy, Road Safety Strategy and Transport Frameworks for Towns).

**37** The key dates in the development of the LTP are as follows:

Key Dates	Key Event
20th Oct 2010	Results of Government "Comprehensive Spending Review"
19 <sup>th</sup> Oct – 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov 2010	Draft Strategy Document: Public Consultation
17th Jan 2011	Final Strategy Document and Draft Implementation Plan: Cabinet
Jan – Feb 2011	Draft Implementation Plan: Public & Member Consultation
Feb 2011	Final Strategy Document: Full Council
Mar 2011	Final Implementation Plan: Cabinet

# 1 Introduction & Context

## 1 Introduction & Context

### Introduction

- 1.1** This document is the first Local Transport Plan (LTP) to be developed by Cheshire East Council following the re-organisation of local government in Cheshire in April 2009.
- 1.2** The plan seeks to build on past achievements, but also sets out to develop a greater focus on the area's communities. The plan has been developed in accordance with the Department for Transport (DfT) document 'Guidance on Local Transport Plans', but also clearly reflects local priorities.
- 1.3** Good transport is vital in building sustainable communities, contributing towards the development of safer and stronger communities, healthier children and young people, older people living independently, equality and social inclusion, environmental objectives and better local economies. The LTP is a vital tool to help the council work with its stakeholders to strengthen its place shaping role and its delivery of services to the community.

### What is a Local Transport Plan?

- 1.4** This LTP is a strategic plan for the development of transport within Cheshire East over the period 2011-2026, outlining how transport will contribute to and support the longer-term aspirations of the borough. Delivery of the plan will be set out in a short-term implementation plan to allocate resources and prioritise key transport measures. The duration of the implementation plan will match the indicative funding commitments by central government – currently proposed as three year settlement periods.
- 1.5** In addition to the strategy and implementation plan, the LTP will be supported by a series of topic-specific 'daughter documents' which will address detailed or technical issues relating to the delivery of the LTP in Cheshire East.
- 1.6** The LTP will remain a live document and will therefore be subject to ongoing review and development. As new national and local policies, strategies and priorities emerge and new challenges are identified, part or all of the LTP suite of documents will be reviewed and updated.

### Setting the Context - The People

- 1.7** Approximately 360,000 people live in Cheshire East, which has experienced a steady increase in the size of the population since 1999. However, over recent years, the 'young people' population has decreased and population at retirement age has grown, leading to an increasingly ageing population within the borough. Population projections estimate that these trends will continue in the future.
- 1.8** Cheshire East is a good place to live. In 2008, 85% of residents said they were satisfied with their local area. This was 5% above the national average. Residents also have a longer life expectancy than the national average.

## 1 Introduction & Context

- 1.9** Young people in the borough perform well. For example, in the 2008/09 academic year, 57.3% of Year 11 pupils achieved five or more GCSE A\*-C grades including Maths and English. This exceeded the average for maintained (Local Authority) schools in England (50.7%)
- 1.10** Despite good overall quality of life, there are some parts of the area where the experience is different. Around 6% of the borough's population live in neighbourhoods classified as being in the 20% most deprived nationally, based on the 2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation. The majority (10 out of 14) of these neighbourhoods are in Crewe town, with the rest in Macclesfield and Congleton towns and the Wilmslow-Handforth conurbation. This means that 22,700 people live in neighbourhoods which rank among England's worst 20% for overall deprivation.
- 1.11** There are some significant health inequalities between parts of Cheshire East. For example, life expectancy ranges from 73 years for men in parts of Crewe to 84 years in parts of Wilmslow. Life expectancy is as low as 77 years for women in some parts of Crewe but is 94 years in parts of Macclesfield.
- 1.12** Cheshire East has active and vibrant communities – a strong town and parish councils network, many neighbourhood groups and a strong volunteer force consisting of large and small voluntary groups at work throughout our communities.



**Poynton Shared Space Scheme Concept**

### Setting the Context - The Place

- 1.13** Cheshire East is the third largest unitary authority in the North West, next to Manchester and Liverpool. The borough has a total area of 116,638 hectares, with boundaries to Warrington, Greater Manchester, Stockport, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire and Cheshire West and Chester.

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## 1.14



The area has a diverse mixture of urban and rural areas with approximately 39% of the population living in rural areas and 61% in our towns. The borough has two major towns in Crewe and Macclesfield and a number of smaller towns including Wilmslow, Congleton, Sandbach, Poynton, Nantwich, Middlewich, Knutsford and Alsager. The unique and diverse character of the borough's towns is seen as a major asset of the area and something which local people highly value.

**1.15** 93% of the area is classed as at least 'more rural than urban', while 88% is classified as 'greenspace'. The borough has a wide variety of green spaces including parts of the Peak District National Park, the Cheshire plain, mosses, meres and heaths.

**1.16** Cheshire East has a rich and varied heritage and many unique environmental and cultural assets. Many of the region's finest historic assets are found here, and their effective conservation is central to maintaining strong local distinctiveness, driving the economy, supporting educational targets and promoting community cohesion.

**1.17** These assets include Macclesfield's industrial heritage, Tatton Park, Little Moreton Hall, Crewe railway heritage, Tegg's Nose, the canal network, historic towns such as Nantwich, parts of the Peak District National Park and 2,637 listed buildings, of which 47 are Grade I listed. In addition, we have other unique attractions such as Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope and the many fine houses and gardens open to the public. The wealth of heritage and history is seen by local people as one of the areas most distinctive and valuable assets.



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- 1.18** Cheshire East has a strong economy. The unemployment claimant rate (2.7% in July 2010) is below the UK average (4.5%). Whilst Cheshire East contains only 5.1% of the North West's working-age population, it contributes 5.5% of the region's workforce and 6.9% of its economic



**Jodrell Bank**

output. It also accounts for 7.4% of its businesses, the highest share of any North West authority area. The borough has strong economic relationships with surrounding economies, particularly Greater Manchester and North Staffordshire.

- 1.19** In recent years the boroughs economy has become less dependent on traditional manufacturing and more dependent on service sector jobs. By 2008, the manufacturing sector accounted for only 13.5% of Cheshire East employees, down from 23.5% in 1998 (and from 17.4% in 2006). Financial services activity accounts for a relatively high share of the employment total (higher than its share in Great Britain as a whole) and the sector grew substantially in the years leading up to the latest recession.
- 1.20** The boroughs visitor economy is worth over £650m each year (37% of the visitor economy volume for Cheshire & Warrington) and supports 10,000 jobs.
- 1.21** There are wide gaps in economic prosperity in the area, with average household income in the most affluent neighbourhood being around three times that of households in the least affluent neighbourhood. Over a quarter of people are out of work and claiming benefits in the borough's poorest neighbourhoods.
- 1.22** One consequence of the borough's strong economy is that a higher than average impact on the environment. At present the level of CO2 emissions per capita (10.3 tonnes in 2007) is higher than the averages for both the North West and the UK (both 8.4 tonnes).
- 1.23** Affordability of housing is also a significant issue as prices are high, making buying a home out of the reach of many people. By 2009, house prices in Cheshire East were 6.9 times average earnings, compared to ratios of 5.2 for the North West and 6.3 for England as a whole. In January 2010, Cheshire East average house prices were £154,400, or 31% above the North West average (£117,900).
- 1.24** Cheshire East has been sub-divided into seven Local Area Partnership (LAP) areas. These partnerships bring together the key agencies (e.g. emergency services, health bodies, town and parish council representatives, third sector

# 1 Introduction & Context

organisations) within localities to ensure engagement with communities, provide empowerment opportunities and improve service delivery through the development of robust, evidence based Area Delivery Plans.

## Policy Context

- 1.25** Transport is not an end in itself, but rather an enabler of other activities and outcomes. For this reason this LTP must support and enable the delivery of the Council's wider strategy and ambition. These are:

### Sustainable Community Strategy

- 1.26** Cheshire East's Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 'Ambition for All' outlines a 15-year strategy to improve the quality of life, contribute to sustainable development and improve the economic, environmental and social well-being within the area.

- 1.27** The SCS outlines a vision – shared with this LTP – that, by 2025, Cheshire East will be “A prosperous place where all people can achieve their potential, regardless of where they live. We have beautiful countryside, unique towns with industrial character and a wealth of history and character. The people of Cheshire East live active and healthy lives and get involved in making their communities safe and sustainable places to live.”

- 1.28** The SCS defines seven priority areas for action:

- *Nurture strong communities*
- *Create conditions for business growth*
- *Unlock the potential of our towns*
- *Support our children and young people*
- *Ensure a sustainable future*
- *Prepare for an increasingly older population*
- *Drive out the sources of poor health*

- 1.29** The LTP will utilise these priorities as the foundation of its chapter structure and explore how transport can support these wider aims.

- 1.30** Beneath each priority theme sits a number of priorities for action, some of which are capable of influence by transport interventions. These are addressed in each chapter, along with an assessment of evidence and trends, and the results of engagement.

### Cheshire East Council's Corporate Plan

- 1.31** Cheshire East Council's **Corporate Plan** (2010-13) outlines an overarching strategy and range of initiatives to improve the quality of community life for residents in the borough. This will be achieved through working towards the following goals:

- Health and wellbeing



- Children and young people
- Economy, Transport and Housing
- Safer communities
- Environment and Climate change

**1.32** In terms of definite transport goals – the Corporate Plan has the following ambition:

- Maintain the condition of our highway network in the face of Government funding reductions;
- Invest in cycling and walking infrastructure;
- Continue to support road safety measures.

### **Local Development Framework (LDF)**

**1.33** Cheshire East's emerging LDF will provide the overall development strategy for the borough and will set out a strategy to deliver the Council's ambitious plans for growth to deliver economic prosperity. It will also provide a framework for the Council's Economic Development Strategy (EDS).

### **Economic Development Strategy (EDS)**

**1.34** Transport plays an essential role in regeneration and economic growth. The LTP has therefore been developed alongside the draft EDS to ensure mutually inclusive policies and objectives are outlined within these two documents. The Council's draft EDS highlights the principal towns of Crewe and Macclesfield as spatial priorities, alongside a focus on "Sustainable Towns".

**1.35** The first of these priority spatial areas has been considered in Crewe's "Strategic Framework for Economic Growth 2010-2030" which describes the challenges for economic development and the role that transport needs to take to support the long-term prospects of Crewe's economy, businesses and community. Key transport actions include the redevelopment of Crewe railway station (potentially providing a new interchange and safer passenger facilities) and the access works associated with the development of the Basford strategic sites.

**1.36** An economic master plan will likewise consider the future development of Macclesfield and identify how key development sites can best contribute towards the town achieving its maximum potential. The master plan will examine both the revitalisation of the town centre and aspirations for the South Macclesfield Development Area.

**1.37** The "Sustainable Towns" priority will examine the potential for sustainable economic development to support smaller towns – known as key service centres in the LDF.

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## Climate Change Strategy

- 1.38** Transport currently accounts for 37% of total carbon dioxide emissions in Cheshire East. This emerging strategy and action plan will cover the whole borough and work across all sectors. It will plan to adapt and provide mitigation for unavoidable climate change.

## Other Key Strategies

- 1.39** Other key strategies that our transport planning will reflect, inform and influence include:
- *Housing Strategy;*
  - *Visitor Economy Strategic Framework;*
  - *Health Inequalities Strategy;* and
  - *Children and Young People's Plan.*

## LTP Objectives

- 1.40** To help deliver the SCS priorities for action and key strategies, a series of LTP objectives have been developed through the consultation process with stakeholders and Members. These aim to make explicit the areas where transport can make a positive contribution to the achievement of the priority goals within each area, and also where it would be likely to hinder achievement if under-performance is not addressed. The seven objectives are:

### RELEVANT OBJECTIVES

**Objective 1 (Congestion):** Minimise congestion and improve the overall efficiency of the highway network.

**Objective 2 (Accessibility):** Improve accessibility to key services (employment, education, health, shopping and leisure) and reduce the need to travel.

**Objective 3 (Maintenance):** Improve maintenance of the highway and transport network.

**Objective 4 (Community):** Support community involvement and decision-making.

**Objective 5 (Health):** Support active and healthy lifestyles.

**Objective 6 (Environment):** Protect and enhance the local and global environment.

**Objective 7 (Safety):** Improve road safety for all users and increase personal and community safety.

# 1 Introduction & Context

- 1.41** The table below identifies the links between the SCS key priorities for action and the LTP objectives. This matrix highlights the most direct links only; less direct links exist between some of these objectives and are highlighted individually within each chapter.

SCS Themes:	Sustainability (S)	Business Growth (B)	Health (H)	Stronger Communities (C)	Children & Young People (Y)	Older Population (O)	Towns (T)
Objectives							
Congestion		X					X
Accessibility	X	X		X	X	X	X
Maintenance		X					X
Community				X			X
Health	X			X		X	X
Environment	X	X	X				X
Safety			X	X	X		X

## SCS themes and LTP objectives

## Developing the Plan

- 1.42** A six stage process has been undertaken to develop the LTP, and this document covers the process up to step five – the final stage being to develop an implementation plan:

- Clarify the overarching vision, goals and objectives for transport in Cheshire East through direct involvement in development of the SCS.
- Assess the evidence and identify the key issues or challenges to solve, through data collection for the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping, Transport Baseline and stakeholder workshops.
- Generate options for measures that will resolve these challenges, through stakeholder workshops and examination of evidence.
- Appraise the feasible policy options and predict their likely effects, through stakeholder workshops and policy refinement and filtering.
- Select the strongest set of preferred policy options and priorities; influenced by stakeholder workshops, evidence and emerging draft strategy consultation feedback.
- Plan to deliver the most effective transport measures within these policy areas, though preparation of an implementation plan for years 1-3 of the LTP strategy period.

- 1.43** The initial high-level vision which informs the draft LTP was developed in conjunction with the process that led to the adoption of “Ambition for all: the Cheshire East Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-2025”, by directly engaging with the strategic and thematic partnerships and undertaking consultation with members of the public.

# 1 Introduction & Context

- 1.44** To inform the development of the LTP, data was gathered from a variety of sources to identify trends and issues in wider social, economic and environmental circumstances. Existing transport infrastructure and service performance has been assessed, and travel patterns analysed to build up a picture of current and future transport challenges, and how they relate to the wider outcomes which transport can either support or constrain.

## Consultation Process

- 1.45** In addition to the public consultation on transport issues integrated into the SCS development process, extensive consultation was also undertaken with transport stakeholders, community representatives, and elected Members. This detailed engagement was undertaken through two initial workshops (with stakeholders and Members) and a questionnaire (for LAP members). These workshops (supplemented by analysis of existing town and parish plans) identified the most important issues and challenges, and enabled attendees to propose policy options. A final workshop (with Members) identified the strategic priority themes and policies for inclusion in the draft LTP.
- 1.46** Public and stakeholder views on the draft LTP will be considered during the October/November consultation period and a final version will be published in March 2011.
- 1.47** The initial 3 year implementation plan will be developed following the LTP strategy consultation period and will be subject to public and Member consultation in January/February.

## Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.48** Government guidance and legislation relating to transport planning, requires that all new LTPs should be subject to:
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
  - Health Impact Assessment (HIA)
  - Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)
  - Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)
- 1.49** A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) has been prepared in parallel with the draft LTP strategy in order to inform its development. The SA documents each of the elements above and sets out how the draft LTP contributes to meeting environmental, health, equality, social and economic objectives.
- 1.50** The SA document is available as part of the consultation and is open for comment during the consultation period.



Teggs Nose

## Challenges & Priorities

- 1.51** In the short term, the Council faces very challenging reductions in transport spending from central Government.
- 1.52** The LTP must be realistic and deliverable whilst also retaining the ambition to achieve much more when the funding climate improves. In order to achieve this it is necessary to indicate which themes and policies have priority over others.
- 1.53** Through consultation with elected Members, two proposed priority SCS themes have emerged – these are **creating the conditions for business growth**, and **ensure a sustainable future**. This does not mean that the needs of other areas will be neglected – rather they will be supported by targeted aspects of the core policy solutions adopted.
- 1.54** A similar exercise has been undertaken to prioritise the policies within each area. Proposed ‘core’ and ‘complementary’ policies are highlighted in the chapters. The level of funding available for transport over the lifespan of this strategy will determine the number of policy areas that can effectively be delivered.

## "Daughter Documents"

- 1.55** The transport priorities of the final LTP will be reflected in a series of technical, topic specific, “daughter documents”. The scope of these documents will be separately determined for each, but will consider the Council’s approach to both statutory and non-statutory duties in the context of LTP priorities. The following “daughter documents” are to be prepared either in parallel to the LTP or during the first year of the plan period:

# 1 Introduction & Context

- Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- Transport Asset Management Plan
- Network Management Plan
- Passenger Transport Strategy
- Road Safety Strategy
- A series of individual Transport Frameworks for towns

## LTP Structure

**1.56** The chapters are structured around the SCS themes:

- **Chapter 2: Sustainability** – Ensure a sustainable future
- **Chapter 3: Business** – Create conditions for business growth
- **Chapter 4: Health** – Drive out the sources of poor health
- **Chapter 5: Communities** – Nurture strong communities
- **Chapter 6: Young people** – Support our children and young people
- **Chapter 7: Older people** – Prepare for an increasingly older population
- **Chapter 8: Towns** – Unlock the potential of our towns

**1.57** In each chapter, the ways in which the SCS area for action is linked to transport are identified, relevant evidence is assessed, and emerging issues identified. These are refined down to more transport-specific challenges, and a range of policies and interventions which might resolve a challenge identified. This process is brought together through cross-referencing where policies that might also have a beneficial impact in other action areas are highlighted.

**1.58** **Chapter 8: Towns** is slightly different from the rest, in that it sets out the mechanism to ascertain local priorities and undertake locally specific discussion on transport issues, through preparation of a series of Transport Frameworks for towns.

**1.59** Finally, a summary chapter is provided which highlights how this strategy will be reflected in the implementation plan and how we propose to measure our performance.

**1.60** **Appendix A** contains a draft Transport Framework for Crewe.

## 2 Ensure a Sustainable Future

### Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) Priorities

- 2.1** The SCS has identified four priorities for action to encourage sustainable living and meet the future needs of communities in Cheshire East. These are:
- Provision of affordable and appropriate housing
  - Encouraging environmentally sustainable living
  - Improving transport connections and accessible services
  - Protecting and enhancing our heritage and countryside
- 2.2** Transport will be influential within each of the four SCS actions for sustainability. Spatial planning decisions need to be proactively considered due to the long term influence on sustainability. The key sustainable development objective is to strike the right balance between the ability of transport to serve economic development and the ability to protect the environment and sustain quality of life, both now and in the future.
- 2.3** The location of housing and key services influences the need to travel and the ability to use non-car modes. Encouraging environmentally sustainable living through the use of public transport, walking and cycling will minimise the impact that individuals have on the natural environment.

### Evidence Overview

- 2.4** Road transport accounts for 37% of the total carbon dioxide emissions in Cheshire East. When compared to the North West, Cheshire East has a higher percentage of emissions from domestic and local transport services. Macclesfield, Knutsford and Wilmslow have some of the highest emissions from road transport in the North West. This is indicative of the high car dependency and low public transport use in Cheshire East relative to other areas.
- 2.5** Transport is the only sector of the economy where emissions have increased since 1990, and the only sector where emissions are predicted to increase up to 2020<sup>a</sup>. However, the carbon emissions from transport should not be seen as an insurmountable challenge, but an opportunity for systemic change over the next 15 years.
- 2.6** The bus industry is taking the lead for road transport through the statutory introduction of low emission vehicles. These standards are progressively being raised over time, making buses one of the least polluting forms of road transport. Achieving modal shift from private vehicles to bus use would significantly reduce carbon emissions from transport.
- 2.7** In addition, much of the rail network in Cheshire East has been electrified, reducing emissions from trains. Many of the electric trains used on suburban services in the borough are fitted with regenerative braking, where the braking energy is fed back into the power supply and reused by other trains for acceleration, thereby reducing energy consumption and emissions.



## 2 Ensure a Sustainable Future

- 2.8** Smarter choices are techniques for reducing the need to travel and influencing travel behaviour towards more sustainable modes of transport. They can be applied to both personal and business travel. Evidence suggests that we are not doing enough to implement and monitor smarter choices locally within Cheshire East.
- 2.9** However, national evidence suggests that smarter choice techniques are cost effective in influencing travel behaviour. The results from the DfT's 'Sustainable Travel Towns' programme found that annual per capita emissions from car driving fell by approximately 4.6% for journeys of all lengths.

### Stakeholder Opinion

- 2.10** Attendees at the final stakeholder consultation workshop identified the need to **create a sustainable future** as one of the two key priority themes, alongside **creating the conditions for business growth**.
- 2.11** They also identified the following priority policy areas:
- Public Transport (Service Levels & Reliability) – Work with passenger transport operators (bus, rail, community transport & taxis) to explore improvements to service levels and reliability.
  - Public Transport (Integration & Facilities) – Work with passenger transport providers (bus, rail and community transport) to improve public transport integration and facilities.
  - Spatial Planning – Seek to minimise the future need to travel through a strategy in the Local Development Framework that focuses most new developments in larger settlements where there is a good range of housing, jobs, shops and services already accessible by public transport, cycling and walking.
- 2.12** The feedback and priorities from earlier workshops and consultation questionnaires was used to develop the policy options used for prioritisation in the final workshop. In exploring the detailed transport challenges related to planning for sustainability and future needs, there was strong stakeholder support (throughout all stages of consultation) for improving the quality of public transport and tackling climate change through improving the network for sustainable modes of travel.

### LTP Objectives

#### RELEVANT OBJECTIVES

**Objective 6 (Environment):** Protect and enhance our local and global environment.

**Objective 2 (Accessibility):** Improve access to key services (employment, education, health, shopping and leisure) and reduce the need to travel.

**Objective 5 (Health):** Support active and healthy lifestyles.



## 2 Ensure a Sustainable Future

### Transport Challenges & Policy Solutions

#### Spatial Planning

- 2.13** The Council's Local Development Framework (LDF) will provide the overall spatial development strategy for the borough. There is a critical link between spatial planning and transport – as the location of housing, employment, retail, healthcare and education facilities will be a major determinant of the need to travel and the attractiveness of each mode.
- 2.14** Current planning policy encourages new development in sustainable locations, so as to minimise the need to travel to that destination by private vehicle. Where a greater range of attractive travel opportunities exist, more people will have the ability to choose sustainable travel modes such as public transport, walking and cycling.
- 2.15** The aim, which is widely supported by stakeholders, is to ensure that development sites have good accessibility and that conditions are imposed on the application which will ensure the developer makes them accessible. This will help create sustainable communities where people are able to “live local, work local and buy local”.
- 2.16** LTP policy needs to reinforce and help deliver the approach set out in the forthcoming LDF – there are two strands of influence: the first is guiding new development to locations with good existing levels of accessibility, the second relates to mitigating the impact of development and provision of high quality sustainable transport options. This chapter, on sustainability and future needs, focuses on the first element and seeks to influence spatial considerations within the LDF.
- 2.17** The policy on mitigating the transport impact of development is in **Chapter 3: Business**.
- 2.18** It should be noted that general accessibility issues (such as access to services in rural communities or from areas of deprivation) are considered in more detail in **Chapter 5: Communities**.

#### PRIORITY POLICY

**Policy S1 Spatial Planning:** Seek to minimise the future need to travel through a strategy in the Local Development Framework that focuses most new developments in larger settlements where there is a good range of housing, jobs, shops and services already accessible by public transport, cycling and walking.

## 2 Ensure a Sustainable Future

### S1 Policy Initiatives

- 2.19 Transport assessment of strategic site proposals:** Assess the likely cumulative impact of development proposals on the highways and transport network, and inform the LDF process by producing public transport accessibility mapping of all strategic sites proposals.
- 2.20 Neighbouring authority developments:** Work with neighbouring authorities to test the transport impact of adjacent developments on Cheshire East highways and transport network and ensure appropriate mitigation is provided.

S1 Related Initiatives	Policy
Key service locations	C2 Accessibility of Services
Access to employment, skills & education	C2 Accessibility of Services
Transport & Regeneration	B2 Enabling Development
Developer contributions	B2 Enabling Development

### Climate Change - Mitigation & Adaptation

- 2.21** Climate change is nationally recognised as one of the most important challenges facing our society. Transport accounts for 25% of our carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions in the UK and personal car travel is the single biggest contributor to individual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions<sup>b</sup>.
- 2.22** Residents of Cheshire East have higher than average carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions at 10.3 tonnes per person, compared to the national average of 8.4 tonnes per person. In addition, transport accounts for an average of 35% of these emissions, rising to as much as 41% in the Macclesfield area<sup>c</sup>.
- 2.23** A partnership of all the public sector bodies in Cheshire & Warrington has come together to jointly tackle carbon management issues within their own estate. This group includes the 3 local authorities, health care providers, universities and colleges, Cheshire Constabulary and Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service. Projects include joint campaigns, research and communications.
- 2.24** In addition, the Cheshire & Warrington Climate Change & Sustainability Commission (C&WCCSC) consists of organisations from the public sector, as well as business and voluntary groups. Its aim is to champion and drive forward the climate change and sustainability agendas in the Cheshire and Warrington area through joint working. Three main areas for projects have been agreed around adaptation, mitigation and communication programmes.

## 2 Ensure a Sustainable Future

- 2.25** The possibility of hotter summers, wetter winters and more frequent climatic events will not only affect our weather, but also the health of local residents and the growth of the economy. In relation to transport, this could mean more frequent flooding or snow causing road closures, reduced durability of road surfaces, heat buckling the railways, or fog and high winds affecting air travel.

### POLICY

**Policy S2 Climate Change – Mitigation & Adaptation:** Ensure that transport policies support wider climate change objectives and adaptation needs.

### S2 Policy Initiatives

- 2.26 Strategic joint working:** Support strategic partners across all sectors to develop, implement and monitor initiatives to reduce CO2 emissions from transport.
- 2.27 Carbon Management Plan:** Implement the Council's internal plan which seeks to reduce CO2 emissions from its buildings, transport and service delivery. The plan has been produced alongside the Carbon Trust and will be published in 2011.
- 2.28 Influence travel behaviour:** Support initiatives to reduce the need to travel by private vehicle and promote the use of sustainable modes of transport. Initiatives include greater use of technology, provision of personalised journey planning and encouraging increased levels of walking, cycling and public transport use.

S2 Related Initiatives	Policy
Sustainable communities	C2 Accessibility of services
Community groups	C2 Community
Prepare for climate change	B3 Network Management
Broadband infrastructure	B7 Business Innovation
Travel plan initiatives	B7 Business Innovation
Council travel	B7 Business Innovation

### Public Transport

- 2.29** Public transport has an important role to play in planning for sustainability and future needs by encouraging a shift towards low carbon transport. It is also a cross-cutting theme supporting the delivery of many of the policy objectives within the transport strategy for Cheshire East, including improved accessibility to services, helping older people live independently and supporting regeneration.

## 2 Ensure a Sustainable Future

- 2.30** A Passenger Transport Strategy will be developed as a daughter document to the LTP, identifying specific policies for public transport, home to school transport and adult services transport. The strategy will investigate the opportunity to integrate transport assets to maximise benefits across communities, reduce duplication and achieve efficiencies on the supported network (e.g. integrate home to school and community transport services).

### Integration & Facilities

- 2.31** A lack of integration between transport services has been identified as a significant barrier to greater use of bus and rail services, causing significant increases in journey time and discouraging multi-modal travel. Any initiatives to overcome this (e.g. timetable modifications which facilitate interchange) should increase the appeal of travel by public transport and provide an attractive alternative to the private car.

- 2.32** Stakeholder consultation identified widespread support for working with stakeholders to influence rail and bus station improvements and providing parking at public transport hubs to reduce congestion in urban areas. It is recognised that Crewe railway station is in great need of upgrading due to unsatisfactory facilities and poor maintenance<sup>d</sup>. Indeed, the improvement of the station is a key component of 'All Change for Crewe' – Crewe's strategic framework for economic growth 2010-2030.

- 2.33** The provision of additional facilities will also enhance users' safety (both actual and perceived) whilst waiting at bus stops and railway stations. Better communication (e.g. real-time information) would help ensure that users who have just missed a connection do not wait unnecessarily, but are aware of the next service available. The provision of raised kerbs can improve accessibility for wheelchair users, parents with buggies and people with mobility constraints.



**Bus stop facilities**

- 2.34** The borough's integrated transport forum will bring together bus, rail and community transport operators at a strategic level to explore opportunities to co-ordinate and integrate travel by different modes of transport, ensuring ongoing liaison and positive dialogue with operators.

### POLICY

**Policy S3 Public Transport (Integration & Facilities):** Work with passenger transport providers (bus, rail and community transport) to improve public transport integration and facilities.

## 2 Ensure a Sustainable Future

### S3 Policy Initiatives

- 2.35 Encouraging multi-modal travel:** Support initiatives to improve integration between different modes of transport, such as timetable modifications to reduce interchange times.
- 2.36 Railway station improvements:** Work with train operating companies to identify improvements and secure investment in Cheshire East railway stations – especially Crewe. This may include securing developer contributions to upgrade facilities or services.
- 2.37 Facilities at public transport hubs:** Examine the potential for improved car parking and cycle parking at bus and railway stations across the borough, particularly those which improve access into Manchester.
- 2.38 Access to public transport hubs:** Support initiatives to increase access to bus and railway stations through improved signing and improvements to walking routes. Directional signing will also seek to provide information on the distance to facilities.
- 2.39 Bus stop condition:** Support improvements to the quality and safety of bus stops, including the provision of raised kerbs and dropped crossings, lighting, CCTV, shelter, seating, litter bins and real-time information.
- 2.40 Green fleet:** Encourage the use of low energy, hybrid and electric vehicles by building incentives and disincentives into the procurement process, particularly in Air Quality Management Areas. Promote driver training to operators to reduce emissions and support cleaner operation of the fleet.

S3 Related Initiatives	Policy
Developer Contributions	B2 Enabling development
Retail parking	B6 Parking
Social care transport options	C3 Access for all
Accessibility Audits	C3 Access for all
Accessible vehicles	C3 Access for all
Manchester Airport Group (MAG)	B1 Strategic Partnership

### Service Levels & Reliability

- 2.41** Service levels and reliability have been identified by local residents as a disincentive to greater use of public transport services. The issues are particularly acute in rural areas where there is more limited access to conventional fixed route public transport services.

## 2 Ensure a Sustainable Future

### Bus Services

- 2.42** Currently 80% of the bus network is run by commercial operators. The commercial network consists of fixed route services where there is a concentration of passenger demand along a defined route corridor. The network is most dense in the principal towns of Crewe and Macclesfield. Not surprisingly, commercial fixed route services are more limited in the rural areas of the borough, except on roads serving the main towns.
- 2.43** The Council will work with commercial operators to increase patronage, particularly on marginal services which are 'at risk' of withdrawal, through increased promotion and marketing in order to improve the viability of services. Ultimately the aim is to encourage modal shift from the private car to public transport and expand the commercial bus network in the borough. New developments provide the opportunity to explore new commercial opportunities where there is likely to be a concentration of passenger demand.
- 2.44** The remaining 20% of the bus network is subsidised by the Council as part of its statutory duty to identify the transport needs of the area and consider financial and other support for public and community transport services where deemed to be socially necessary.
- 2.45** As part of the Passenger Transport Strategy, the Council will review the existing bus support criteria in order to prioritise the most socially necessary services and target investment based on need through locally determined criteria in line with strategic objectives for transport contained within this LTP.
- 2.46** In reviewing the criteria there will be a need to balance a range of competing priorities (e.g. rural accessibility, urban areas of deprivation, congestion hotspots) and explore innovative solutions to improving service levels through the commercial and subsidised transport networks, as well as community based solutions.
- 2.47** In addition, the Passenger Transport Strategy will explore the opportunity to integrate the Council's transport assets to reduce duplication and achieve efficiencies, which could release capacity to improve service levels and better meet the needs of local communities (e.g. integrate home to school and community transport services).
- 2.48** In terms of reliability, data provided by bus operators identified that 84% of services ran on time in 2008/9 and targets have been set to increase this to 87% in 2011/12. Ongoing liaison between operators and the Council's highways service will ensure a co-ordinated approach to highway management issues (e.g. congestion) and a shared understanding of the effects of highway works on passenger transport operators and users.
- 2.49** Through the Council's Network Management Plan there may also be opportunities to develop bus priority measures on the highway network to reduce delays and improve reliability of services (see **Chapter 3: Business**).



## 2 Ensure a Sustainable Future

### Rail Services

- 2.50** The number of passengers carried by rail services serving Cheshire East continues to show strong growth. For example Alderley Edge, Sandbach, Holmes Chapel, Chelford, and Disley stations have all seen passenger numbers grow by over 30% in the past two years. Currently a number of rail lines through Cheshire East are operating at or over capacity, including the West Coast Main Line, the Crewe to Manchester line and the Buxton to Manchester line.



Crewe Station

- 2.51** There are clear benefits associated with increased rail connectivity and capacity both within the North West and with other parts of the country and railway stations have an important role to play as public transport interchanges. The Northern Hub proposals aim to address rail congestion and overcapacity in central Manchester, which will be important in unlocking improvements in the speed, frequency and reliability of train services across Cheshire East. In addition, national proposals to build a High Speed railway line will encourage modal shift for long distance journeys, as well as releasing capacity on local rail networks (also see **Chapter 3: Business**).
- 2.52** Manchester airport has developed as an important public transport hub, well connected by bus, road, rail and air. In addition, there are well developed proposals to extend the Manchester Metrolink service to the airport. However, rail services to the airport from Crewe require improvement to take full advantage of these interchange possibilities with Sunday services and weekday peak hour services of particular concern.
- 2.53** The specification of rail services is decided nationally by the Department for Transport, who periodically let franchises to rail operators to run services. The two main franchise agreements serving Cheshire East are due for renewal in the short term – including the West Coast Franchise (currently Virgin Trains) in 2012 and the Northern Franchise (currently Northern Trains) in 2013. The Council recognises the importance of influencing this process to achieve the best possible service provision and investment into the local rail network.

## 2 Ensure a Sustainable Future

- 2.54** Cheshire East's membership of national rail lobby groups (e.g. West Coast 250, North West Rail Campaign) helps to ensure that Cheshire East has a voice at a national lobbying level. The importance of working with sub-regional partners and stakeholders is also recognised, as well as the role of Community Rail Partnerships and local user groups in understanding local needs and developing grassroots initiatives.
- 2.55** Through the consultation, local stakeholders expressed support for re-instating passenger services on railway lines, particularly the Middlewich to Sandbach line which is currently freight only. Re-opening this line for passenger services would increase travel choice and improve accessibility.

### PRIORITY POLICY

**Policy S4 Public Transport (Service Levels & Reliability):** Work with passenger transport operators (bus, rail, community transport & taxis) to explore improvements to service levels and reliability.

#### S4 Policy Initiatives

##### Bus Services

- 2.56** **Supported services:** Consider the options for revised support criteria and aim to integrate transport assets to reduce duplication, achieve efficiencies and seek opportunities to improve service levels.
- 2.57** **New commercial opportunities:** Work with operators to explore opportunities for new commercially viable bus routes where there is likely to be a concentration of demand, particularly in relation to new development.
- 2.58** **Bus driver training:** Support the provision of additional training for drivers to improve the journey experience for users and reliability. This could include training on driving style, as well as general customer service.

##### Rail Services

- 2.59** **Rail service specifications:** Work with strategic partners (e.g. GMPTE, Welsh Assembly Government) and rail investment lobby groups to influence rail service specifications and seek improvements to services levels and reliability.
- 2.60** **Reinstate passenger services:** Work with stakeholders to seek improvements to the local rail network, including support for the re-opening of Middlewich to Sandbach railway line to passenger services.



## 2 Ensure a Sustainable Future

S4 Related Initiatives	Policy
Rail Infrastructure (National)	B1 Strategic partnership for economic growth
Developer contributions	B2 Enabling development
Manage network disruption	B3 Network Management
Junction efficiency	B3 Network Management
Bus priority measures	B4 Network improvement
Highway capacity improvements	B4 Network Improvement
Community engagement	C1 Community
Community-led initiatives	C1 Community
Community groups	C1 Community

### Information & Marketing

- 2.61** 55% of National Highways & Transportation (NHT) survey respondents had used public transport information over the last 12 months. 67% used bus service timetables, 52% used bus stop displays, 28% used the internet, 22% used bus stop information and 18% used Traveline.
- 2.62** The Council will develop an Information Strategy as part of the Passenger Transport Strategy to consider how new technologies will change the way in which public transport information and publicity is accessed and disseminated in the future. It is important to ensure that methods are consistent with people's lifestyles over the next 15 years.
- 2.63** Promotional initiatives will aim to encourage greater use of bus and rail services in borough. To achieve this objective, the Council will work with commercial operators to increase the quantity, quality and accuracy of information provided in a variety of different formats.
- 2.64** The Council will seek to support the commercial bus network through targeting promotion and publicity where it is needed most. For example, at marginal services which are 'at risk' of withdrawal and to relieve congestion in urban areas. The aim is to encourage modal shift and ensure that communities are aware of the services available.
- 2.65** There are also opportunities to utilise personalised journey planning techniques that provide individualised travel advice to people based on their journey making characteristics, with the aim of achieving modal shift.

## 2 Ensure a Sustainable Future

- 2.66** Initiatives to extend the coverage of real-time information at bus stops (and via mobile devices) to educate car drivers about the true cost of their journey, in terms of both carbon emissions and financial cost (e.g. fuel, tax, maintenance, depreciation), and promote public transport alternatives will be explored.

### POLICY

**Policy S5 Public Transport (Information & Marketing):** Work with passenger transport operators to promote the use of public transport through improved information and marketing.

### S5 Policy Initiatives

- 2.67 Targeted Promotion:** Support initiatives to target information and marketing towards commercial services which are 'at risk', services with the greatest potential for mode change, high frequency routes and new or amended services (fixed route or flexible). This could include the 'branding' of public transport routes and publication of positive reliability data.
- 2.68 Multi-media information:** Promote the use of public transport and communicate with passengers through a variety of channels, including traditional time tables, real time information, mobile phones and other media as they emerge. This could also include a multi-modal travel website providing a "one-stop-shop" for travel information.
- 2.69 Computerised booking systems:** Support initiatives to provide a computerised booking system for flexible transport services to improve the efficiency and facilitate scheduling of services.

S5 Related Initiative	Policy
Travel plan initiatives	B7 Business innovation

### CASE STUDY

#### Beartown Bus

A simplified and co-ordinated network of services, introducing new wheelchair accessible buses has been introduced on town services within Congleton. The "Beartown Bus" theme was used and developed providing a high profile and strong link with the town's history. Infrastructure improvements have also been made to maximise the impact of the accessible buses.



"Beartown Bus" has consistently achieved a progressive increase of the number of passenger trips, peaking at over 100% in comparison to the number recorded prior to its introduction in August 2007. "Beartown Bus" has also generated a significant increase in bus fare revenue.

### Fares & Ticketing

- 2.70 Issues relating to the cost of travel by public transport are identified as a significant barrier to greater use of bus and rail services, particularly for young people. It is often cited as the reason why many people choose to travel by private vehicle.
- 2.71 In seeking to reduce carbon emissions associated with transport and encouraging increased use of more sustainable modes, there is a need to tackle the actual and perceived barriers to use. This may include educating users on the cost of travel by public transport relative to the total cost of travelling by car.

## 2 Ensure a Sustainable Future

- 2.72** A high level of support was shown to a number of fare and ticketing initiatives. Stakeholders expressed the greatest support for developing cross-boundary, multi-operator and multi-modal ticketing solutions to reduce the cost and journey times of public transport. This is a particular issue in the north of the borough where there are a significant number of commuters travelling to and from Manchester.
- 2.73** In terms of multi-operator ticketing issues, in 2010 there were approximately 50 operators of registered bus services in Cheshire East. Passengers often find that they cannot take advantage of return and day tickets because their best return or onward journey is by a different operator.
- 2.74** The disparity in the cost of rail fares between the area served by the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive (GMPTE) and areas geographically close to the border in Cheshire East has been identified as an issue. Through a local levy on constituent local authorities and higher council tax the GMPTE area is able to offer reduced rate rail fares. A consequence of this is 'rail heading' – whereby many commuters from outside the GMPTE area travel to the closest rail station within the reduced price ticketing zone – often passing closer local stations on the way, travelling further by car and adding to local congestion and carbon emissions.

### PRIORITY POLICY

**Policy S6 Public Transport (Fares & Ticketing):** Work with passenger transport operators to develop fare initiatives and simpler ticketing solutions.

### S6 Policy Initiatives

- 2.75** **Intelligent ticketing solutions:** Work with public transport operators and cross boundary partners (e.g. GMPTE) to investigate the potential to develop multi-operator, multi-modal, cross boundary ticketing. This will include developing smart card initiatives and exploring opportunities to expand the functionality of smart cards to include car parks.
- 2.76** **Monitor and review the fare structure:** Undertake a review of public transport fares to identify any issues associated with the cost of travel by public transport – where appropriate support initiatives to overcome any identified issues.

S6 Related Initiatives	Policy
Concessionary bus travel	C3 Access for all
Concessionary rail cards	C3 Access for all
Fare and ticketing initiatives	Y2 Young People

## 2 Ensure a Sustainable Future

### Walking

- 2.77** The 2009 National Highways & Transportation (NHT) survey found that public satisfaction with walking facilities in Cheshire East is low compared with other authorities<sup>e</sup>. The most notable issue discouraging travel on foot was the lack of provision of footways (paved areas alongside roads) where they are needed.
- 2.78** Only 43% of respondents were satisfied with the footways provided within their local area, which was the lowest level of satisfaction across all local authorities<sup>f</sup>. The provision of footways was felt most acutely in village locations, with HGV movements found to further discourage pedestrian movement due to safety concerns.
- 2.79** The condition of the footways was also considered to be poor compared to other local authorities<sup>g</sup>. However, the perception of the overall condition of the public rights of way network was much higher<sup>h</sup>, highlighting that significant variation exists between the quality and condition of footways alongside roads and off-road footpaths commonly associated with the public rights of way network; although it should be recognised that respondents may have distinguished between utilitarian and leisure uses of the two types of facility, and have different expectations of quality.
- 2.80** Clarity of warning and direction signs, particularly for pedestrians, has also been identified as an issue, alongside a lack of safe crossing points on the highway network.
- 2.81** An increase in the number of shorter journeys made by foot will contribute towards sustainability by reducing carbon emissions, as well as being beneficial for health and tackling congestion.

### POLICY

**Policy S7 Walking:** Work with stakeholders to improve facilities for walking so that it is attractive for shorter journeys.

### S7 Policy Initiatives

- 2.82** **Footway and footpath improvements:** Promote improvements to the condition of highway footways, footpaths and public rights of way. This will include resurfacing, removal of litter and other environmental health issues, provision of lighting and seating, where appropriate, and the removal of barriers and obstacles such as A-frame advertising, street clutter, stiles, narrow gaps and chicane barriers, to open up more routes for more people, particularly those with pushchairs and disabled people.

## 2 Ensure a Sustainable Future

- 2.83 New walking routes:** Support the development of new routes where required but not currently provided and support initiatives to connect up the highway footway and public rights of way networks for greater pedestrian movement.
- 2.84 Pedestrian crossing points:** Support the provision of safe crossing points, wide pavements, dropped kerbs and other facilities where necessary to encourage travel on foot, improve perceptions of safety along routes and make routes more accessible to disabled people.
- 2.85 Route signing:** Promote the signing of dedicated on- and off-road pedestrian routes to encourage greater use by pedestrians. Initiatives will include the provision of signs relaying destination, distance and time information.

S7 Related Initiatives	Policy
Developer contributions	B2 Enabling Development
Sustainable infrastructure in new development	B2 Enabling Development
Highway clutter	B3 Network Management
Transport Asset Management Plan	B8 Maintenance
Local minor infrastructure improvements	C1 Community
Promote opportunities and facilities	H2 Promotion of active travel & healthy activities
Organised walks, rides and activities	H2 Promotion of active travel & healthy activities
Encourage sustainable travel	Y1 Travel to Education
Safer routes to schools	Y1 Travel to Education



### CASE STUDY

#### Footpath Improvements

During the year 2009/10, the Council resurfaced a number of routes within the town of Macclesfield. The before and after photos speak for themselves in demonstrating the improvements made which make footpaths much more attractive to



users.

Footpaths in Macclesfield before and after improvement works.

### Cycling

- 2.86** Cycling is an ideal mode of transport for short local trips, particularly in urban areas. Encouraging increased levels of cycling will support many of the policy objectives within the LTP, including reduced congestion, better air quality, lower carbon emissions and improved health and wellbeing.
- 2.87** The 2009 National Highways & Transportation (NHT) survey suggested that the availability of cycling routes was the area with the greatest potential for improvement when compared with other local authorities. In addition, provision of cycle signage was also identified as an issue with potential for improvement.



## 2 Ensure a Sustainable Future

- 2.88** On-road cycling facilities within the borough are limited, yet the highway network is extensively used for cycling. The stakeholder consultation identified the lack of dedicated cycle crossing facilities at road junctions and traffic signals as a barrier to greater use of bicycles, leading to safety concerns for cyclists.
- 2.89** A small number of off-road cycle routes exist within the borough, such as the Crewe to Nantwich Greenway developed as part of the Connect 2 initiative. Although these routes provide a good level of facilities along their length, the lack of connectivity between the routes restricts their use for longer journeys. This may, in part, explain why a low percentage<sup>i</sup> of respondents are satisfied with the quality and provision of cycle ways and cycle routes within the borough.
- 2.90** At present, 3.4% of the borough's population travel to work by bicycle, increasing to 8.2% of residents in Crewe. A lack of cycling facilities at employment destinations may be contributing towards this low cycling rate<sup>j</sup>.
- 2.91** Concerns regarding safety and perceptions of safety were identified in a North West behavioural change study as a barrier to additional cycling demand<sup>k</sup>. This issue is partly due to the lack of dedicated cycling infrastructure. Cycle training can also play a role, with estimates suggesting that the cost benefit ratio achieved through cycle training can be as much as 7:1<sup>l</sup>.
- 2.92** The aim will be to improve facilities for cycling to make routes and destinations as attractive as possible to users. This means developing routes which will usefully link destinations and services, removing obstacles which may act as a barrier to users and providing signage to give confidence of direction, destination and journey time or distance.

### POLICY

**Policy S8 Cycling:** Work with stakeholders to improve facilities for cycling so that it is attractive for shorter journeys.

### S8 Policy Initiatives

- 2.93** **New cycle routes:** Seek to provide more on-road cycle lanes and off-road routes to make commuter cycling a safe and quick alternative to car use. Focus will be on creating a network of joined-up routes catering for a range of cycle skill levels.
- 2.94** **Junction and route improvements for cyclists:** Promote the provision of filter lanes, advanced stop lines and toucan crossings, where applicable, to prioritise and enhance the safety of cyclists at junctions. Undertake surfacing and lighting improvements on existing key links. Such measures will be incorporated into the design of new or amended highways, as well as retrospectively to existing road junctions, where possible.

## 2 Ensure a Sustainable Future

**2.95**      **Cycling facilities:** Work to provide greater access to cycling facilities (e.g. cycle parking, changing facilities, showers) in town centres, at community facilities (e.g. libraries) and service and employment locations.

**2.96**      **Route signing:** Greater uptake of cycling can be encouraged through the provision of route signs which state the destination, distance and journey time to selected destinations, to complement other sources of information (see **Chapter 4: Health**).

S8 Related Initiatives	Policy
Developer contributions	B2 Enabling Development
Sustainable infrastructure in new development	B2 Enabling Development
Transport Asset Management Plan	B8 Maintenance
Travel plan initiatives	B7 Business Innovation
Promote opportunities and facilities	H2 Promotion of Active Travel & Healthy Activities
Encourage sustainable travel	Y1 Travel to Education
Safer routes to schools	Y1 Travel to Education

## 2 Ensure a Sustainable Future

### CASE STUDY

#### Connect2 Crewe to Nantwich Greenway

Working together with Sustrans, Cheshire East is developing a traffic-free cycle route between Crewe and Nantwich. Under the Connect2 initiative, external funding was secured to improve existing paths and create new paths. The route will offer cyclists and walkers a safe route between the two towns whilst avoiding the congested Nantwich Road in Crewe. Part of the route is also available to horse riders. A stakeholder group of local representatives was formed to monitor the project.



Connect2 Sign

### Technology & Energy Efficiency

- 2.97** Innovations in vehicle manufacturing such as new materials, more efficient engines and hybrid technology are helping to reduce CO2 emissions, as are alternative fuels. There are a number of alternative fuels available now and on the horizon which can help to reduce vehicle emissions.
- 2.98** However, their contribution to reducing CO2 can vary widely depending on where they are sourced from and how they are manufactured. For example, biodiesel, LPG, electric vehicles and the hydrogen fuel cell are currently available and in development.
- 2.99** By making changes to Council practices related to transport (such as fleet procurement, street lighting and traffic signals) and being actively involved in business and community initiatives to save energy, the Council can reduce the carbon foot print of the authority.

## 2 Ensure a Sustainable Future

- 2.100** The aim of this policy is to make it clear that the Council is fully supportive of wider changes in transport that make it possible to reduce carbon emissions by technology and energy efficiency initiatives.

### POLICY

**Policy S9 Technology & Energy Efficiency:** Encourage technological development in transport services in partnership with operators and will improve energy efficiency of transport infrastructure.

### S9 Policy Initiatives

- 2.101** **Hybrid and electric vehicles:** Investigate hybrid and electric vehicle options for fleet vehicles and seek to promote their use more widely in Cheshire East, including provision of charging points where possible, particularly in new developments.
- 2.102** **Street Lighting:** Investigate the dimming or removal of unnecessary street lights at certain times to help reduce the Council's carbon emissions.
- 2.103** **Low energy technology:** Reduce the level of energy required by our street furniture (e.g. replace traditional illuminated bollards with reflective technology).
- 2.104** **Sustainable Materials:** Utilise materials from sustainable and recycled sources. For example, aggregates in highway maintenance projects.

S9 Related Initiatives	Policy
Junction efficiency	B3 Network Management & Improvement
Transport Asset Management Plan	B8 Maintenance
Broadband infrastructure	B7 Business Innovation
Council travel	B7 Business Innovation

## 2 Ensure a Sustainable Future

### End Notes

- a. JMP Review of Corporate Business Travel, 2009
- b. DECC website
- c. DECC website
- d. The Station Champions report 2008 ranked Crewe Station as the 3rd worst in the Country.
- e. NHT ranking for CE satisfaction with pavements and footways was 70th out of 76 local authorities
- f. NHT score for the existing pavement network was 60.66 out of 100, ranking it 76th out of 76 local authorities
- g. NHT Survey allocated a score of 46.05 out of 100 to the condition of footways, ranking it 71 out of 76 local authorities.
- h. NHT Survey allocated a score of scored 55.37, ranking it 33rd out of 76.
- i. The Community Survey 2008 identified that 32% of respondents were either very or fairly satisfied with the quality and provision of cycle ways and cycle routes within the borough.
- j. IHT ranking for the provision of cycling facilities at employment destinations was 61 out of 76.
- k. 4NW Behavioural Change Study (June 2010) Evidence Review – 2nd Edition
- l. Cycling Demonstration Towns – Development of Benefit-Cost Ratios; DfT February 2010 / The Effects of Smarter Choices Programmes in the Sustainable Travel Towns; DfT February 2010 / Valuing the benefits of cycling – SQW / Cycling England (2007).

### 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

#### Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) Priorities

- 3.1** The SCS has identified four priorities for action to create the conditions for business growth in Cheshire East. These are:
- Harness emerging growth opportunities
  - Provide a leading broadband infrastructure
  - Make the most of our tourism, heritage and natural assets
  - Create a climate attractive to business investment
- 3.2** The SCS explores how transport can, in part, help to deliver these priorities – for example; by ensuring that employment sites are well connected with good transport links and that there is a good standard of accessibility for people to get to work. Also through supporting sustainable access to key visitor attractions, through adequate maintenance of the highway network and providing the targeted relief of congestion.
- 3.3** Cheshire East's emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) sets out a strategy to deliver the Council's ambitious plans for growth to deliver economic prosperity. It will also provide a framework for the Council's Economic Development Strategy (EDS).
- 3.4** The draft EDS sets out the local determinants for economic growth, along with the key transport requirements. It also highlights the principal towns of Crewe and Macclesfield as spatial priorities alongside a focus on "Sustainable Towns".
- 3.5** The EDS and LDF will require a locally responsive approach to transport in the principal towns and key service centres. The LTP will enable this responsive approach by setting out a process to deliver a series of "Transport Frameworks for Towns" – full details of this process are discussed in **Chapter 8: Towns**.

#### Evidence Overview

- 3.6** Good transport is fundamental to the success of the Cheshire East economy. For example it:
- Supports business interaction and access
  - Creates the conditions for the formation of new companies and inward investment
  - Connects people to jobs and widens the labour market
  - Opens up new markets for existing companies
  - Increases competition leading to higher levels of business productivity
- 3.7** The Cheshire East economy is worth £7.8 billion per annum (2007 data) with Cheshire accounting for some 18% of the productivity of the entire North West Region<sup>a</sup>. The area's key strengths are its knowledge economy, a high quality

### 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

of life, its geographical location with train journey times of under two hours to London from its key towns, as well as good connections to international airports and the key centres of Manchester & Liverpool.

- 3.8** The Connecting Cities: Northwest study (2010)<sup>b</sup> identified Cheshire East as the third most significant employment centre within the North West, after Manchester and Liverpool. It also identifies Cheshire East as a preferred location for highly-skilled labour to live. Many of these employees do not live locally to their place of work, putting pressure on the demand for housing and transport within and between local authority areas.
- 3.9** The towns of Crewe and Macclesfield combined account for almost 66% of all employment opportunities within the borough. The towns of Wilmslow, Congleton, Knutsford, Nantwich, Sandbach, Handforth and Middlewich between them supplied a further 23.5% of the available employment<sup>c</sup>. The borough is also home to regionally significant employment sites such as Alderley Park and Basford.
- 3.10** The visitor economy is an important contributor to businesses and communities within Cheshire East, generating over £600 million per annum for the local economy. The majority of the borough's visitor attractions are located in rural areas with the result that public transport access is often poor.

#### Stakeholder Opinion

- 3.11** Attendees at the final stakeholder consultation workshop identified creating the conditions for business growth as one of the two key priority themes, alongside the need to create a sustainable future.
- 3.12** They also identified the following priority policy areas:
- Maintenance – Adopt a robust and efficient approach to maintenance to minimise deterioration in the highway network and associated infrastructure assets (e.g. lighting, street furniture etc.).
  - Network Management – Effectively manage the highway network to reduce the level of delay and provide for the needs of all road users including pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.
  - Enabling Development – Seek to enable appropriate new development by supporting transport infrastructure, regeneration and/or behaviour change initiatives that will mitigate the potential impact of development proposals.
- 3.13** In workshop discussions of the transport challenges related to **creating the conditions for business growth**, stakeholders made numerous suggestions as to the possible initiatives the Council and its partners could introduce to meet these challenges. These ranged from road capacity improvements and bypasses, through to development planning policy, working with neighbouring authorities and improving co-ordination of utilities companies and highway works. Policies and initiatives included in the LTP reflect this consultation feedback wherever possible.



## 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

- 3.14** Overall, there was consistently strong stakeholder support for improving highway maintenance, tackling congestion, improving the accessibility of employment sites, and improving cross-boundary linkages.

### LTP Objectives

#### RELEVANT OBJECTIVES

**Objective 1 (Congestion):** Minimise congestion and improve the overall efficiency of the highway network.

**Objective 2 (Accessibility):** Improve accessibility to key services (employment, education, health, shopping and leisure) and reduce the need to travel.

**Objective 3 (Maintenance):** Improve maintenance of the highway and transport network.

**Objective 6 (Environment):** Protect and enhance the local and global environment.

### Transport Challenges & Policy Solutions

#### Strategic Partnerships

- 3.15** The objectives of the LTP can be supported by a wide range of partnership working, both existing and potential. Discussion here is centred on partnership working to support strategic connectivity and business growth – on the strategic road and rail network, air travel through Manchester Airport, and across administrative boundaries.
- 3.16** Other specific areas of partnership working are covered in the related chapter – for example, partnerships for road safety are discussed in **Chapter 4: Health**.

#### Strategic road and rail network

- 3.17** The Highways Agency is responsible for the management of the strategic road network in the UK, including most motorways and trunk roads. The key routes through Cheshire East are the M6, M56 and A556 (T) between M6 J19 and M56 J8.
- 3.18** The M6 and M56 are the most heavily trafficked routes in Cheshire East and experienced a growth of between 6 and 7% between 2005 and 2009. Congestion along these routes causes disruptions to freight, business, commuter and visitor travel, and may pose a threat to the future economic growth of the borough. Much of this growth originates beyond the borough and the Council needs to work with strategic partners to influence the management of traffic along these routes.

### 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

- 3.19** There are existing issues around road safety and congestion at the interface of the Highway Agency's network with the local authority road network. Junction 17 at Sandbach is of particular concern.
- 3.20** The A556 (T) between the M6 and M56 has been identified as a key congestion corridor in the Connecting Cities: Northwest study (2010) resulting in poor air quality (at Mere Crossroads) and noise issues for local residents. The Highways Agency has identified this link as a priority in its investment programme and is currently developing proposals for the upgrade of the road subject to funding availability.
- 3.21** The provision of additional housing and employment in Cheshire East will lead to further pressure at these key junctions and links.
- 3.22** The number of passengers carried by rail services serving Cheshire East continues to show strong growth. For example Alderley Edge, Sandbach, Holmes Chapel, Chelford, and Disley stations have all seen passenger numbers grow by over 30% in the past two years. Currently a number of rail lines through Cheshire East are operating at or over capacity, including the West Coast Main Line, the Crewe to Manchester line and the Buxton to Manchester line.
- 3.23** Government proposals to build a high speed railway line from Birmingham to London, and then onto Manchester and the North, will be a catalyst for economic growth and encouraging modal shift for long distance journeys, as well as releasing capacity on local rail networks. Studies show that an hourly high speed service calling at Crewe would result in a direct boost of £17m to the local economy with a further £20m of wider economic benefits generated<sup>d</sup>. On the other hand, there will inevitably be environmental impacts of the scheme which will have to be effectively mitigated.
- 3.24** There are clear economic benefits associated with increased rail connectivity and capacity both within the North West and with other parts of the country. Dealing with congestion and limited capacity in central Manchester (through the Northern Hub proposals) will be important to unlock improvements in the speed, frequency and reliability of train services across Cheshire East<sup>e</sup>.

#### **Manchester Airport and aviation**

- 3.25** Manchester Airport is an important international gateway for Cheshire East's businesses. In 2009 the airport facilitated over 215,000 business trips and 570,000 leisure trips that originated in Cheshire East. Additionally, almost 10% of the airports employees live in the borough<sup>f</sup>.
- 3.26** Manchester Airport is a major hub for international freight traffic; its World Freight Terminal accommodates 170,000 tonnes of cargo per year, making it the UK's fourth-largest airport in terms of flown cargo volume. By 2015, the volume of freight traffic through Manchester Airport is expected to increase to 250,000 tonnes per annum – an increase of 47%<sup>g</sup>.

### 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

- 3.27** Whilst acknowledged as an economic driver for the area, the growth of the airport must be carefully measured against wider criteria, including environmental concerns and the impact of congestion and freight on the borough's roads. Proposals for the expansion of the airports facilities are currently being considered within the Manchester LDF.

#### **Cross-boundary**

- 3.28** Cheshire East has strong travel to work links with neighbouring authorities (particularly with Greater Manchester) and it is important for the Council to examine transport across all modes without the constraints of administrative boundaries.
- 3.29** The South East Manchester Multi Modal Study (known as SEMMMS) examined the key cross boundary movements between Cheshire East and Greater Manchester.
- 3.30** The area of the study contains a large proportion of high-skilled labour, commuting to high-productivity jobs in Manchester and along the south Manchester corridor between Cheshire East, Stockport and Manchester Airport. The congestion that occurs lengthens the effective distance between labour markets and businesses, placing a limitation on the skills available, increasing cost and reducing the potential for business-to-business activity.
- 3.31** The study concluded that reducing congestion in and around the study area is an integral component for unlocking economic growth. This includes congestion on the A6 through Disley and local road links in Wilmslow and Handforth. A further recommendation of the wider SEMMMS strategy was the provision of a bypass for Poynton which, along with improvements to the A523, will be crucial in improving north-south links to/from the Macclesfield area.
- 3.32** One of the barriers to improving public transport access within the study area is the heavy congestion causing lengthy and unreliable journey times on the local road network.
- 3.33** The study recommended the construction of new road capacity to relieve congestion and allow existing road space to be re-allocated for sustainable modes such as public transport. Work to date has concentrated on the provision of a new relief road linking the A6 at Hazel Grove to the M56 Manchester Airport Spur (the SEMMMS major road scheme).
- 3.34** This scheme would improve access to Manchester Airport from the east and south, enhance access to jobs and opportunities and remove congestion – particularly in Poynton, Handforth and Wilmslow. It would also remove unnecessary freight traffic from local roads, improve public transport operations, reliability and services, and facilitate the future provision of a bypass for Poynton.
- 3.35** An assessment of the wider economic benefits of the scheme predicts that the scheme would generate an additional £10m of value to the Cheshire East economy.

### 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

- 3.36** Other important cross-boundary partnerships will develop through the emerging Local Enterprise Partnerships. These will be important in securing inward investment into key infrastructure projects that unlock economic growth.
- 3.37** Working with public transport operators across the borough will also be important to ensure that opportunities to link areas of high job growth with areas of high unemployment are not missed. Public transport operations are discussed in **Chapter 2: Sustainability**.

#### POLICY

**Policy B1 Strategic Partnerships for Economic Growth:** Work with neighbouring authorities, appropriate regional/sub-regional organisations, public transport operators and providers to enhance cross-boundary and strategic investment opportunities in transport.

#### B1 Policy Initiatives

- 3.38** **Strategic road network:** Work with the Highways Agency to improve the management of traffic on the motorway and trunk road network in Cheshire East through supporting proposals for 'Active Traffic Management' and by taking a partnership approach to solving safety and congestion problems at motorway junctions. Also seek to ensure that the local communities concerns are captured and reflected in the Highways Agency's designs (e.g. for the proposed improvements to the A556 (T)).
- 3.39** **Strategic rail infrastructure:** Support national initiatives to improve rail connectivity. This includes the Northern Hub capacity improvement scheme and a high speed rail network serving the North West. Explore with Government and scheme promoters the opportunities for high speed services to call at principal Cheshire East stations.
- 3.40** **South East Manchester Multi Modal Study (SEMMMS):** Continue to work with local authority partners to investigate affordable ways of delivering the SEMMMS major road scheme.
- 3.41** **Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP):** Seek to gain support through the Cheshire & Warrington LEP for its emerging transport priorities that unlock economic growth, such as the Crewe Green Link Road scheme and Middlewich Eastern Bypass.
- 3.42** **Manchester Airport Group (MAG):** Co-ordinate ongoing liaison and partnership working with MAG to agree areas of common interest. This will include the airport's Ground Transport Strategy and its emerging role as a transport hub.

## 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

- 3.43**      **Visitor economy partnerships:** Work with partners such as the Peak District National Park and the Visit Chester and Cheshire Tourist Board to develop and promote sustainable transport options for accessing the borough's tourist attractions.

B1 Related Initiatives	Policy
Transport assessment of strategic site proposals	S1 Spatial Planning
Neighbouring authority developments	S1 Spatial Planning
Strategic joint working	S2 Climate Change – Mitigation & Adaptation
Partnership working (public transport)	S3 Public Transport (Integration & Facilities)
Rail service specifications	S4 Public Transport (Service Levels & Reliability)
Reinstate passenger services	S4 Public Transport (Service Levels & Reliability)

### Enabling Strategic Development

- 3.44**      Housing, employment sites and infrastructure have vital roles to play in supporting economic growth. The capacity and suitability of transport links (in relation to housing demand and access to markets and labour) will be important factors for investment choice. As such, in order for economic development aspirations to be achieved, it is equally important for the Council to fully understand the transport implications of proposed strategic site allocations.
- 3.45**      The long term spatial development of the borough will be defined within the LDF and – as described in **Chapter 2: Sustainability**, Policy S1 Spatial Planning – the Council will seek to minimise the future need to travel by focusing most new developments in larger settlements where there is a good range of housing, jobs, shops and services already accessible by public transport, cycling and walking.
- 3.46**      To complement Policy S1 *Spatial Planning*, developers are often required to prepare and implement travel plans. These aim to demonstrate how the impact of a development can be reduced by encouraging individuals to travel in a more sustainable way – such as by car sharing, using public transport, walking and cycling.
- 3.47**      The majority of new employment and housing developments will require new transport infrastructure (ranging from new road links and improved junctions through to pedestrian or cycling facilities) to deliver them sustainably and avoid causing traffic problems on the highway network.

### 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

- 3.48** A small number of strategic sites will require significant major scheme infrastructure improvements to unlock the full potential of the sites. For example, Crewe's "Strategic Framework for Economic Growth 2010-2030" identifies as a priority measures to unlock the full potential of the Basford East strategic development site. The provision of the Crewe Green Link Road Scheme and capacity improvements to Crewe Green Roundabout and the A500 Barthomley link will be necessary to achieve this, along with improvements in public transport provision. Similarly, proposals for the South Macclesfield Development Area will also require significant infrastructure investment to fully release their potential.
- 3.49** In the past, development sites have been assessed on their individual impact on the transport network. This can leave smaller developments contributing very little to the upgrade of the transport network – though the cumulative impact of many small developments over time will be significant. To address this issue, a new approach is needed that enables the Council to understand the cumulative impact of all development across a defined area and adopt appropriate contributions (dependent on the development size, location etc.) that enable the overall costs of improved accessibility and connectivity to be fairly shared between developers.
- 3.50** The development plans of neighbouring local authorities also need to be fully understood – to consider and plan for the transport impact of developments that may be outside the Cheshire East boundary.
- 3.51** The LDF will consider the options for appropriate development opportunities and ensure that the transport implications are assessed - LTP policy will support this process.

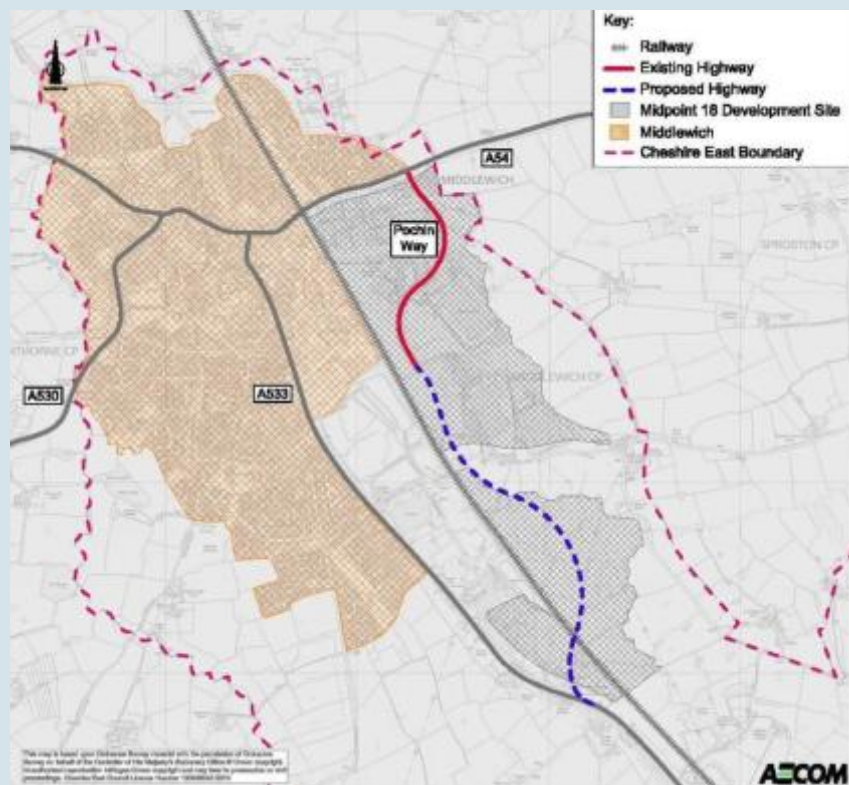


### 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

#### CASE STUDY

##### Enabling Development: Middlewich Eastern Bypass

Midpoint 18 is a 320 hectare sub-regional employment site located to the east of Middlewich town centre. A development brief and supplementary planning guidance have been adopted by the Council to guide the future development of the area. The Council commissioned an Appraisal and Delivery Strategy for the site in 2009.



Middlewich Eastern Bypass

The development site would be accessed via an extension to Pochin Way as a 2.2 km section of road passing through the site extending to Booth Lane to the South.

The scheme would provide economic and transport benefits to Middlewich and the wider area, including:

- Creation of 143,000m<sup>2</sup> of business development and around 2800 jobs
- Environmental benefits as traffic routes away from Middlewich Town Centre, improving conditions for residents and visitors and enhancing the retail experience
- Reduction in congestion on the A54 link to the M6

The scheme is important to the delivery of the economic growth of Middlewich as a sustainable town and key service centre.



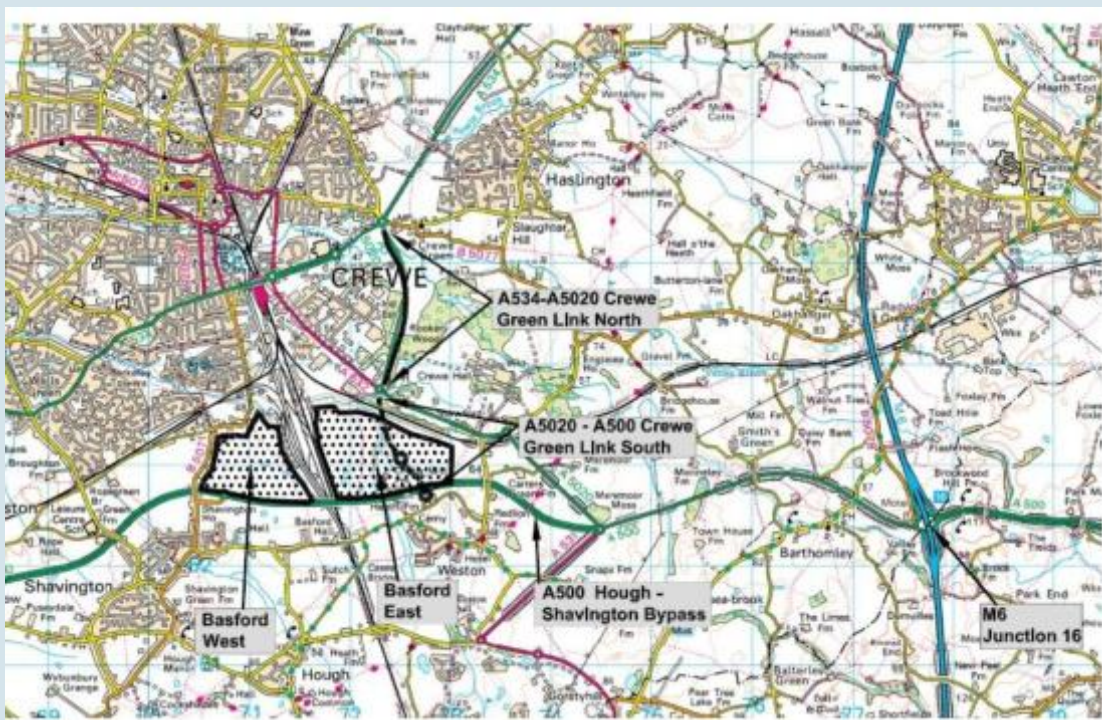
### 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

#### CASE STUDY

##### Enabling Development: Crewe Green Link Road (South)

For the full strategic potential of the Basford sites to be realised, the completion of the Crewe Green Link Road (CGLR) will be necessary. The first phase (North) was completed in 2004 and has played an important role in facilitating employment growth east of the town centre. Completion of CGLR South is an important component in delivering Crewe's vision for economic growth to 2030 - the aim of which is to see Basford East firmly established as one of the UK's largest science-focused business parks.

Basford development site & Crewe Green Link Road proposals:



Basford East and Crewe Green Link Road

The CGLR South will support sustainable economic growth and ensure that Crewe has the infrastructure needed as a key regional transport gateway. It will provide a link between areas of deprivation to the north of Crewe and employment opportunities to the south east. It will reduce traffic congestion, increase freight efficiency and reduce the impact of traffic on the local environment and local community.

### 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

#### PRIORITY POLICY

**Policy B2 Enabling development:** Seek to enable appropriate new development by supporting transport infrastructure, regeneration and/or behaviour change initiatives that will mitigate the potential impact of development proposals.

#### B2 Policy Initiatives

- 3.52 Facilitate sustainable development:** Provision for walking, cycling, public transport and recharging points for hybrid or electric vehicles will be encouraged for large new developments in order to reduce carbon emissions. This will be complemented by requiring developers to produce, implement and monitor travel plans.
- 3.53 Developer contributions:** Develop an appropriate approach to developer contributions that enables improvements to both local and strategic transport provision. The approach will consider highways, public transport, walking, cycling, rights of way, air quality and noise implications. It will be linked to an assessment of likely traffic and transport impact of strategic site proposals and the estimation of cost of transport infrastructure/initiatives required to mitigate impact. The process of developing the tariff will also consider the economic viability of development and the amount of contributions that will be sought for this and other requirements - such as affordable housing and community facilities.
- 3.54 Major infrastructure for new development:** Work with developers, land owners and funding bodies to deliver the infrastructure that unlocks new development opportunities. Current infrastructure requirements include the Crewe Green Link Road, capacity improvements on the A500 Barthomley link, Crewe Green Roundabout and the provision of Middlewich Eastern Bypass, along with a suitable highway link between the A536 and A523 to open up the South Macclesfield Development Area.
- 3.55 Transport & regeneration:** Consideration of transport initiatives that would help support proposals for area improvement and regeneration as set out in the LDF, such as upgraded transport facilities and public realm improvements.

B2 Related Initiatives	Policy
Transport assessment of strategic site proposals	S1 Spatial Planning
Influencing travel behaviour	S2 Climate Change – Mitigation & Adaptation
Bus stop condition	S3 Public Transport (Integration & Facilities)

### 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

B2 Related Initiatives	Policy
New commercial opportunities	S4 Public Transport (Service Levels & Reliability)
Footway and footpath improvements	S7 Walking
New walking routes	S7 Walking
Pedestrian crossing points	S7 Walking
New cycle routes	S8 Cycling
Junction and route improvements for cyclists	S8 Cycling

#### Network Management & Improvement

- 3.56** If Cheshire East is to grow its economy sustainably and improve productivity, it will be important to ensure that places are well connected and that the transport network operates as efficiently as possible. The Traffic Management Act 2004 places a network management duty on local authorities to ensure the expeditious movement of traffic, and to co-operate with other authorities to the same end.
- 3.57** In order to consider the requirements for network management and network improvement, an understanding of how the network functions in terms of commuting, congestion, roadworks and risk is needed.

#### Commuting Patterns

- 3.58** Data extracted from the 2001 Census gives an understanding of the key travel to work movements within and outside of the borough. Data will be reviewed when the outputs of the 2011 Census become available.
- 3.59** At the time of 2001 census, Cheshire East experienced a net outward flow of over 7,500 trips per day<sup>h</sup>, with the most common employment destinations outside of the borough being Manchester centre, Manchester Airport, Stockport centre and Stoke-on-Trent.
- 3.60** Of those travelling into the borough to work, the most common origins were Northwich and Winsford, Stockport and Newcastle-under-Lyme. There were significant two-way flows to Cheshire West and Chester, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Stoke-on-Trent, whilst Cheshire East offered significant employment opportunities to the population of Staffordshire Moorlands.
- 3.61** Within Cheshire East, journeys between Congleton and Macclesfield, and Nantwich and Crewe key centres had the greatest number of movements. A number of significant employment sites also generated a high number of 'local' commuting trips, though many also have wide employee catchment areas. Astra Zeneca at Alderley Edge, for example, draws high numbers of employees from Macclesfield, Wilmslow, Handforth and Congleton.

## 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

### Congestion

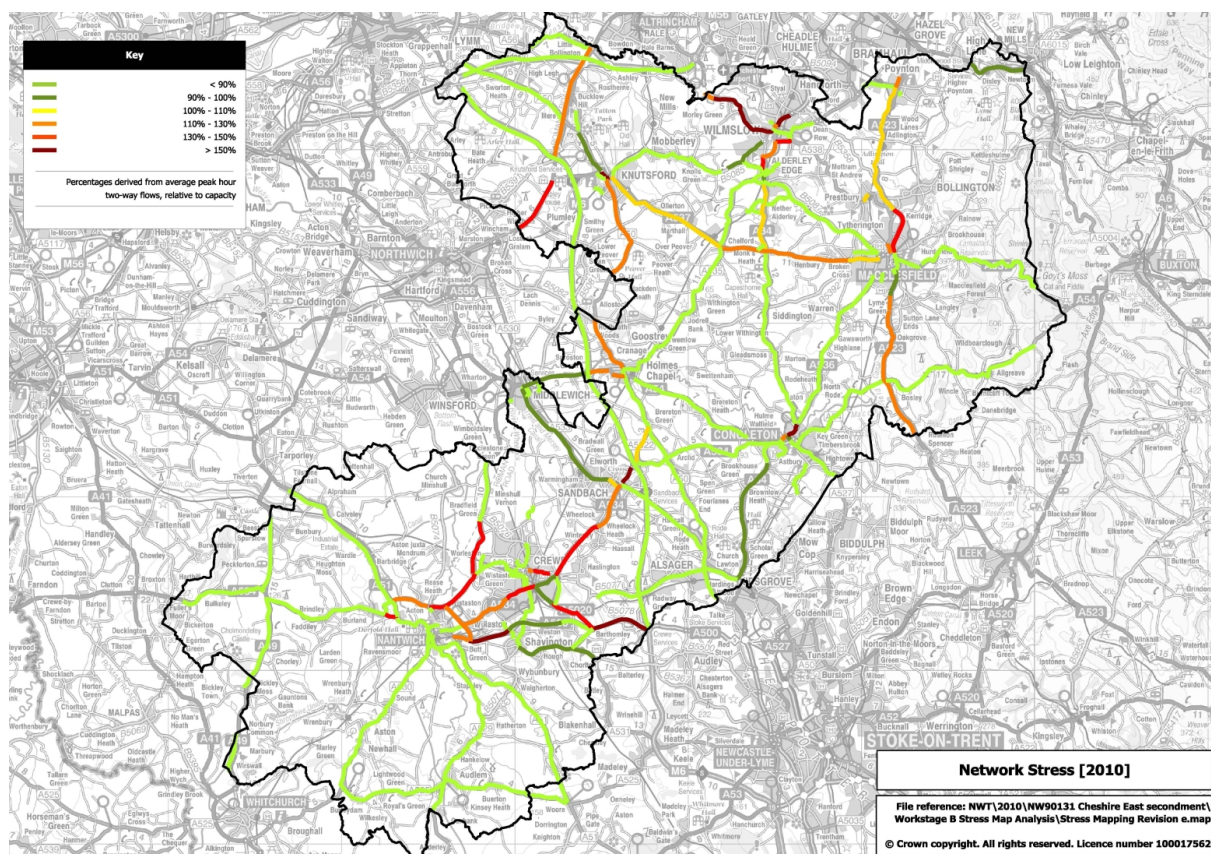
- 3.62** The 2001 Census indicated that car ownership in Cheshire East was high, with 89% of households having access to at least one vehicle and 12% of households having access to three or more vehicles. It also identified that the most common mode of transport to employment was the private car (either as the driver or passenger).
- 3.63** The number of vehicles using the boroughs roads has remained relatively stable since 2004. However, the majority of the road network was not designed to accommodate the current number of vehicles competing for its use and congestion occurs when the demand for road space exceeds supply – particularly within town centres. In addition, parts of the borough suffer from limited route and mode choice.
- 3.64** Public perception of road congestion in Cheshire East is high. However, the degree of congestion is far less than that experienced elsewhere, with an average delay (during the morning peak period) of approximately 2 minutes. This is a global figure and masks a small number of congestion ‘hotspots’ within the borough.
- 3.65** The level of ‘stress’ on the road network is a measure of how much traffic a road is carrying compared to its maximum capacity. As roads approach and exceed their capacity, the reliability of journeys decrease and the number of accidents and delays increase. Network stress generally occurs between the 8-9am and 5-6pm peak commuting hours, however, major events in the tourism calendar can also cause congestion on the road network – such as the RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park or the Cheshire Show at Tabley.

### 2010 Highway Network Stress in Cheshire East

- 3.66** Evidence shows that the most congested parts of the road network are in the town centres. However, notable key ‘hotspots’ on the inter-urban network include:
- Crewe Green Roundabout, Crewe
  - A500 Barthomley Link, Crewe
  - Parts of the A530, including Alvanley Roundabout
  - Parts of the A523 from the end of the Silk Road through to Poynton
  - The A34 around Congleton
- 3.67** Town centre congestion will be addressed at a local level through the development of a series of Transport Frameworks for towns, as set out in **Chapter 8: Towns**.



### 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth



Network Stress

- 3.68** Congestion results in people spending ‘unproductive’ time queuing; it has a real impact on business efficiency and productivity, and causes unreliability and poor performance of public transport. Furthermore, congestion has been shown to increase the levels of pollutants emitted by vehicles.
- 3.69** Before new highway capacity is created there is a need to demonstrate that the existing highway network is operating as efficiently as possible through cost-effective improvements – for example, by altering traffic signal timings or instigating minor changes to the design of a junction. It will also be important to demonstrate that the level of demand for additional road capacity has been minimised – for example by encouraging the use of public transport, car sharing, walking or cycling.
- 3.70** Changes to the highway network, however minor, have the potential to cause, or to exacerbate air quality and noise issues associated with transport. In particular, any changes which affect traffic volumes, traffic patterns, or increase congestion could have an impact.

#### Management of roadworks and traffic

- 3.71** The New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA) places a duty on local authorities to co-ordinate works on the highway, with the aim of minimising disruption to traffic. This is currently achieved through a system of “Street Works Notices” whereby the utility companies inform the Council of their intention to work, and the Council then responds to co-ordinate their works accordingly.

### 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

- 3.72** The Council also works to ensure that users of the highway are informed about forthcoming roadworks (i.e. through an internet based mapping tool which provides users with a graphical display of current and planned works on the highway network) and that strategic diversion routes are agreed in advance with the Highways Agency and emergency services (e.g. alternative local road routes to be used when there are incidents on the motorway).



**Road resurfacing**

- 3.73** Across the Borough in 2009/10, our records show that there were 596 'Emergency Works' and 2,626 'Urgent Works' undertaken by Utility companies. This accounts for approximately 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of all works that occur on our road network.
- 3.74** Travel to work and freight flows on the highway network do not respect local authority highway boundaries and changes made on a route will only pay dividends if supported with complementary action by neighbouring local authorities. A route management approach, whereby local authorities together agree common strategies for key corridors, can overcome this problem (see case study).

### 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

#### CASE STUDY

##### Route Management

In order for the 'Route Management' approach to be effective it is necessary that a standard approach to understanding and assessing the performance of highway corridors is followed by highway authorities, including methods for identifying any challenges to their current and future operation. To assist with this Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester Councils undertook a pilot study in 2009 to test and refine regional guidance on route management studies.

The focus of the study was the A51/A500 route, which links Chester to the north-west, at the junction with the A55, to the M6 Motorway in the south-east at Junction 16. The route is primarily rural and passes through or around a number of villages along its route, before passing Nantwich to its east and Crewe to the south.

The study concluded with identifying six route outcomes for which joint local authority action will be required over the coming years:

1. Improved understanding of existing travel on the route and the potential for change in the future
2. Reduced carbon emissions from the use of the route
3. Reduced collision rates and severity on the route
4. Improved management of freight movements on the route
5. Reduced congestion on and across the route
6. Reduced congestion on the Barthomley Link

##### Network Risk

**3.75** Projections show that by 2050, the Northwest region will have wetter and warmer winters and drier and warmer summers. This will require an element of pre-planning for the transport network in order to maintain effective network links. For example, there may be a need to review the materials and drainage systems required for the roads, or the type of fleet vehicles used on public transport routes (e.g. improved air conditioning or heating). Sections of the transport network already suffer from weather related issues. As routes become unavailable for the passage of vehicles, journeys are disrupted and the level of congestion on the wider network is increased. Existing locations at risk include:

Location	Weather related issue	Frequency
A51 Alpraham	Flash Flooding (river)	Once or twice per year on average.
A34 Scholar Green	Flash flooding (river)	Once per year on average



### 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

Location	Weather related issue	Frequency
A537 Cat and Fiddle	Snow and Ice	Two or three times per year on average
A54 Wildboardclough	Snow and Ice	Two or three times per year on average

#### Locations of flash flooding, snow and ice risk

- 3.76** A separate risk issue relates to “road-rail incursions” – there are 12 locations identified in Cheshire East where there is a high risk of vehicles leaving the carriageway and entering the railway with potentially fatal consequences<sup>1</sup>.

#### PRIORITY POLICY

**Policy B3 Network Management:** Effectively manage the highway network to reduce the level of delay and provide for the needs of all road users including pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.

#### B3 Policy Initiatives

- 3.77** **Network and route planning:** Develop a functional hierarchy of roads based on road-user need (e.g. consider the requirements of emergency services, public transport, heavy goods vehicles (HGVs), commuters, pedestrians, cyclists, residents, etc.) to help determine priorities for network management; and work with neighbouring local authorities to ensure consistent cross-boundary “route management” of freight and commuter routes. Monitor the level of traffic and congestion on the network to inform development control policy and influence spatial planning.
- 3.78** **Junction efficiency:** Seek to improve the operation of existing signalised and un-signalised junctions to smooth traffic flow, enable provision for pedestrians and reduce CO2 impact of stop-start driving, through minor alternations to signal timings or junction geometry.
- 3.79** **Manage network disruption:** Effectively co-ordinate and manage roadworks, minimise disruption from major events, and plan effective strategic diversion routes, in co-operation with the police, Highways Agency and neighbouring authorities. Arrangements for managing network disruption will be set out, in detail, within the Network Management Plan.
- 3.80** **Highway clutter:** Undertake a review of existing highway signage and pedestrian guard railing across the borough with the aim to reduce the amount of unnecessary signage and associated clutter.

### 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

- 3.81**      **Driver information:** Seek to provide further functionality and continue to develop the range of information on roadwork's and delays that is provided electronically. Including making this information available to 3rd party developers to develop commercial software.
- 3.82**      **Road-rail incursion:** Develop a programme of remedial work at high risk sites across the borough and seek appropriate developer contributions where proposals are close to high risk sites.
- 3.83**      **Prepare for climate change:** Examine the elements of the highway network most susceptible to climate change (and extreme weather conditions) and develop suitable mitigation or contingency plans where possible.

#### POLICY

**Policy B4 Network Improvement:** Work to improve the operation of the highway network for all users through provision of new and enhanced infrastructure.

#### B4 Policy Initiatives

- 3.84**      **Highway capacity improvements:** Investigate highway widening and new road building where alternative options are unable to deliver the aspirations of the community to alleviate traffic and congestion problems in key locations. This may include working with the private sector to offset the cost of providing new infrastructure against the value of new developments and with the Highways Agency to offset the cost of solving existing junction problems.
- 3.85**      **Junction upgrades:** Investigate potential capacity enhancements and the need for upgraded facilities for pedestrians and cyclists at key junctions, both where design of junction is out-dated and where new developments will impose additional traffic pressure at junctions.
- 3.86**      **Bus priority measures:** Explore opportunities to develop bus priority measures on the highway network to reduce delays and improve reliability of services.

B3 & B4 Related Initiatives	Policy
Multi-media information	S5 Public Transport (Information & Marketing)
Footway and footpath improvements	S7 Walking
New walking routes	S7 Walking
Pedestrian crossing points	S7 Walking

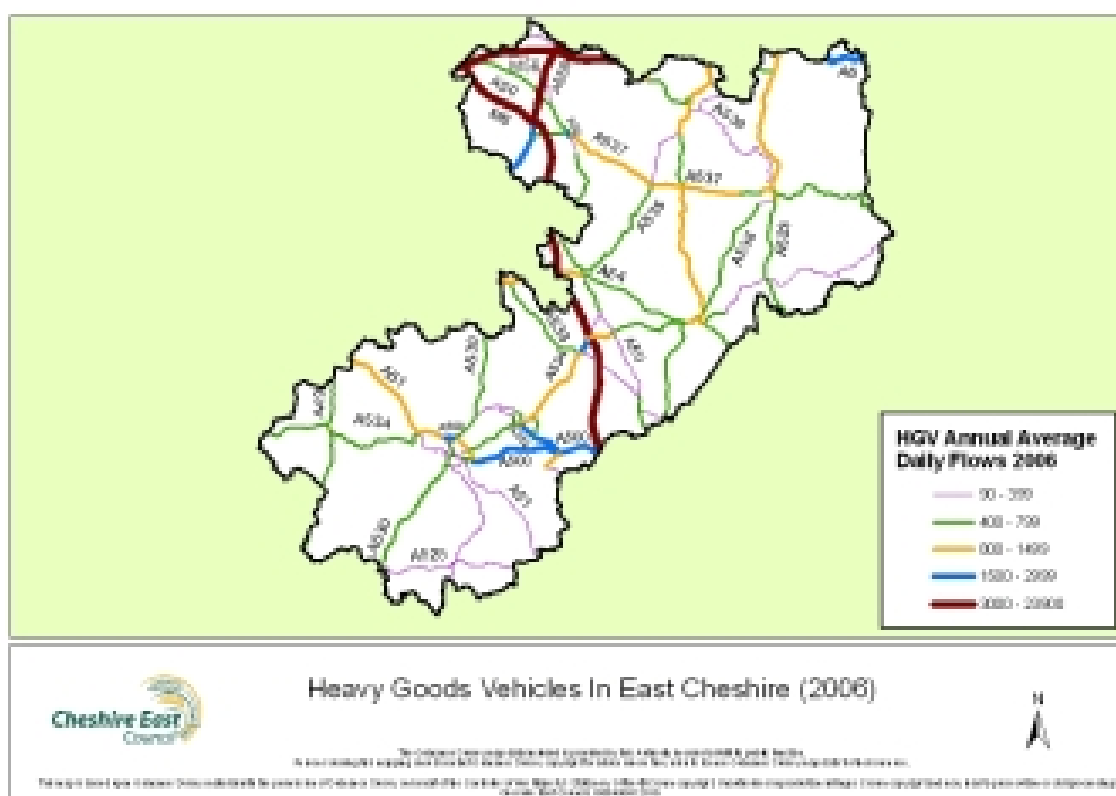
### 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

B3 & B4 Related Initiatives	Policy
New cycle routes	S8 Cycling
Junction and route improvements for cyclists	S8 Cycling
Low energy technology	S9 Technology & Energy Efficiency

#### Freight

**3.87** For Cheshire East to continue to be an attractive place for business investment the ease by which freight traffic can move around the borough will be an important issue – however, freight traffic potentially has a negative impact on communities (poor air quality, noise, community severance and visual intrusion). An appropriate balance between quality of life issues and economic prosperity needs to be struck.

**3.88** The roads with the highest HGV flows in the borough are illustrated below:



#### Routes with highest HGV flows

**3.89** Crewe acts as a major 'hub' for road freight traffic – this mirrors the recent economic development of Crewe as a major regional distribution centre (due, in part, to Crewe's excellent road links to the national transport network).

### 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

- 3.90** In recent years there has been strong growth in the use of the rail network to transport freight. Transport of freight by rail is more sustainable than by road and can lead to a reduction in the total number of miles travelled by HGV. The potential exists to capitalise on the growth in rail freight and the rail connectivity of Crewe. Similar opportunities exist in Middlewich.
- 3.91** Commercial operators are best placed to inform the Council of freight industry markets and logistics – partnership working is required to determine the most appropriate routing for HGVs whilst taking into consideration quality of life issues for residents.
- 3.92** Many freight transport operators rely on satellite navigation systems to inform their route choices. These systems are fed information via digital datasets which contain details of all local highway authority roads and restrictions. The Council has a role to play to ensure that these navigation datasets are accurate.
- 3.93** Levels of congestion are also a key issue for the road freight induction and – through its network management obligations – the Council is responsible for planning and implementing diversion routes in the event of an incident (e.g. motorway closure) or planned maintenance. As such a number of other policy areas within this chapter will be relevant for freight, particularly Policy B3 Network Management and Policy B4 Network Improvement.

#### POLICY

**Policy B5 Freight:** Work with freight operators and organisations to establish appropriate freight routes, delivery routines and driver practices to minimise congestion and pollution.

#### B5 Policy Initiatives

- 3.94** **Freight partnership:** Set up and promote a freight partnership for road hauliers to address concerns around routing, driver behaviour and delivery times.
- 3.95** **Freight routes and delivery access:** Ensure routes and access arrangements are appropriately maintained and signed.
- 3.96** **Rail freight transfer:** Support initiatives by developers, businesses, Network Rail and operators, to promote integration of road and rail freight.

B5 Related Initiatives	Policy
Strategic joint working	S2 Climate Change – Mitigation & Adaptation
National behavioural campaigns	H6 Road Safety (Education)
Driver technique	H4 Air Quality

## 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

### Parking

- 3.97** The Council operates and manages all on-street car parking and a large number of off-street car parks across the borough. In addition, there are a number of commercially operated car parks that have an important role in town centre provision.
- 3.98** Parking policies can influence the prosperity of town centres by acting as an attractor, or deterrent, to car access for shopping, leisure, or employment. Town centres face increasing competition from out-of-town retail and business parks and other towns that offer high levels of free parking – this means that a careful balance has to be achieved with pricing and timing of parking policies to ensure that town centres continue to remain attractive.
- 3.99** Effective management will help support a town's economy by ensuring efficient use and appropriate supply of car parking spaces; whereas, ineffective management or over-provision can exacerbate problems of town centre congestion. For example, excessive parking charges in town centres may result in motorists searching for free on-street parking in adjacent residential areas – resulting in increasing traffic circulation and problems for residents.
- 3.100** From the perspective of the user, parking space availability is also related to the level of “turnover” achieved – i.e. the number of people who use the space during a day. Employees often require long-stay parking for the full duration of the day, whereas shoppers may only require parking for a few hours, and deliveries may only need the ability to park for 5 minutes. In many circumstances, the prime parking locations are those in the heart of the town centre, which means that the demand for parking spaces can be very high. The mechanisms used to regulate and balance these competing needs include parking restrictions, enforcement, time limits, and charges.
- 3.101** Park and ride services may also have a role to play in locations where demand for parking is very high, space is limited, and where congestion is a factor.
- 3.102** The national policy framework for the development of parking strategy recognises the need to move away from the current dependence upon the car and the importance of promoting alternative modes of travel, particularly walking, cycling and public transport. Parking management (availability, cost, and quality) is recognised as an important factor that influences mode and destination choice.
- 3.103** The way in which parking control and management is provided needs to reflect the likely demand for parking in the centres and should follow a consistent methodology across the borough which considers issues such as traffic circulation, congestion and air quality.
- 3.104** There are currently different approaches to the management of off street car parking associated with the three former borough councils – however, a LTP Parking Strategy “daughter document” is to be prepared in the first implementation plan period that will unify the Council's approach to parking.

### 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

#### POLICY

**Policy B6 Parking:** Adopt a consistent and structured approach to parking supply, management and tariffs, seeking to balance the issues of sustainability, quality of life and economic vitality.

#### B6 Policy Initiatives

- 3.105 Provision of high quality parking:** Invest in the quality, safety and security of off-street car parks in appropriate locations. Balance the needs of a range of users including local residents, disabled people, businesses and suppliers of goods and services.
- 3.106 Retail parking:** Maximise the availability of short-stay car parking spaces in central locations and encourage long-stay business parking in areas less crucial for retail customer access. Examine the potential for Park and Ride provision to reduce town centre congestion in the principle towns of Crewe and Macclesfield.
- 3.107 Resident parking:** Consider the needs of local residents and support the introduction of Residents Parking Zones, where appropriate. Parking solutions for residents may also help address wider issues associated with car parking management at businesses, schools and in town centres.
- 3.108 Parking management:** Ensure a consistent charging and enforcement framework across the borough which includes flexibility to reflect local pressures (e.g. congestion or air quality) and which encourages sustainable travel choices (e.g. public transport, walking and cycling).

B6 Related Initiatives	Policy
Facilities at public transport hubs	S3 Public Transport (Integration & Facilities)
Intelligent ticketing solutions	S6 Public Transport (Fares & Ticketing)
Low energy technology	S9 Technology & Energy Efficiency
Accessibility audits	C3 Access for All
Car park security	C4 Crime& Terrorism

#### Business Innovation

- 3.109** Businesses rely on efficient access to suppliers, markets and workforce. Travel is a fundamental aspect of operations within many organisations. Through business innovation, there are opportunities to realise financial, productivity and carbon efficiencies by reducing the need to travel and influencing the travel behaviour of employees.

### 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

- 3.110** In Cheshire East the average distance travelled to work is 10.4km and between 59.6% and 69.3% of total trips to work are undertaken by car, illustrating significant scope to influence the travel behaviour of employees.
- 3.111** The public sector has committed to be at the forefront of the transition to a low carbon economy and local authorities have a pivotal role to play. Cheshire East Council has committed to be a leader in reducing carbon emissions from its own operations, and business and staff commuting practices are a visible symbol of the Councils commitment to achieving these aims.
- 3.112** Travel plans provide a mechanism to manage both business travel and commuting. A travel plan is a strategy to manage access in a sustainable way and seek opportunities to reduce the need to travel. Measures might include car share schemes, improvements to cycling facilities and promoting flexible working practices, such as remote access and video conferencing.
- 3.113** Global companies view access to high-speed telecommunications as a critical factor in determining new investment. The opportunity cost of businesses failing to effectively deploy ICT in the North West is estimated to be 3% of GVA per annum, between £3 billion and £4 billion per annum.

#### POLICY

**Policy B7 Business Innovation:** Support businesses to reduce carbon emissions from transport and minimise car use.

#### B7 Policy Initiatives

- 3.114** **Broadband infrastructure:** Work in partnership with the private sector to promote next generation broadband throughout all parts of the borough so that it is easier to do business anywhere and provide a greater range of services on-line.
- 3.115** **Travel plan initiatives:** Work to encourage existing employers to develop travel plans to encourage more sustainable business and staff commuting practices. This may include working with neighbouring organisations to develop area-wide initiatives (e.g. business parks).
- 3.116** **Council travel:** Set an example to other large employers by developing initiatives to reduce the need to travel and influence the travel behaviour of employees for both business travel and the journey to work.

B7 Related Initiatives	Policy
Strategic joint working	S2 Climate Change – Mitigation & Adaptation



### 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

B7 Related Initiatives	Policy
Influencing travel behaviour	S2 Climate Change – Mitigation & Adaptation
Access to employment, skills and education	C2 Accessibility of services

#### Maintenance

**3.117** The highway network underpins the safety, efficiency and reliability of movement of goods and people. The SCS recognises the importance of the condition of the highway network by promoting the production of a Transport Asset Management Plan.

**3.118** The highways network in Cheshire East is an asset worth more than £2.2 billion. The network encompasses 1,686 miles of roads, 494 bridge structures, 28,000 signs and 37,000 street lights.

**3.119** The Council has a legal duty to maintain and repair the condition of the highway network and it undertakes this duty across two broad areas:

- Structural maintenance – concerned with preserving the integrity of the infrastructure and improving it to meet changing demands.
- Operational maintenance – a more reactive response focussed on maintaining the highway in a safe and sound condition suitable for the use of vehicles, cyclists, pedestrian, equestrians and all other road users; and to ensure that the highway is kept in an acceptable condition environmentally.

**3.120** The current maintenance backlog inherited from the former Cheshire County Council is put at £88m for roads and £22m for footways. Based on current funding levels, roads in Cheshire East can be expected to be renewed every 122 years and footpaths every 277 years.

**3.121** The condition of the road network relates closely to the level of damage and injury compensation claims the Council is liable for. The number of successful compensation claims will increase as the network deteriorates resulting in even less finance to invest in the network. In 2009/10 the council received 546 claims relating to highway condition. Typically, 90% of these claims are successfully defended by the council.



Street light maintenance

### 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

- 3.122** In addition to regular network inspections, the Council's response to public reporting of 'defects' to the highway network is important for good customer service, to reduce accidents and to reduce the number of successful compensation claims against the authority. The Council has developed an online system to make reporting of highway defects easier.
- 3.123** The durability of reactive and temporary road repairs to 'potholes' is often poor. The Council has recently trialled the use of a 'jet patching' technique to provide a more cost effective and longer lasting solution.

#### PRIORITY POLICY

**Policy B8 Maintenance:** Adopt a robust and efficient approach to maintenance to minimise deterioration in the highway network and associated infrastructure assets (e.g. lighting, street furniture etc).

#### B8 Policy Initiatives

- 3.124** **Transport Asset Management Plan:** Develop a 'whole' life cycle asset management plan approach to consider both the initial infrastructure cost and subsequent maintenance (based on the "Well Maintained Highways" National Code of Practice). The plan will apply to all of the key transport assets which the Council is responsible for including footways, carriageways, highways drainage, street lighting, bridges, traffic signals, signs and public rights of way.
- 3.125** **Defect reporting and response times:** Adopt relevant new technologies for the reporting of highway network defects and develop standards/policies to deliver a timely and effective response to defects, to reduce the number of claims and improve customer service.
- 3.126** **Temporary road repairs:** Increase the durability and lifespan of temporary road repairs through the use of innovative technologies and materials.

B8 Related Initiatives	Policy
Sustainable materials	S9 Technology & Energy Efficiency
Quiet surfacing systems	H5 Noise
Street and footpath lighting	C4 Crime & Terrorism
Targeted access improvements	O1 Targeted Action for Older People

### 3 Create Conditions for Business Growth

#### End Notes

- a. Aecom & Ecogen, Connecting Cities Northwest, 2010
- b. Aecom & Ecogen, Connecting Cities: Northwest, 2010
- c. NOMIS Annual Business Enquiry 2008
- d. Steer David Gleave, High Speed Rail Evidence Review and Implications for the Northwest, June 2010
- e. Network Rail, The Northern Hub Transforming Rail in the North March 2010.
- f. Manchester Airport Employee data, 2008/9.
- g. Atkins, A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road, Major Scheme Business Case, September 2010.
- h. Aecom & Ecogen, Connecting Cities: Northwest, 2010
- i. Road Rail Incursion Report, 2010

### 4 Drive Out the Sources of Poor Health

#### Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) Priorities

- 4.1** The SCS highlights three priorities for action to improve the health of communities in Cheshire East:
- Target actions to reduce heart disease and cancer
  - Tackle the impact of alcohol misuse on individuals and society
  - Focus local actions on the wider determinants of health
- 4.2** These priorities aim to tackle the main causes of poor health in Cheshire East. They seek to both address existing problems and develop preventative health solutions for the future.
- 4.3** Transport can have a significant influence on residents' health, well-being and quality of life, by presenting opportunities to engage in healthy activity, minimise pollution levels and improve road safety.
- 4.4** Accessibility of healthcare and leisure opportunities also has the potential to be a wider determinant of health (although it should be noted that accessibility issues are addressed in **Chapter 5: Communities**).

#### Evidence Overview

- 4.5** The SCS states that residents in Cheshire East have a higher life expectancy than the national average. Circulatory disease remains one of the main causes of premature death, accounting for 41% of deaths under 75 years old and there are health inequalities across the borough, with life expectancy being lowest in Crewe<sup>a</sup>.
- 4.6** A clear link between a lack of exercise and certain diseases has been identified – those people with an 'unhealthy' lifestyle being more at risk from heart disease and cancer<sup>b</sup>. Estimates suggest that physical activity reduces the risk of premature death by 20-30% and gives up to a 50% reduced risk of major chronic diseases, such as heart disease, cancer, stroke and type 2 diabetes<sup>c</sup>.
- 4.7** The Department of Health have estimated that the average cost to each existing Primary Care Trust (PCT) area of treatment for long-term illnesses is £5 million per annum. The cost of absenteeism, premature death and treatment nationally is between £8 and 10 billion<sup>d</sup>.
- 4.8** Data collected through the National Travel Survey 2006, concluded that the distance that people walk and cycle has declined significantly in the last 3 decades<sup>e</sup>. Reversing this trend will help to achieve the priorities of the SCS in terms of health, wellbeing, and community cohesion.
- 4.9** The Chief Medical Officer for England stated that "for most people, the easiest and most acceptable forms of physical activity are those that can be incorporated into everyday life. Examples include walking or cycling instead of travelling by

## 4 Drive Out the Sources of Poor Health

car”<sup>f</sup>. This is supported by a Health Select Committee report which concluded that “of these lifestyle changes, perhaps the single most important concerns transport”<sup>g</sup>.

- 4.10** Air pollution harms human health, particularly in those already vulnerable because of their age (young or old) or existing health problems<sup>h</sup>. In some areas of Cheshire East, emissions from road traffic have been found to be above recommended levels, and a total of 12 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) have been declared.
- 4.11** Exposure to high levels of environmental noise has been shown to cause annoyance, stress, anxiety, sleep loss and has been linked to more serious conditions such as hypertension and cardio-vascular disease<sup>i</sup>. In addition to sites on the M6 and A556(T) (which are the responsibility of the Highways Agency), nine areas in Cheshire East have been identified as a priority for noise action, primarily along the most-heavily trafficked roads.
- 4.12** The repercussions of road accidents on society also have to be considered. There are obvious health and well-being implications for individuals (physical, psychological and financial). There is also a direct cost to society in terms of healthcare provision related to long-term injury and loss in productivity to the economy as a whole. Tackling the causes of road accidents (such as reckless driving, alcohol impairment, and highway design) are therefore important aspects of transport and health improvement.

### Stakeholder Opinion

- 4.13** Stakeholders identified the following key policy areas needed to support improved health:
- Public Rights of Way & Green Infrastructure – Protect and enhance public rights of way and transport related green infrastructure and endeavour to create new links where beneficial for health or access to green spaces.
  - Promotion of Active Travel and Healthy Activities – Work in partnership to promote walking, cycling and horse riding as active travel options and healthy activities.
  - Road Safety (Engineering) – Improve road safety through highway design improvements at collision blackspots.
- 4.14** Strong stakeholder support was given to investments in public rights of way and green infrastructure to encourage active and healthy lifestyle choices. The most popular initiatives associated with this policy area were to improve routes that link to key services and seek appropriate financial contributions from developers to create quality infrastructure.
- 4.15** Stakeholder support was also given to promoting active travel, focusing health improvement initiatives in areas of low life expectancy and concentrating preventative health services in deprived neighbourhoods.

## 4 Drive Out the Sources of Poor Health

- 4.16** A "Road Safety Strategy" daughter document is being developed which will identify the key road safety challenges in the borough and examine the most effective measures to reduce casualties. This may result in re-assessment of policies in relation to this evidence. Analysis of the parish and town plans also indicated that road safety enforcement was a key issue in a number of communities.

### LTP Objectives

#### RELEVANT OBJECTIVES

**Objective 5 (Health):** Support active and healthy lifestyles.

**Objective 6 (Environment):** Protect and enhance the local and global environment.

**Objective 7 (Safety):** Improve road safety for all users and increase personal and community safety.

### Transport Challenges & Policy Solutions

- 4.17** Many of the initiatives set out in the chapter – to target health action, promote active travel, enhance public rights of way and tackle air quality – will be beneficial to people of all ages and will be particularly applicable to **Chapter 6: Young People** and **Chapter 7: Older People**.

### Targeted Health Action

- 4.18** There is a need to target health action (geographically and/or demographically) to achieve the most effective outcomes.
- 4.19** Geographically, the proportion of adult population classified as obese is higher in Crewe and Nantwich than both the North West and England averages. Whereas, Macclesfield had a lower level of obesity than both the North West and England averages.
- 4.20** The life expectancy of both males and females was lowest in Crewe and evidence suggests that there is a large inequality gap in the rate of cardiovascular disease (when analysed by deprivation index or geographical areas) in Cheshire East, which contributes towards a wide gap in life expectancy. Cardiovascular disease accounts for 41% of deaths under 75 years old and is one of the main causes of premature death within the borough<sup>j</sup>.
- 4.21** Demographically, a target group for health action is the borough's increasingly older population. The incidence of disability increases with age<sup>k</sup>, as do general restrictions in mobility. The main activity of relevance here will be walking, the

## 4 Drive Out the Sources of Poor Health

importance of which for recreational purposes increases as age increases; for the 45-59 age bracket, 3 times as many people participate in walking than any other activity, rising to 5 ½ times in the over 70 age group.

- 4.22** The level of childhood obesity in Cheshire East overall is lower than both the North West and England averages. Nevertheless, promotional activities are often particularly effective if targeted towards children as a means to attract a larger audience: “go back to the schools, talk to the children about the benefits, they’d go home and pester the parents...It’s just getting them into it”<sup>l</sup>. Further, it is recognised that people who have been active during their working life are more likely to remain active after retirement<sup>m</sup>.
- 4.23** The health agencies can help with promotion to build active travel and healthy activity into everyday lives; Let’s Get Moving research found that 84% of respondents thought that it was a ‘fairly good’ or ‘very good’ idea for GPs to prescribe outdoor exercise instead of prescription drugs if the GP thought the exercise would remedy the patient’s condition.
- 4.24** The Council and NHS (as organisations with statutory responsibility for public health) aim to tackle identified health problems through action targeted at specific groups of the population, to reduce the number of people in a poor state of health. Where possible, preventative action will be undertaken with the aim of overcoming health problems before they start.
- 4.25** Through this targeted health action, the Council aims to improve the health of residents in Cheshire East and so contribute towards improvements in their quality of life, helping people to retain their independence, stay healthy and have access to good quality housing, transport, leisure, entertainment and to family and friends.

### POLICY

**Policy H1 Targeted Health Action:** Work with stakeholders to identify communities, groups or areas in most need; and seek to identify targeted solutions that lower obesity rates and increase physical activity.

### H1 Policy Initiatives

- 4.26** **Health partnerships:** Support partner activities to improve the health and well-being of residents – e.g. work with NHS on health promotion and preventative measures, work with GPs to facilitate “prescriptions for walking”.
- 4.27** **Target high risk groups:** Focus activity (such as active travel promotion, provision of infrastructure, facilities and training, and infrastructure improvement) on high risk groups, namely: children and young people, older people, disabled people, and geographical areas of low life expectancy.



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H1 Related Initiatives	Policy
Transport assessment of strategic site proposals	S1 Spatial Planning
All initiatives within S7 Walking	S7 Walking
All initiatives within S8 Cycling	S8 Cycling

### Promotion of Active Travel & Healthy Activity

- 4.28** Across Cheshire East, 12.4% of adults undertake the recommended 30 minutes of activity at least 5 days a week<sup>n</sup>. Levels of activity differ across the borough, being highest in the Poynton Local Area Partnership and lowest in Crewe where 79.5% of adults take no regular exercise<sup>o</sup>.
- 4.29** Women are generally less active than men although again this varies geographically. There is a gradual reduction in participation rates with age. The differences in participation within Cheshire East's white and non-white populations are more evident than on a national level (although the small sample size in ethnic communities used in the assessment will have distorted these results).
- 4.30** The Department of Health's *Choosing activity*<sup>p</sup> report asserts that a culture shift is needed if physical activity levels across the country are to increase. The promotion of active travel and other healthy activities will be needed to assist in that culture shift.
- 4.31** Focus groups show that one of the major challenges limiting the use of the public rights of way network is lifestyle: one delegate commented "It's the way of life...people don't have the time, they come home from work and have to catch up with the jobs"<sup>q</sup>. The challenge is to encourage people to use walking and cycling as a daily alternative to travel by private vehicle, particularly for shorter journeys.
- 4.32** The lack of cycle route information is identified, by consultees and through the NHT Survey (2009), as a barrier to greater uptake of cycling in Cheshire East. Equivalent route information is also needed to promote walking.
- 4.33** Many people find the impetus they need by going on an organised walk, ride, volunteer conservation work or other event. Such activities are organised by the Ranger Service, through Greenleaves social enterprise, through the Walking for Health initiative, school walking buses, and community-led outings such as local rambling groups, the U3A and cycling groups.
- 4.34** Promotional activities will also benefit the health of visitors from the North West region, as Cheshire East "represents the countryside on the doorstep of people living in the urban centres such as Manchester"<sup>r</sup>. At the same time such visitors will bring benefits to the visitor economy of Cheshire East. The visitor economy

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sector aims to attract ‘non-traditional’ and younger people to rural Cheshire<sup>s</sup>, groups which are currently underrepresented in visitor numbers and therefore don’t presently benefit from the healthy activities that the countryside can offer.

- 4.35** Whilst considering promoting the number of people partaking in healthy activity, there is a need to consider how people get to where they will walk, cycle or horse ride. There is huge scope to reduce, through promotional work, the use of the car as a means to access the countryside. In doing so, the accessibility of green space to those without a car will also be improved.
- 4.36** In order to promote routes to the public, the Council needs to be certain that there are public rights to use those routes. The Council is required to keep the Definitive Map and Statement, which form the legal record of public rights of way, under continuous review, updating them with changes. However, the Definitive Map and Statement have not been consolidated since they were first published after the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act.

### PRIORITY POLICY

**Policy H2 Promotion of Active Travel and Healthy Activities:** Work in partnership to promote walking, cycling and horse riding as active travel options and healthy activities.

### H2 Policy Initiatives

- 4.37** **Promote opportunities and facilities:** Highlight opportunities for active travel and healthy activity by promoting new and existing facilities using appropriate media such as signage, walking and cycling maps, leaflets, events, internet sites and other technologies. This will focus on routes and sites that are accessible by modes of active travel or public transport (such as important leisure routes or key employment locations) and will involve working with health agencies to promote active travel and other activities as a lifestyle choice for all ages amongst residents and visitors.
- 4.38** **Organised walks, rides and activities:** Undertake and support organised walks, rides and other activities which encourage people to partake in healthy activities that they may not otherwise have the confidence or knowledge to do.
- 4.39** **Public information on the public rights of way network:** Enhance the accuracy of the Definitive Map and Statement and other records to provide up to date information in an accessible format.

H2 Related Initiatives	Policy
Influencing travel behaviour	S2 Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation

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H2 Related Initiatives	Policy
All initiatives within S7 Walking	S7 Walking
All initiatives within S8 Cycling	S8 Cycling
Facilitate sustainable development	B2 Enabling Development
Travel plan initiatives	B7 Business Innovation
Defect reporting and response times	B8 Maintenance
Community groups	C1 Community
Encourage sustainable travel	Y1 Travel to Education

## 4 Drive Out the Sources of Poor Health

### CASE STUDY

#### Walks for All Leaflet

In May 2010, the Council published a new 'Walks for All' leaflet. The leaflet details 10 walking routes across the borough which are suitable for those with children, pushchairs, wheelchairs and those with limited mobility.

Details of path surfaces and gradients, gates and gaps, public transport, parking, toilets and refreshment facilities are provided for each walk.

The booklet was developed with the help of local groups and individuals who advised on the content and layout to ensure that the correct information is presented to the reader in a clear format so that they can decide if a route is suitable for them.

Photo: A wheelchair user explores Brereton Heath Country Park, featured in the Walks for All leaflet



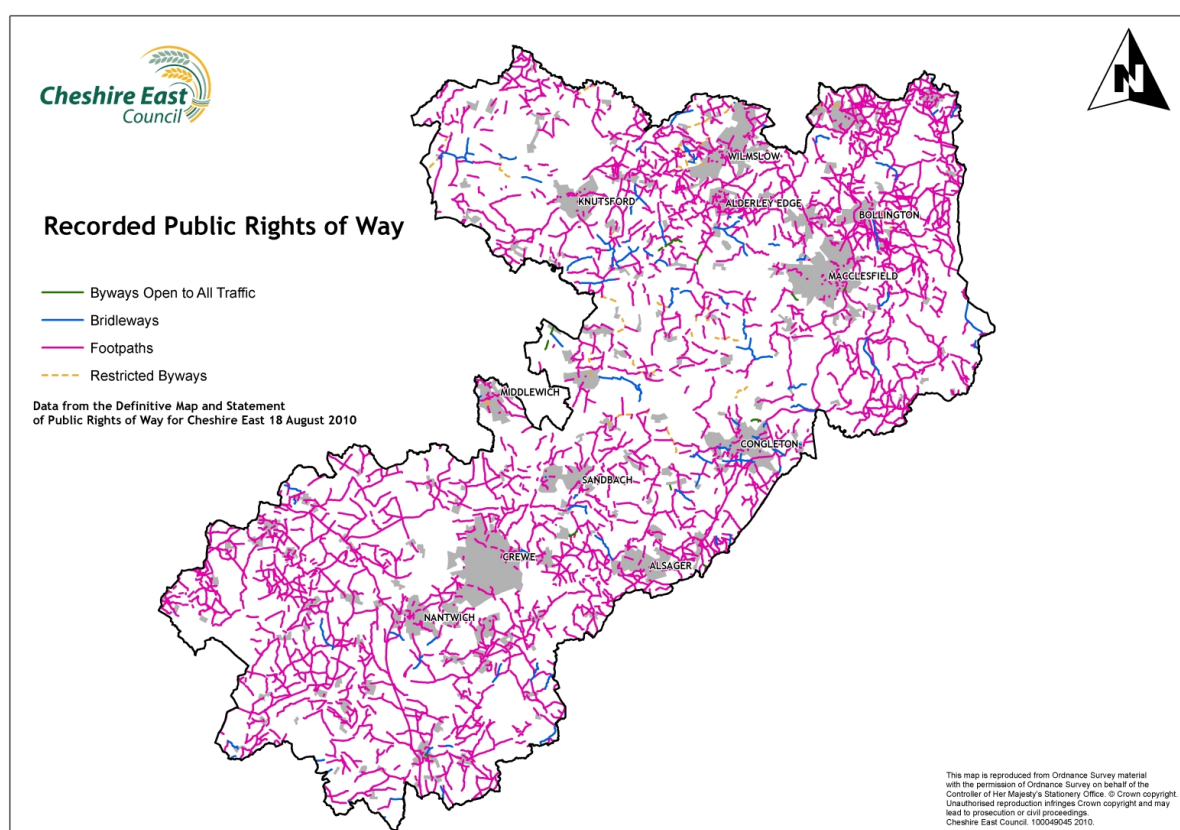
Image: press release (Cheshire East 'Talking East' staff newsletter) promoting the new Walks for All Leaflet

### Public Rights of Way & Green Infrastructure

- 4.40** The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence note that “[i]t is unreasonable to expect people to change their behaviours when the environment discourages such changes”<sup>t</sup>. The World Health Organisation also noted that improvements to the environmental determinants of physical activity appear to have greater potential than interventions at a personal, primary care level<sup>u</sup>.

## 4 Drive Out the Sources of Poor Health

- 4.41** It is clear that there won't be a significant increase in active travel and people undertaking healthy activity if the infrastructure on which that can be done is not provided. In other words, the policy of promoting of walking, cycling and horse riding will only be effective if developed in tandem with improvements in the routes along which people will walk, cycle and horse ride. These routes may be parts of the highway network used by pedestrians and cyclists (which are addressed more specifically in **Chapter 2: Sustainability**), but they will also often consist of Cheshire East's "green infrastructure" – which includes public rights of way, canal towpaths, other pathways, parks and the countryside.
- 4.42** A major component of the borough's green infrastructure is the public rights of way network. In 2010, Cheshire East's network of public rights of way, shown in **Figure 4.1**, totalled 1935 km or 1202 miles, equivalent to nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the length of the road network.
- 4.43** The network, however, offers a smaller proportion of routes available for horse riding and cycling than the national average.



**Figure 4.1: Recorded public rights of way network in Cheshire East**

- 4.44** Further, the provision of public rights of way is not even across the borough and specific areas have limited access, such as from the towns of Crewe, Macclesfield and Middlewich in to the surrounding countryside. Overall, public rights of way and green infrastructure are less concentrated in the south of Cheshire East than elsewhere in the borough.

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- 4.45** The Rights of Way Improvement Plan details further evidence of the existing network of public rights of way and green infrastructure. The degree to which the green infrastructure of the borough is accessible for disabled users is relatively unknown, however, but thought to be limited. Disabled people are recognised as amongst the 40% of the population who are ‘missing visitors’ to the countryside<sup>v</sup>.
- 4.46** It is estimated that 18% of the UK population have a disability<sup>w</sup>, which equates to a population of 64,926 within Cheshire East<sup>x</sup>. Further, it has been estimated that one in every 3 people either has a disability or has a close relative or friend who is disabled<sup>y</sup>. When it is considered that outings to the countryside and green spaces are most often made in groups rather than alone, it is evident that a large proportion of the population could be excluded or dissuaded from using green infrastructure if it is inaccessible to disabled users. Further, improving access for disabled people brings benefits to all users, in particular those with pushchairs or young children, those who walk with dogs and the older population.
- 4.47** The public rights of way network is recognised within the Cheshire East Draft Visitor Economy Strategic Framework as a valuable asset for the tourism industry<sup>z</sup>. Future development of the network needs to be undertaken sympathetically, taking account of location and local community aspirations.
- 4.48** A use and demand survey for the Countryside Agency<sup>aa</sup> found that only 4% of people going into the countryside used public transport to get to a site or route whereas the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) recommends that managers of green infrastructure should “[e]nsure public open spaces and public paths can be reached on foot, by bicycle and using other modes of transport involving physical activity. They should also be accessible by public transport”.
- 4.49** The perception of safety and security has an influence on whether people use green infrastructure. It is important that the design of new and improved infrastructure takes into accounts such concerns.
- 4.50** Future planning for green infrastructure needs to be delivered in line with policies and everyday decisions made across the Council, in planning and in highway design. Existing green infrastructure must be protected; while new green infrastructure must be well designed and strategically planned so that it is integrated into the urban and rural environments. All routes should be maintained to a reasonable standard to encourage on-going use of the infrastructure.
- 4.51** The aim of this policy is to maintain and improve the provision of green infrastructure, the connectivity of the network, to improve the provision for off-road cyclists and horse riders and the network’s accessibility for all users, including those with a disability. The development of routes to key destinations, including leisure and tourism sites, local services and access points to public



## 4 Drive Out the Sources of Poor Health

transport, should encourage residents to take advantage of healthy travel within their everyday lives, as well as contribute towards a reduction in air and noise pollution.

- 4.52** Some projects will be based on land within the authority's ownership, others will involve working with other landowners. For example, Cheshire East boasts a network of canals that are managed by British Waterways and which offer green corridors. The towpaths of these canals are available for walking and cycling as both leisure activities and as transport options; many of the canals provide links within and between towns.

### PRIORITY POLICY

**Policy H3 Public Rights of Way & Green Infrastructure:** Protect and enhance public rights of way and transport related green infrastructure and endeavour to create new links where beneficial for health or access to green spaces.

### H3 Policy Initiatives

- 4.53** **Access to green spaces:** Aim to improve access for all members of society, including disabled people, to and within green infrastructure, including the public rights of way network, town parks, public open space and country parks.
- 4.54** **Link key services:** Seek to improve links to key services (e.g. schools, community centres and tourism destinations) by routes and green infrastructure such as canal towpaths. Investments will include improving surfacing and signage and creating links where gaps exist in the network.
- 4.55** **Leisure routes for cyclists and horse riders:** Endeavour to create and enhance leisure routes for cyclists and horse riders on the public rights of way network and highway network.
- 4.56** **Litter, environmental health, safety and security:** Encourage users to reduce litter and improve environmental health, safety and other security concerns through education and clean-up campaigns.
- 4.57** **Country parks, town parks and public open space:** Ensure adequate maintenance and improvements of land within the Council's ownership that is used for formal and informal public access and recreation, at a local level and sites which are tourism destinations.

H3 Related Initiatives	Policy
Various initiatives within S7 Walking	S7 Walking
Various initiatives within S8 Cycling	S8 Cycling
Facilitate sustainable development	B2 Enabling development



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H3 Related Initiatives	Policy
Developer contributions	B2 Enabling Development
Defect reporting and response times	B8 Maintenance
Local minor infrastructure improvements	C1 Community
Community groups	C1 Community

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### CASE STUDY

#### Nantwich Riverside Loop

Together with British Waterways and a number of local community groups, the Council developed the Nantwich Riverside Loop; a 5 km (3 mile), waymarked, circular walk.

It is hoped that the Nantwich Riverside Loop will encourage both residents and visitors to explore on foot and cycle further than they previously would have done, progressing from urban park land in the Riverside to more open countryside. The Loop will introduce members of the public who would not normally use the public rights of way network or canal towpaths to the facilities that are freely available to them both in the local area and elsewhere in Cheshire East.

Photo: A walker on the towpath of the Shropshire Union Canal, part of the Nantwich Riverside Loop walk.



## 4 Drive Out the Sources of Poor Health

### Air Quality & Noise Pollution

#### Air Quality

- 4.58** Medical evidence shows that exposure to nitrogen dioxide has both long- and short-term health effects. Long term exposure to nitrogen dioxide has been shown to effect lung function and respiratory systems, and has been linked to asthma. Short term exposure to higher levels can irritate the eyes and lungs, cause shortness of breath. Health impacts are likely to be more severe in sensitive individuals (elderly, young and those with underlying health conditions). Other pollutants, such as particulates have been shown to have no safe threshold, and as such any reduction in exposure to these pollutants will potentially have health benefits for a wider population.
- 4.59** It is therefore important to reduce air pollution in areas where exposure occurs, and provide high quality information to sensitive individuals allowing people to alter their lifestyles to reduce the effects of pollution.
- 4.60** The Environment Act 1995 requires that Local Authorities undertake a regular assessment of air quality within their area. Ambient levels of seven key pollutants are assessed against health based objectives<sup>ab</sup>.
- 4.61** Where concentrations of pollutants are exceeding (or likely to exceed) these objectives, at locations where members of the public will be exposed, the Council is required to declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and develop an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) which outlines measures to reduce concentrations, and work towards meeting air quality objectives.
- 4.62** Through the programme of Local Air Quality Management, the Council has determined the main pollutant of concern is Nitrogen Dioxide, generated primarily from road vehicles. In areas where people live in close proximity to busy, or congested roads, exposure to unacceptable levels of nitrogen dioxide has been found to occur, and as a result there are 12 AQMA's declared within the borough (2010) covering some areas along the following roads:
- A6 Disley
  - A556 Mere
  - A50 Knutsford
  - A523 Macclesfield
  - A34 Congleton (two areas)
  - A54 Congleton
  - M6 (Junction 18) Cranage
  - A534 / A5022 Sandbach
  - A534 Nantwich
  - A534 Crewe
  - A532 Crewe
- 4.63** There are further areas where levels of nitrogen dioxide have been found to be of concern, and the Council is currently undertaking a more detailed assessment in these areas to determine if it is necessary to declare additional AQMA's.

## 4 Drive Out the Sources of Poor Health

- 4.64** To address the specific air quality challenges, the Council will adopt a strategic approach to local air quality management aimed at improving air quality in AQMAs and across the borough. Preparing an Air Quality Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan as a complimentary “daughter document” to the LTP has a number of advantages:
- it embeds air quality into the transport planning process – recognising that the primary source of air pollution in the borough is road traffic and that actions to reduce air pollution are invariably focused on traffic;
  - By adopting an exposure reduction approach to limit harmful effects on health; it ensures an integrated approach, where benefits and risks are considered throughout land use and transport planning; and,
  - Avoids any unintended impacts from one policy area to another.
- 4.65** The Air Quality Action Plan will outline a suite of measures aimed at improving air quality, and will show on a cost-benefit basis the likely impact of measures designed to achieve improvements to air quality.
- 4.66** Alongside the LTP process, the Council will also seek to manage the emission impacts of new development, and help deliver wider sustainable development goals, through the preparation and adoption of supplementary planning guidance on based on a Low Emission Strategy (LES). The guidance will aim to accelerate the uptake of low emission technologies and reduce transport related emissions from proposed development.

### Noise

- 4.67** Noise from road transport has been shown to rank highly as a source of annoyance. In addition, noise from vehicles on the highway is not subject to nuisance controls available to the Councils. Similarly to air quality, noise has the greatest impact at properties located closest to busy roads, however there can also be significant impacts further afield.
- 4.68** The non-auditory health impacts of environmental noise are well documented. Noise annoyance has been shown to have an impact on overall health and wellbeing, in particular causing sleep disturbance, increased stress and anxiety. It is important to ensure that where exposure is excessive, steps are taken to mitigate the impact.
- 4.69** When a new road is constructed, or existing roads substantially altered there is a requirement to assess the noise impact of that road, and provide noise insulation, or compensation to properties that qualify under the Noise Insulation Regulations 1975.
- 4.70** On a broader scale, and in accordance with the Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006, noise maps have been produced for major roads, railways, airports industrial sites in large agglomerations (initially with populations greater than 250,000).

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- 4.71** For the second round of mapping, due to commence in 2012, in addition to re-mapping the areas covered in the first round, roads having more than 3 million vehicle passages per year and railways with more than 30,000 train passages per year are to be mapped. All agglomerations with a population of over 100,000 will also be mapped. The actual roads, railways and agglomerations to be mapped in the second round will be subject to confirmation based on the most up to date data available at the time.
- 4.72** Cheshire East has 9 roads (non-Highways Agency) which have been identified as First Priority Locations through the first round mapping exercise:
- Middlewich – A54 eastern and western extents of town and towards Sproston Green.
  - Crewe – A530 near Wistaston
  - Plumley – A556 (various properties between Lostock Gralam and M6.
  - Knutsford – A50 north of town
  - Alderley Edge – A34 south of Harden Park
  - Wilmslow – A538 north of town
  - Macclesfield – A523 Gas Road
  - Macclesfield – A523 near Butley
  - Adlington – A523 (also railway priority).
- 4.73** Following identification of priority locations on the M6, the Highways Authority is required to assess the areas, and consider what measures (if any) can be taken in each area to aid the management of noise.
- 4.74** Transportation noise impacts will be managed through local implementation of the Environmental Noise Directive and the following measures:
- Implementation of national legislation which provides façade mitigation (e.g. double glazing, sound barriers, etc.) for qualifying properties; and
  - The ongoing improvement to road surfaces with low noise surface technologies.

### Air quality & noise challenges

- 4.75** A number of key challenges have been identified which have an impact on air pollution and/or transport noise.
- 4.76** One of the primary challenges within Cheshire East is the high volume of traffic on some of the roads, leading to increased emissions of vehicle related pollution. Cheshire has been shown to have a high proportion of car ownership (82% in 2001 against a UK average of 72%), and an equally high proportion of families with more than one vehicle (40% in 2001 against a UK average of 29%).
- 4.77** The predominant means of commuting in Cheshire East is the car, with only a small proportion of residents (4% in 2001) using public transport to commute to work.



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- 4.78** Tackling congestion is a key factor in reducing emissions. Free flowing traffic produces less pollution than “stop start”, or stationary traffic. Many of the market towns within Cheshire East have narrow streets with residents living in very close proximity to the road, and traffic flow is often impeded by on street parking, goods vehicles servicing shops and other activities.
- 4.79** Freight movements have an impact on air and noise quality and pollution within Cheshire East. “Source apportionment” undertaken as part of the Local Air Quality Management Process shows that, in a number of the Air Quality Management Areas, emissions of nitrogen dioxide from Heavy Goods Vehicles are disproportionately high when compared to emissions from other categories of roads user (cars for example).
- 4.80** New development also has the potential to adversely affect both air quality and transport noise, partly from the development’s own activities (for example boiler emissions, or manufacturing noise), but more often from increased road traffic, or changes to traffic patterns on the wider highway network as a result of the development.
- 4.81** Specific policy initiatives to address noise and air quality are set out below. Initiatives relating to Public Transport, Freight, Network Management, Cycling, Walking and Climate Change are set out in **Chapter 2: Sustainability** and **Chapter 3: Business**. These policy initiatives are all likely to lead to benefits to local air quality.

### POLICY

**Policy H4 Air Quality:** Work to improve air quality in the borough.

### POLICY

**Policy H5 Noise:** Seek to reduce the impact of noise pollution from transport.

### H4 & H5 Policy Initiatives

- 4.82** **Public information:** Work to raise awareness of air quality issues, and communicate the results of air quality monitoring through development of a web portal. Consider providing targeted, health based advice to sensitive individuals allowing them to adjust lifestyles according to air pollution forecasts.
- 4.83** **Driver technique:** Undertake a series of sector specific campaigns aimed at better awareness of how improved driver technique can reduce vehicle emissions. Raise overall awareness of how driver technique can impact emissions through the website. Place signage at strategic areas where



## 4 Drive Out the Sources of Poor Health

vehicle engine idling leads to increased emissions and explore the feasibility of adopting legislation to enforce the switching off of idling engines within AQMAs.

**4.84 Vehicle emission testing:** Undertake roadside emission testing of vehicles to ensure they meet vehicle emission regulations.

**4.85 New technology:** Continue to investigate innovative techniques and encourage adoption of new technology designed to improve local air quality – e.g. photo-catalytic paint.

**4.86 Quiet surfacing systems:** Where necessary for environmental reasons utilise 'low noise' surfacing materials in its highway maintenance activities.

H4 & H5 Related Initiatives	Policy
Transport assessment of strategic site proposals	S1 Spatial Planning
Strategic joint working	S2 Climate Change – Mitigation & Adaptation
Influence travel behaviour	S2 Climate Change – Mitigation & Adaptation
All initiatives within S3-6 Public Transport	S3-6 Public Transport
Hybrid and electric vehicles	S9 Technology & Energy Efficiency
Facilitate sustainable development	B2 Enabling Development
Developer contributions	B2 Enabling Development
Network and route planning	B3 Network Management
Junction efficiency	B3 Network Management
All initiatives within B5 Freight	B5 Freight
Parking management	B6 Parking
Transport Asset Management Plan	B8 Maintenance

## 4 Drive Out the Sources of Poor Health

### CASE STUDY

#### Application of Photo-Catalytic Paint

Awareness has in recent years been steadily growing that titanium dioxide in the form of photo-catalytic products, appeared to be a promising technology for the removal of nitrogen dioxide from ambient air. It was deemed a suitable, interim mitigation option for Cheshire East where traditional methods or re-routing traffic may not be feasible, or whilst longer term measures are implemented.

A pilot study has been undertaken within an Air Quality Management Area in Congleton. Solution was applied to approximately 200m<sup>2</sup> of paving, a number of residential properties and street furniture in late 2008.

Nitrogen dioxide concentrations were notably reduced following application of the solution, and there was a measured reduction of 34% over a 12-month period. The results of the study demonstrated that the use of photo-catalytic products may be an effective mitigation measure on reducing nitrogen dioxide concentrations within Air Quality Management Areas.

There are plans to undertake further studies within AQMA's of differing topography, and geography to enable further assessment of the impact.

The study has prompted interest amongst national and international air quality experts.



Photo: application of Photo-catalytic paint (left) and the area sprayed (Right) in West Road, Congleton

## 4 Drive Out the Sources of Poor Health

### Road Safety

- 4.87** The Road Traffic Act 1988 places a duty on all local authorities to identify those road users most at-risk of death or injury and implement measures that are appropriate to reduce crashes.
- 4.88** While the general health of people in Cheshire East is predominantly better than the national average; the number of road injuries and deaths in the area are significantly worse than the national average<sup>ac</sup>. The cost of road death and injury in 2009 alone is calculated at £105m<sup>ad</sup>.
- 4.89** The Community Survey 2008 identified that 68% of residents in Cheshire East had been involved in a road traffic crash or collision, of these accidents 18% had resulted in a minor injury and 9% had resulted in a more serious injury. Unlawful acts are contributory factors in almost half of road traffic collisions in Cheshire East, with one in five associated with alcohol impairment<sup>ae</sup>.
- 4.90** An analysis of traffic accidents where people are killed or seriously injured (KSIs) in Cheshire East (2005-2009) identified an overall downward trend since 1998, however, more recently the rate of reduction has begun to level out. Moreover, a significant proportion of these reductions have been achieved on motorway and trunk roads. In their 2010 Cheshire East Profile Report, the Cheshire Safer Roads Partnership (CSRP) noted that when these roads are excluded, the average number of KSIs in Cheshire East has remained relatively constant, albeit with some year-on-year variations<sup>af</sup>.
- 4.91** The CSRP has identified young adult road users (16 to 25 years) and powered-two-wheelers as the top two at risk road user groups. These groups accounted for 49% of all KSIs between 2005 and 2009<sup>ag</sup>. Key statistics include:
- 61% of all young adult road user KSIs during this period were car occupants (either as a driver or passenger), with males twice as likely to be killed or seriously injured<sup>ah</sup>.
  - In terms of all powered-two-wheeler KSIs, 50% of accidents can be attributed to 36-45 year old males riding 500cc+ motorbikes.
  - Of the 266 KSIs on Cheshire East roads in 2009, only 28 were children although there is a steady rise in child KSIs over the last decade.
  - Of all cyclist KSIs, 36-55 year olds contribute to almost half (48%) and the vast majority of these (80%) are male.
- 4.92** By supporting greater road safety education and enforcement at high risk sites, the Council aims to reduce the overall rate of road traffic incidents in Cheshire East.
- 4.93** The engineering of highways and junctions can also have a significant impact on the number of road traffic incidents experienced at these sites. Examples of positive action include rectifying sites with poor visibility, lighting or drainage, inappropriate crossing design, or below standard corner radius or road camber.

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### POLICY

**Policy H6 Road Safety (Education):** Work with partners to improve road safety through targeted education campaigns.

#### H6 Policy Initiatives

- 4.94 Target high risk groups:** Work with local and sub-regional partners including, the Police, Cheshire Fire and Rescue and other external organisations to provide education and training services to high risk groups (e.g. young adults, and motorcyclists). The Council will also undertake an evaluation of existing education and training campaigns to measure the impact they are having on the number of KSI incidents in the borough and ensure effective delivery.
- 4.95 National behavioural campaigns:** Better inform all drivers and riders of the consequences of excessive speed, alcohol impairment and not wearing seatbelts, as well as improving observation skills through the use of national behavioural campaigns.
- 4.96 Cyclist training:** Work with schools, employers and in local communities to provide road safety training to cyclists identified as having a high level of risk in the borough and promote the use of active travel.

### POLICY

**Policy H7 Road Safety (Enforcement):** Work with partners to improve road safety through targeted enforcement in high risk areas.

#### H7 Policy Initiatives

- 4.97 Speed cameras:** Support the use of existing speed cameras at high risk sites to encourage drivers and riders to abide by speed limits. Undertake an evaluation of the impact of installing average speed cameras on roads identified as having a particularly high level of collisions for at-risk road user groups.
- 4.98 Innovative enforcement schemes:** Support targeted innovative enforcement schemes to enhance road safety in towns and villages and on rural roads. For example, using peak time collision data to target specific at-risk groups, considering temporary introduction of Speed Indication Devices (SIDs) or assistance with informal community speed camera enforcement schemes.

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H7 Related Initiative	Policy
Community-led initiatives	C1 Community

### PRIORITY POLICY

**Policy H8 Road Safety (Engineering):** The Council will improve road safety through highway design improvements at collision blackspots.

### H8 Policy Initiatives

- 4.99 Local safety schemes:** Contribute towards the reduction in the number of road traffic incidents by undertaking appropriate highway design improvements where evidence identifies a collision of casualty problem – then undertake appropriate evaluation to ensure future effectiveness.
- 4.100 Vulnerable road users:** Take account of the needs of vulnerable road users (e.g. pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders) and the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 when undertaking highway design. The Network Management Plan will set out a road user hierarchy to identify the circumstances where pedestrians and cyclist will be given priority on the highway network – see **Chapter 3: Business** for details.
- 4.101 Quiet lanes:** Consider the viability of introducing ‘Quiet Lanes’ in villages to enhance pedestrian and cycling road safety using appropriate best practice guidance.

H8 Related Initiative	Policy
Safer routes to school	Y1 Travel to Education

## 4 Drive Out the Sources of Poor Health

### End Notes

- a. 2001 Census.
- b. Chief Medical Officer's Report (2004) At least 5 times a week: evidence on the impact of physical activity and its relationship to health, Department of Health, London
- c. Chief Medical Officer's Report (2004) At least 5 times a week: evidence on the impact of physical activity and its relationship to health, Department of Health, London
- d. Department of Health (2009) Be Active, Be Healthy – A Plan for Getting the Nation Moving
- e. Department for Transport (2007) National travel survey 2006, London
- f. Chief Medical Officer's Report (2004) At least 5 times a week: evidence on the impact of physical activity and its relationship to health, Department of Health, London
- g. House of Commons Health Committee (2004) Obesity: Third report of session 2003-2004
- h. World Health Organisation (2005) Health effects of transport-related air pollution.
- i. Stephen A Stansfeld and Mark P Matheson (2003) Noise pollution: non-auditory effects on health, British Medical Bulletin 68:243-257
- j. Central and Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust (2010) Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
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### 5 Nurture Strong Communities

#### Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) Priorities

- 5.1** Over the next 15 years the SCS seeks to ensure that local people will be actively involved in shaping the future of where they live. The SCS has identified four priorities for action in nurturing strong communities in Cheshire East. These are:
- Let local voices take the lead
  - Support the community to support itself
  - Deliver services as locally as possible
  - Ensure communities feel safe
- 5.2** Communities depend on local transport to get to work, to school, to the hospital, shops or GP surgery. However, the ease of access to services is not just about transport, it is also about how key services are planned and delivered. The aim is to work with partner organisations, town & parish councils and community & voluntary groups to identify solutions that will improve the way in which local communities can access services now and in the future.

#### Evidence Overview

- 5.3** The 2008 Community Survey found that 93% of respondents liked living in the area and 61% felt that they belonged to a community. Cheshire East has a strong town and parish council network, pro-active town partnerships, neighbourhood action groups and a strong volunteer force. Residents are proud of the levels of community activity and see this as one of the strengths of the area. There are many examples of community-led solutions to transport problems, such as community car schemes and informal car sharing.
- 5.4** Cheshire East contains a diverse mixture of urban and rural areas with approximately 39% of the population living in rural areas and 61% in towns, suburbs and larger villages. The ease with which people can access services such as work, healthcare, education and shopping is an important and challenging issue, particularly for rural communities.
- 5.5** The profile report for each Local Area Partnership (LAP) has identified the proportion of households located within 2km of a range of key services. The results indicate that access to services across each LAP varies. Nantwich and Knutsford have a lower than average access across a range of services. However, Congleton, Crewe, Wilmslow and to a lesser extent Macclesfield experience higher-than-average access to most services. This constitutes a benefit of the more urban composition of these LAP areas.
- 5.6** There are some neighbourhoods in Cheshire East which are classified as being in the 20% most deprived nationally. The majority (10 out of 14) of these neighbourhoods are in Crewe town, with the rest in Macclesfield and Congleton

## 5 Nurture Strong Communities

towns, and the Wilmslow-Handforth conurbation. A greater proportion of households in these areas do not have access to a car and many rely on public transport to access key services.

### Stakeholder Opinion

- 5.7** Stakeholders recognised the important role that transport can play in supporting communities – in particular, stakeholders identified accessibility to services from rural areas as a key issue – however, nurture strong communities was not identified as a priority theme for transport.
- 5.8** Reducing the need to travel by providing services locally or remotely, better partnership working and working with existing networks/community groups to facilitate a better understanding of local transport needs were seen to be important and applicable to all the SCS themes.
- 5.9** In terms of possible initiatives, members of the LAPs expressed greatest support for increasing the role of taxi services to meet community needs and providing practical support for community groups in meeting community transport needs (e.g. lift services organised by communities).
- 5.10** Stakeholders also recommended a range of other opportunities to nurture strong communities including: joined-up service delivery to address loss of local services (e.g. post office closures); communication to understand community needs; and supporting local community groups and local councils to ensure that town and parish plans are at the heart of local decision making. Stakeholder suggestions are reflected in the draft policies wherever possible.

### LTP Objectives

#### RELEVANT OBJECTIVES

**Objective 4 (Community):** Support community involvement and decision-making.

**Objective 2 (Accessibility):** Improve access to key services (employment, education, health, shopping and leisure) and reduce the need to travel.

**Objective 7 (Safety):** Improve road safety for all users and increase personal and community safety.

## 5 Nurture Strong Communities

### Transport Challenges & Policy Solutions

#### Community

- 5.11** Cohesive, empowered and active communities in which people can influence the decisions that affect their locality is at the heart of the SCS for Cheshire East. Local services which are tailored to the needs of local communities will help to maintain the distinctiveness of towns and villages.
- 5.12** It is recognised that local communities are often best placed to identify their own transport needs and to develop local transport solutions. Many communities across the borough have a history of self help and coming up with innovative ways of serving local people, whether it be giving someone a lift to a doctor's appointment, or saving a post office by relocating it to the local pub. This is particularly important in rural areas where access to mainstream services is more difficult.
- 5.13** There is a need to assess the extent to which transport and accessibility issues contribute to deprivation, particularly in the areas which are classified as being in the 20% most deprived nationally. The Council will work in partnership with communities to understand the complex range of transport needs at a local level and support where possible community-led solutions.
- 5.14** Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) bring together the key agencies within localities to ensure engagement with communities, provide empowerment opportunities and improve service delivery through the development of robust, evidence based Area Delivery Plans. The Council will work with the LAPs, town & parish councils and community & voluntary groups to facilitate a better understanding of transport and accessibility needs and work together to explore potential solutions.
- 5.15** In order to empower local communities, the Council are exploring opportunities to transfer and devolve functions within localities. The purpose of this devolution is to improve local services by involving town and parish councils in service delivery and promoting local ownership of services. The transport-related services which may be devolved include maintenance of bus shelters, maintenance of footpaths and street name plates, bridleways and road sweeping.
- 5.16** In developing the range of LTP policies, a full assessment of each town and parish plan has been undertaken to ensure that appropriate policies for Cheshire East are adopted. This assessment will feed into the development of transport frameworks for each principal town and key service centre during the first implementation plan period (for more details see **Chapter 8: Towns**).
- 5.17** There are opportunities to nurture the development of grass roots initiatives and empower local people to develop a range of community-led solutions.

## 5 Nurture Strong Communities

### PRIORITY POLICY

**Policy C1 Community:** Work in partnership with local communities to support community-led solutions that improve accessibility to key services (employment, education, health, shopping and leisure).

#### C1 Policy Initiatives

- 5.18 Community engagement:** Encourage communities to identify and prioritise transport and accessibility issues relevant to their community – town and parish plans and LAP “Area Delivery Plans” may help facilitate this process.
- 5.19 Community-led initiatives:** Adopt a flexible and open approach to community identified initiatives and support local people to develop a range of community-led solutions, such as voluntary car schemes, car share schemes and community speed reduction initiatives.
- 5.20 Local service delivery:** Support initiatives to provide access to services locally, including mobile service delivery (e.g. libraries) and local delivery hubs. This may include the provision of some services by town and parish councils.
- 5.21 Local minor infrastructure improvements:** Implement small-scale improvements to local transport facilities and services identified in town and parish plans and other community plans (e.g. LAP “Area Delivery Plans”).
- 5.22 Community groups:** Utilise the knowledge and expertise of specialist interest groups, such as Cheshire East Cycling Forum, Community Rail Partnerships and Low Carbon Communities (LCC).

### CASE STUDY

#### Rural Accessibility - Audlem

As part of a North West Accessibility & Regeneration Study, Audlem was selected as a case study to explore access to services in a rural settlement with close ties to larger neighbouring employment and service areas.

The study found that the changing nature of village life towards commuting to urban centres has had a number of positive and negative impacts on Audlem village. The demand for local services has reduced as car ownership has risen, and access to employment and key services by car has resulted in more people travelling further.

One of the key successes found in Audlem was the role of the local community in bringing people together, providing voluntary support, and representing local opinion in an effective manner. The Parish Plan, Village Design Statement, Audlem Online and the range of community events are just some of the positive messages.

The case study found that many people who live in Audlem feel the advantage of living in a rural village is that people look out for each other. For example, it was identified through the focus groups that Audlem has a group of volunteers who offer a taxi service for people wanting to access Leighton Hospital. The service enables local residents with transport problems to attend hospital, dentist, chiropody and surgery appointments.



This local support network is evidence that people living in Audlem recognise the issues faced by local people and work together to support people within their village. The Audlem community have a strong culture of self help and coming up with innovative ways of serving local people. The success of community initiatives to tackle rural accessibility problems should be an important lesson for other areas across Cheshire East.



## 5 Nurture Strong Communities

### Accessibility of Services

- 5.23** Many people in Cheshire East have good access to services; however, there are a significant number of people for whom accessing key services is a real challenge. This section outlines the 'places' where access to services can be challenging and the 'people' who experience accessibility problems which may also be linked to issues of deprivation and social exclusion.
- 5.24** The national indices of deprivation suggest that several of Cheshire East's rural communities experience significant levels of deprivation in terms of geographical barriers to services. The most affected communities are located in the area covered by the Nantwich Local Area Partnership.
- 5.25** In addition, local accessibility mapping has identified the rural communities with limited access to conventional fixed route public transport services (albeit excluding 'demand responsive' solutions such as Dial-a-ride, which cannot easily be mapped). The challenges to rural accessibility include greater distances to travel, less concentrated levels of demand for public transport and the increasing loss of local service provision.
- 5.26** However, living in a rural area does not necessarily translate to a problem of access to services, as many of these communities have high car ownership and often do not consider themselves to be experiencing difficulties. Therefore, activities to address rural accessibility must be targeted at the people for whom accessing essential services is a real challenge.
- 5.27** Consultation with rural communities has found that older people often experience accessibility problems as they may become less mobile and less inclined to drive as they get older (see **Chapter 7: Older people**). Young people can also experience accessibility problems linked to availability and affordability of transport (see **Chapter 6: Young people**).
- 5.28** Research by Cheshire Community Action has found that transport which is flexible and responsive to local needs is a top priority for rural communities. Community transport initiatives, such as dial-a-ride and community car schemes, were highly valued in providing journeys for older people and disabled passengers to a range of essential key services.
- 5.29** Many people are concerned about the loss of local services and the potential for isolation and disadvantage as many village shops, post offices and pubs continue to close. Community buildings can host numerous other services and with 144 village halls in Cheshire East there is a significant physical resource of buildings in which more localised services can be provided.
- 5.30** People without regular access to a car often experience difficulties in accessing key services. The lowest levels of car ownership are concentrated in the areas classified as being in the 20% most deprived nationally. 40% of households in West Coppenhall & Grosvenor in Crewe have no access to a car, which was the highest percentage in Cheshire East.

## 5 Nurture Strong Communities

- 5.31** However, Crewe has an extensive commercial bus network with good availability of services during peak hours of the day. The accessibility problems experienced by these communities are often more closely associated with affordability of travel and off peak journeys, particularly for shift workers (early mornings and late evenings).
- 5.32** In addressing deprivation there is a need to consider a range of issues and potential solutions to reduce the inequalities in household incomes (access to work), educational attainment (access to schools & colleges) and health (access to hospitals & GP surgery). This may include assessing the location of services, safety and security concerns at transport interchanges and people's travel horizons (e.g. confidence to travel longer distances), as well as the availability and cost of transport.
- 5.33** An increasing number of retailers and service providers make their goods and services available online, reducing the need to travel to service outlets. The majority of households in Cheshire East can access broadband with the exception of a small number of areas (often referred to as 'blindspots'), which are concentrated in the rural parts of the borough. In addition, the diversity of service providers and speed of the connection is weaker in rural areas.
- 5.34** In order to improve access to goods and services it is important for all areas of Cheshire East to have access to high quality broadband infrastructure. The aim is to reduce the digital divide and ensure that there is parity in the provision of broadband services for those that live and work in rural areas with that available in nearby towns.
- 5.35** However, it is also recognised that the affordability of broadband may be an issue in low income households, particularly in deprived neighbourhoods in the urban areas of the borough. Promoting outlets which offer community access to internet services, such as libraries and internet cafés could be targeted to areas of deprivation.
- 5.36** In summary, the Council will seek to improve accessibility through a combination of effective transport links and working with partners to explore new ways of service provision. This will include effective use of technology and making better use of local facilities (such as village halls and community centres) to deliver joined-up services. It is essential that communities have a strong voice in determining decisions that are made, so that services are responsive to the needs of local communities.

### PRIORITY POLICY

**Policy C2 Accessibility of Services:** Work with partner organisations and local communities to make key services easier to access with a particular focus on disadvantaged groups and areas, including people living in rural areas, older people, young people and those without access to a car.

## 5 Nurture Strong Communities

### C2 Policy Initiatives

- 5.37 Key service location:** Work with service providers (NHS, schools, colleges, leisure centres) to ensure that changes to service location do not have a detrimental impact on accessibility for vulnerable groups and isolated people.
- 5.38 Multi-use premises:** Work with service providers to explore the opportunity to utilise existing community facilities to provide a wider range of services locally (e.g. village halls & community centres).
- 5.39 Rural taxi services:** Further utilise the role of taxis and private hire vehicles by investigating innovative taxi-sharing initiatives serving rural areas, and ensuring adequate availability of taxi services covering such areas.
- 5.40 Access to employment, skills and education:** Work with employers and education providers to ensure that future and (where possible) existing sites are as accessible as possible to local communities, particularly young people from areas of deprivation.
- 5.41 Sustainable communities:** Encourage communities to “live local, work local, buy local” to support the viability of local services, promote home delivery of goods which cannot be purchased locally and increase the availability of allotments to facilitate access to affordable healthy food.

C2 Related Initiatives	Policy
Broadband infrastructure	B7 Business Innovation
Supported services	S4 Public Transport (Service Levels & Reliability)
New commercial opportunities	S4 Public Transport (Service Levels & Reliability)
Multi-media information	S5 Public Transport (Information & Marketing)

### CASE STUDY

#### Community Transport - Gawsworth

The village of Gawsworth is situated approximately two miles outside the town of Macclesfield. The financial cost of maintaining a Tuesday only local bus service for the village of Gawsworth was unsustainable, yet this service provided essential accessibility to shopping, personal business and other needs of those residents using this service.

In response to this, a community transport service was introduced. By changing the day of operation to Friday, it was possible to use existing community transport resources, therefore the service could be provided at marginal additional cost, which is met by fare income. Close engagement with service users was necessary, particularly as the new service required residents to register and pre book their journeys. However, this has subsequently proven to be successful, with service users accepting and understanding how the new service works for them.

The LTP will seek further opportunities to rationalise services and increase sustainable accessibility for rural residents.

### Access for All

- 5.42** People with mobility problems and disabled people often experience difficulties in using the transport system to access key services. Transport policy and planning should influence the effective location and delivery of services, such that they are as accessible as possible to all users.
- 5.43** In addition, improvements in the physical accessibility of public transport will go some way towards better meeting the needs of all users within 'mainstream' transport. The provision of accessible buses is important to ensure that older people, disabled people, wheelchair users and people with pushchairs are afforded equal access to bus transport.
- 5.44** The English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) enables free bus travel after 9.30am to all eligible older people and disabled people. The concession provides greater freedom and independence to some of the most vulnerable people in our society, representing a major step forward in tackling social exclusion.
- 5.45** The Council currently operates a number of discretionary enhancements to the scheme, such as half fare travel before 9.30am and the ability to use the pass on Dial-a-Ride services. The enhancements extend the advantages of the scheme, particularly for those who live in areas with limited bus services.

## 5 Nurture Strong Communities

- 5.46** As part of the concessionary travel scheme, the Council currently offers both the Senior Railcard and Disabled Persons Railcard to eligible residents at a discounted price through the power of bulk buying directly from National Rail.



- 5.47** In terms of adult social care, the Council currently provide a total of 1,200 journeys each day. The majority of these customers are aged over 60. The service provides access to a range of facilities including day-care centres and healthcare. However, the provision of transport is set to change as part of the social care redesign programme.
- 5.48** The introduction of the personalisation agenda and devolved care budgets mean that clients will in future be allocated an allowance for transport costs. People will be given freedom in how they spend this budget, how much they spend on transport and indeed, how they choose to travel. This will result in a demand led and demand responsive approach to transport.
- 5.49** Disabled people in receipt of the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance are eligible for a number of concessions including the Blue Badge scheme, which enables mobility impaired people to park on the street close to key services where there are no waiting restrictions in place.

## 5 Nurture Strong Communities

- 5.50** 'Shopmobility' schemes assist people with mobility problems to access local shops and services by providing wheelchairs and electric scooters that are made available for hire in local town centres. 'Shopmobility' forms an integral part of the journey for a person with mobility problems, enabling them to retain a level of independence.
- 5.51** Currently there are four Shopmobility centres around the borough (Macclesfield, Crewe, Nantwich and Wilmslow), with a fifth (Congleton) in progress. This will expand the access of Shopmobility schemes and provision for mobility vehicles and enable more people to access the scheme.
- 5.52** In addition, Independent Travel Training supports people with disabilities and learning difficulties to gain the essential skills they need to access 'mainstream' public transport services. The training has been highly valued by users helping them to gain independence and greater social inclusion.
- 5.53** The Council will work with users to better understand the diverse range of needs (e.g. visual impairment, learning difficulties, wheelchair users) and develop initiatives to support access to public transport for all.

### PRIORITY POLICY

**Policy C3 Access for all:** Consider the diverse range of needs concerning disabled people and other groups who experience difficulties using the transport system.

### C3 Policy Initiatives

- 5.54** **Accessibility audits:** Undertake regular assessments of key transport infrastructure, such as railway stations and bus interchanges, to ensure that they are accessible for those with mobility constraints and disabled people.
- 5.55** **Accessible vehicles:** Encourage operators to replace older bus and rail vehicles with high quality fully accessible buses or carriages that enable easy access and provide a comfortable journey for all users.
- 5.56** **Accessible information:** Support the provision of transport information in a range of formats to increase access to this information (e.g. for partially sighted or disabled people).
- 5.57** **Independent travel training:** Support people with disabilities and learning difficulties to gain the essential skills they need (e.g. confidence) to access 'mainstream' public transport services.
- 5.58** **Social care transport options:** Facilitate informed choices and decision-making through easier access to information on travel options for accessing facilities (e.g. day care centres), particularly in relation to the social care redesign programme and independent travel budgets.



## 5 Nurture Strong Communities

- 5.59 Concessionary bus travel:** Review current criteria to ensure it offers value for money and supports broader policy objectives. Additional discretionary elements to consider will include introduction of companion bus passes and/or taxi vouchers.
- 5.60 Concessionary rail cards:** Promote the national scheme offered to older people and people with disabilities.



C3 Related Initiatives	Policy
Access to green spaces	H3 Public Rights of Way & Green Infrastructure
Bus driver training	S4 Public Transport (Service Levels & Reliability)
Computerised booking systems	S5 Public Transport (Information & Publicity)
Footpath & footway improvements	S7 Walking

### CASE STUDY

#### Independent Travel Training

Independent Travel Training supports people with disabilities and learning difficulties to gain the essential skills they need to access mainstream public transport services gaining independence, helping achievement of greater social inclusion.

A pilot scheme has been set up in Cheshire East to assist students attending local schools and colleges. Students from these educational establishments have benefited by improving their access to further education, training and employment and reduced their dependency on specialist or personalised transport arrangements provided by the Council.

Students at Reaseheath College who have participated in the travel training course have thoroughly enjoyed the process. One student called his first day of using the college bus his 'independence day' as he has spent most of his school life travelling by taxi and this was his first step towards adulthood.

### Crime & Terrorism

- 5.61** Despite the reduction in the number of actual crimes committed within Cheshire East, fear of crime remains high. A considerable number of respondents to locally conducted surveys in the former District Council areas indicated that they felt very (Macclesfield: 12%; Crewe and Nantwich: 14% and Congleton 11%) or quite (Macclesfield: 55%; Crewe and Nantwich: 49% and Congleton 39%) worried about being a victim of crime.
- 5.62** Criminal damage, theft and violence were the most common types of crime experienced in Cheshire East. Macclesfield, Haslington, Knutsford and Handforth experience a relatively high level of violence – defined as violent crime rates higher than 10 per 1,000 population, with Disley, Prestbury, Bunbury and Holmes Chapel experiencing very low levels of violent crime.
- 5.63** The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report identified that women value personal security more greatly than men, although security is often an issue of perception rather than reality, particularly when travelling at night. Issues of street lighting and security at public transport stops, stations and interchanges are often a concern.
- 5.64** Actual and perceived levels of safety and security have been highlighted as a barrier to using public transport. The issues of concern include isolated bus stops, badly lit waiting areas and intimidating atmosphere on-board, which can generate feelings of insecurity. The walking and waiting parts of the journey can be where passengers feel most at risk, particularly at night. Older people, more than any other age group, need to be assured of their personal security and safety.

## 5 Nurture Strong Communities

- 5.65** The Council will work with the Safer Cheshire East Partnership and public transport operators to jointly address problems of crime and safety in and around the transport network.

### POLICY

**Policy C4 Crime & Terrorism:** Work with partners to reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour on the transport network.

#### C4 Policy Initiatives

- 5.66 Targeted safety improvements:** Reduce the incidence of crime and anti-social behaviour on the transport network.
- 5.67 Security of stations and bus stops:** Improve the waiting and interchange facilities, including installation of CCTV, to improve the actual and perceived levels of safety of security.
- 5.68 Car park security:** Enhance the security of car parks, particularly those close to public transport interchanges not owned or operated by the Council.
- 5.69 Street & Footpath Lighting:** Ensure appropriate provision of lighting to enhance actual and perceived safety on footways and footpaths.

C4 Related Initiatives	Policy
Railway station improvements	S3 Public Transport (Integration & Facilities)
Bus stop condition	S3 Public Transport (Integration & Facilities)
Provision of high quality parking	B6 Parking

### 6 Support our Children & Young People

#### Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) Priorities

- 6.1** The SCS aims to ensure that children and young people are helped to fulfil their potential by providing opportunities, support and giving young people a voice in shaping their future. The priorities for action over the next 15 years are:
- Ensure good transitions (e.g. education to employment) and skills for the future
  - Improve support and facilities for children and young people
  - Strengthen the voice of children and young people
  - Improve the health of children and young people
- 6.2** The Cheshire East Children & Young People's Interim Plan (2010/11) further defines this commitment by setting out immediate priorities, targets and actions, as well as setting the direction of travel for services for a 2-5 year period.
- 6.3** Transport has a supporting role to play in delivering these priorities, particularly when considering the needs of children and young people in accessing education and employment. Children and young people's safety will feature in transport policy through road safety initiatives to reduce the number of young people killed or seriously injured (KSI) on Cheshire East's roads.
- 6.4** There are also important linkages between transport and health, with opportunities to encourage young people to walk and cycle from an early age resulting in active, healthier lifestyles and reducing obesity in children.

#### Evidence Overview

- 6.5** There are just over 80,000 children and young people (aged 0-19) in Cheshire East. By the year 2027 there is forecast to be approximately 5% fewer children than there were in 2010, with the 5-10 year old population declining by 3% between 2007 and 2027 and the 11-15 year old population decreasing by 7%.
- 6.6** Evidence suggests that while the majority of Cheshire East's children and young people are doing well and have improving prospects, a significant number, often living in the most disadvantaged areas, are not as fortunate<sup>a</sup>.
- 6.7** Around 6,500 children and young people live in areas that fall into the 20% most disadvantaged in the country. Estimates suggest that around 17% of all children and young people (0-19) in Cheshire East are 'at risk' of poor outcomes<sup>b</sup>.
- 6.8** Overall the proportion of Cheshire East's young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) is good compared to national levels. However, NEET rates remain significantly higher for some groups (e.g. cared for children) and NEET is a strong predictor of poor outcomes.

## 6 Support our Children & Young People

- 6.9** A survey undertaken as part of the Cheshire East Youth Parliament Elections (11-18 year olds) found that from a list of 12 critical issues, transport costs were top, along with the way young people are presented by the media. The Tellus4 survey<sup>c</sup> identified that safe places to go and things to do are highly valued amongst children and young people. Safer streets, especially from cars that drive too fast, and safer places to cross roads were raised<sup>d</sup>.
- 6.10** Children account for 10.5% of all people killed or seriously injured (KSI) on Cheshire East roads. The majority of incidents involve children aged 11 to 15 as pedestrians and as passengers in a car. Single vehicle collisions are the most prevalent type of collision. The majority of car KSI collisions occur on A and C class 60mph rural roads; pedal cycle collisions occur on 30mph or 60mph roads; and pedestrian KSI collisions occur close to pedestrian crossings.
- 6.11** In 2009/10, method of travel to school data found that 47.1% of school attendees travelled on foot, a third (33.6%) travelled by car and 14.7% travel by public transport. Younger children (aged 5 to 10) were more likely to travel by car, whilst children aged 10-15 were more likely to travel by public transport or walk.
- 6.12** Levels of cycling to school have remained low and relatively static over recent years at around 2.7-2.9% of 10 to 15 year olds. When comparing this against the national figures, Cheshire East has a higher percentage of children travelling to school by car. All Cheshire East schools now have a travel plan to help facilitate sustainable access to schools.
- 6.13** Within Cheshire East obesity levels in adults are not significantly higher than the England average. However, childhood obesity is steady increasing and this will lead to more cases of early onset diabetes type 2 and other associated health problems<sup>e</sup>.

### Stakeholder Opinion

- 6.14** In exploring the transport challenges relating to **supporting children & young people**; stakeholders identified road safety for young adults as a key cross-cutting issue. There was support for initiatives focused on young adults road safety education and training as part of the SCS aspiration to improve health.
- 6.15** Other challenges raised by stakeholders included encouraging more active forms of travel for the 'school run' and minimising car use, as well as improving access to employment, education and training for young people. Overall, it was considered that the needs of children and young people would need to be considered specifically (such as direct work with schools to support active travel) and also within other policy areas (such as public transport, walking and cycling). This understanding contributed to stakeholder prioritisation of SCS theme to **create a sustainable future**.



## 6 Support our Children & Young People

### LTP Objectives

#### RELEVANT OBJECTIVES

**Objective 2 (Accessibility):** Improve access to key services (employment, education, health, shopping and leisure) and reduce the need to travel.

**Objective 5 (Health):** Support active and healthy lifestyles.

**Objective 7 (Safety):** Improve road safety for all users and increase personal and community safety.

### Transport Challenges & Policy Solutions

#### Travel to Education

- 6.16** Although over the last few years there has been a small decrease in the proportion of pupils travelling to school by car, there are trends in education delivery that would suggest that future demand for longer-distance travel to education may increase during the next 15 years.
- 6.17** The factors influencing this trend include school reorganisation driven by falling pupil numbers, changes in the 14-19 education system introducing choice and personalisation, and increasing numbers of tertiary education students travelling from home rather than living on-campus.
- 6.18** Transport has a key role to play in the 'choice agenda', which allows children to travel to their preferred school or college. Difficulties with transport can prevent young people from participating in learning, or restrict the choice of learning that they attend.
- 6.19** In order to respond positively to changes in education delivery, the Council will work with education providers and bus operators to identify where transport barriers may restrict access to education and, in conjunction with partners, consider ways in which these could be overcome. In future there may be a need for more complex demand responsive arrangements.
- 6.20** Local surveys show that most children and parents would like travel to school to be by sustainable modes of transport, but they encounter difficulty in doing so for a number of reasons. For example, some parents drop their children off on their way to work, whilst others find that the distance is too far to walk. In addition, there are parents who use their car because they feel the roads are unsafe for walking and cycling – there are still a few children who are driven to school when they only live 'around the corner'.



## 6 Support our Children & Young People

- 6.21** Perceived cost can also be a barrier to using local and school bus services (where students are not eligible for support), and anti-social behaviour on public transport can also be a deterrent. The lack of lockers, safe cycle routes and cycle parking facilities are the main factors in preventing secondary school students from cycling to school.
- 6.22** These issues present significant challenges to encouraging sustainable modes of transport for the journey to school. Overcoming these barriers would support the delivery of wider transport policy objectives, including reducing congestion, reducing carbon emissions and improving road safety at the school gate.

### Home to School Transport

- 6.23** Local authorities have a statutory obligation to provide transport for children of compulsory school age who either live over the statutory walking distance (over 2 miles for children under the age of 8 years, or aged 8-16 and from a low-income family (attending one of the three nearest schools), and over 3 miles for children aged 8-11 years), or have to walk along a hazardous route and are attending their nearest suitable school. Children eligible for assistance may choose to travel by bike instead of using the bus and in these cases a cycle allowance is paid.
- 6.24** The Council currently provide a number of discretionary enhancements to the statutory minimum. For example, provision of transport to attend a school on the grounds of religion or belief, transporting children placed in the care of foster families and transport of children aged between 8 and 11 who live within 2-3 miles of the nearest suitable school.
- 6.25** The Council also has a duty to provide special educational needs (SEN) transport for children who exhibit needs that are above those of a typical child. Children with complex special needs may qualify for transport provision either on grounds of distance, or on the basis of their needs.
- 6.26** As part of the Passenger Transport Strategy, a review will be undertaken of home to school transport policy. This will include a cost benefit analysis of discretionary enhancements to ensure that policies are meeting priority needs cost effectively. In addition, travel to education policy must react to changes in the delivery of education.
- 6.27** Where children do not qualify for assisted transport, children living in areas with limited or no public services can purchase spare seat places on education contracts where capacity exists and these are currently allocated on a first come first served basis. There is an opportunity to review the marketing policy / pricing of this initiative with a view to providing additional capacity in future.
- 6.28** There are also opportunities to support groups of parents who wish to procure their own transport arrangements for taking their children to school – this could include taxi sharing or minibus contracts. The Council could provide advice and develop a set of quality standards for such initiatives.

## 6 Support our Children & Young People

- 6.29** In addition to the delivery of statutory minimum service levels, a range of initiatives have been identified to support and help deliver the policy aspiration for travel to education.

### POLICY

**Policy Y1 Travel to Education:** The Council will work with schools and colleges to enable sustainable travel to education, including appropriate provision for those eligible for free or assisted transport.

### Y1 Policy Initiatives

- 6.30** **Review home to school transport policy:** Review the discretionary elements of the eligibility criteria, the policy and pricing structure for selling spare seats and initiatives to address anti-social behaviour and bullying on school buses, as well as driver training.
- 6.31** **Safer routes to school:** Encourage schools to identify potential safety improvements on key routes to schools through travel plans and address issues identified, and develop 'invest to save' initiatives where some capital investment can remedy the unsafe sections of a "hazardous route" (thereby reducing eligibility of home to school transport).



- 6.32** **Encourage sustainable travel:** Explore a range of initiatives to promote and encourage increased levels of walking and cycling. For example, school travel plans, walking schemes (Walking Buses) and cycling schemes.

## 6 Support our Children & Young People

- 6.33 Respond positively to changes in education delivery:** Work with partners to constantly review the Council's response to emerging issues in the field of travel to education (e.g. 14-19 diploma) to meet the transport needs of children and young people.
- 6.34 Sharing arrangements:** Work with schools and parents to encourage sharing arrangements for travel to education. For example, car share, park and stride, taxi sharing and minibus contracts.

Y1 Related Initiatives	Policy
Supported services	S4 Public Transport (Service Levels & Reliability)
Vulnerable road users	H8 Road Safety (Engineering)
Key service location	C2 Accessibility of Services

### CASE STUDY

#### School Minibus

Pott Shrigley Primary is situated in a rural location which means that the majority of children had always been driven to school. Their School Travel Plan identified that an increase in the number of pupils attending the school had also led to an increase in traffic and parking problems on the roads around the school. This had triggered some minor disputes with neighbours who found their driveways blocked by parent or staff cars.

In 2007, the school put in a bid to loan one of the School Travel Team's minibuses which had been funded through the Local Transport Plan.

The successful bid has meant that the school can use the minibus on the school run as well as for school trips, sporting and educational outings. The minibus is also used by local community groups including the Scouts, Brownies and church groups.

On the school run, the minibus is driven by a teaching assistant with up to 12 children regularly using the minibus to get to and from school rather than travelling by car.

Over the last two years the number of children being driven to school by car has dropped from 96% to 68%.

The School view the minibus as a much valued resource and now with the federation with Bollington St John's Primary, the minibus will be extremely useful transporting pupils between the two sites.

### CASE STUDY

#### Goostrey Primary School

Goostrey Primary School is a semi rural school with a wide catchment area. At the start of the travel plan process the school were sceptical about how they could impact on the travel mode of their pupils and whether they would be able to find the time to put in the necessary work. However, as the plan progressed they found that the work not only complimented their existing curriculum but that it made a real difference. The school has a long list of initiatives of which just a few are listed below:

- Walking activities in classes linked to activity afternoon
- Walking bus.
- Road safety initiatives
- Local pubs allowing parking for parents cars
- Liaison with Parish Council to match fund improvements to a hand rail on steps.
- Staff monitoring of cars parked inconsiderately by parents and leafleting
- Information on healthy ways to school for new starters. And
- Praise and rewards for pupils who participate in travel to school schemes



The below figures show the continuing impact the school have had on reducing the number of children travelling to school by car over the past 4 years.

Mode Of Travel	Walk	Cycle	Car	Car Share	Taxi
2007	16%	1%	80%	2%	1%
2008	31%	4%	61%	3%	1%
2009	33%	6%	58%	3%	1%
2010	37%	10%	49%	3%	1%

## 6 Support our Children & Young People

### Cross-Cutting Challenges for Children & Young People

- 6.35** The SCS identified that local people are concerned about the lack of facilities available for young people. The 2008 Community Survey found that ‘activities for teenagers’ was the second highest priority for improvement and at the Local Area Partnership (LAP) level it was the top priority in both Congleton and Macclesfield.
- 6.36** In addition, a North West accessibility study<sup>f</sup> identified that young people in rural areas experienced a heavy reliance on travel by private vehicle. Without access to a vehicle, young people felt they were isolated from high street shops, leisure and entertainment facilities. The challenge is therefore to improve access to a wide range of interesting, challenging and engaging activities outside of school (e.g. sports and leisure activities, cinema and after-school clubs).
- 6.37** In 2009, 5.8% of young people aged 16-18 were not in employment, education or training (NEET). Many of these people are concentrated in the urban areas of deprivation in the borough, particularly in Crewe. Initiatives to improve access to schools, colleges and employment opportunities are particularly relevant to this group. This may include innovative transport solutions where lack of transport is a barrier to employment (e.g. Crewe Flexi Rider).
- 6.38** The cost of transport has been identified as an issue for children and young people. Exploring ways of providing incentives for young people to use public transport to encourage them to make it a life-time habit will be another challenge reliant on close cooperation with commercial operators.

#### POLICY

**Policy Y2 Targeted Action for Children and Young People:** Work with stakeholders to ensure that transport provision and facilities meet the needs of children and young people.

#### Y2 Policy Initiatives

- 6.39** **Fare and ticketing incentives:** Promote the services which offer fare reductions for young people. Explore ways of providing incentives for young people to use public transport.
- 6.40** **Transport linkages from areas of deprivation:** Identify where transport is a barrier to employment, education and training, particularly for young people aged 16-18, and explore innovative solutions in conjunction with partners.

Y2 Related Initiatives	Policy
Multi-media information	S5 Public Transport (Information & Marketing)



## 6 Support our Children & Young People

Y2 Related Initiatives	Policy
Cycling facilities	S8 Cycling
Target high risk groups	H1 Targeted Health Action
All initiatives within H2 Promotion of Active Travel and Healthy Activities	H2 Promotion of Active Travel & Healthy Activities
Key service locations	C2: Accessibility of Services
Access to employment, skills and education	C2: Accessibility of Services

### Children, Young People & Road Safety

- 6.41** Over the last decade there has been a slight upward trend in the number of children aged 0-15 killed or seriously injured (KSI) within Cheshire East, which is inconsistent with the reductions achieved nationally.
- 6.42** 51% of child KSIs are pedestrians. They account for almost one-third (31%) of all pedestrian KSIs in Cheshire East. 95% of these were injured on a road with a 30mph limit in place<sup>9</sup>.





## 6 Support our Children & Young People

- 6.43** Children account for almost one-quarter (22%) of all pedal cyclist casualties. Almost all of these (92%) were males with just over two-thirds (69%) between the ages of 12 and 16 years of age<sup>h</sup>.
- 6.44** Failing to look properly and being careless, reckless or in a hurry were the highest contributory factors in all child pedestrian and pedal cyclist KSIs. These are preventable through education and training.
- 6.45** Young adults (16-25) account for 29% of all KSIs on Cheshire Safer Roads Partnership (CSRP) roads. Of that, 61% are car occupants and 17% are riding powered two wheelers under 125cc. A further 7% are riders of powered-two wheelers over 125cc<sup>i</sup>.
- 6.46** The biggest contributory factors involving young adult KSIs are travelling too fast for the condition, careless / reckless / in a hurry, impaired by alcohol, exceeding the speed limit and aggressive driving<sup>j</sup>. Each of these factors result in increased severity of injury but are preventable through education and enforcement<sup>k</sup>.
- 6.47** A combination of engineering, enforcement and education campaigns targeting children and young people identified as at-risk of death or injury from road traffic incidents can be effective in reducing the overall number of KSI incidents.
- 6.48** The challenges/problems associated with children, young people and road safety will be addressed in the road safety sections of **Chapter 6: Health**. As such, there is no specific policy for children and young people relating to road safety in this chapter, however, the most relevant initiatives are set out in the table below:

Related initiative	Policy
Target high risk groups	H4 Road Safety (Education):
Cyclist training	H5 Road Safety (Enforcement)

### End Notes

- a. Cheshire East Children and Young Peoples Trust Interim Plan 2010/11
- b. Based on Profile of vulnerable young people living in Cheshire Aug 2007 DAAT
- c. Department of Education, Tellus4, Cheshire East survey results, 2009.
- d. Cheshire East Children & Young People's Interim Plan (2010/11)
- e. Central and Eastern Cheshire NHS Primary Care Trust & Cheshire East Council, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – First Look Report, 2008.
- f. Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DaSTS) North West Regional Study 5: Accessibility & Regeneration
- g. Cheshire Safer Roads Partnership, June 2010, Cheshire East: Road Traffic Collision Casualties 2005-2009 Profile Report.
- h. Ibid
- i. Cheshire Safer Roads Partnership, May 2010, Young Adult (16-25y) Road User Problem Profile
- j. Ibid
- k. Ibid

## 7 Prepare for an Increasingly Older Population

### 7 Prepare for an Increasingly Older Population

#### Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) Priorities

- 7.1** Over the next 15 years the number of people aged over 65 will increase dramatically. The SCS identifies two priorities for action in preparing for an increasingly older population in Cheshire East. These are:
- Help people stay fit and active for longer
  - Improve care and support for those who need it
- 7.2** An Ageing Strategy for Cheshire East will be published in April 2011 linked to the priorities for action within the SCS. The strategy will seek to maximise the opportunities for older people to stay fit for longer, remain within their own home and communities, as well as the opportunity to participate in hobbies, volunteering, employment and learning.
- 7.3** Transport provides an essential link to friends and family, as well as access to key services – a vital lifeline to maintaining independence. Lack of mobility can prevent older people from participating in social activities and lead to low morale, depression and loneliness<sup>a</sup>. It is acknowledged that older people represent an enormous resource in terms of talent, experience and knowledge.

#### Evidence Overview

- 7.4** Cheshire East has an older age profile than the UK as a whole. Approximately 18.9% (68,400) of the population is over 65 compared to only 15.2% of UK residents. The percentage of people aged 85 and over is 2.6% (9,300) compared to 2.1% nationally.
- 7.5** In addition, Cheshire East has the fastest growing older population in the North West. By 2016, the population aged 65+ will increase by 29% and the population aged 85+ by 41.5%. The 2008 Community Survey identified that planning for the ageing population was one the top priorities for a good quality of life.
- 7.6** There are variations across the borough in the geographic distribution of the age of the population. For example, over 65's make up approximately 14.3% of the population of Macclesfield, whilst in Chelford 26.2% fall into the same age bracket. There are also variations in pensioner households living alone, ranging from almost 30% in the towns of Crewe and Macclesfield, to just over 10% in Macclesfield.
- 7.7** The dominant factor affecting older peoples transport use is health status, rather than age. The incidence of disability increases with age<sup>b</sup>, as do general restrictions in mobility. Although increasing numbers of older people continue to drive for longer, the rising number of older people who prefer not to drive is likely to mean an increase in demand for accessible public transport to various destinations.

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- 7.8** Over the next 15 years more attention will need to be paid to removing physical barriers to accessing public transport (e.g. steps on older buses and at rail stations) and ensuring that town centres footways are well maintained and safe for walking. These issues are discussed in detail in **Chapter 2: Sustainability**.
- 7.9** The increasingly older population will result in greater demand for healthcare and a key challenge for transport, in conjunction with service providers, will be making healthcare accessible. Indeed, another area where transport will play an increasingly important role will be on encouraging more physically active travel for health and fitness – this is examined in more detail in **Chapter 4: Health**.

### Stakeholder Opinion

- 7.10** Stakeholder discussions of the transport issues associated with **preparing for an increasingly older population** were supportive of innovative ways of improving access to services and affordability of transport. The suggestions made were often cross-cutting to the other themes (e.g. public transport improvements, footway condition, promoting active lifestyles, etc.) and included the retention and possible expansion of the current discretionary elements of the concessionary travel scheme.
- 7.11** Enabling independent living and encouraging an active lifestyle were common themes and it was recognised that a collaborative approach with healthcare providers would be needed to deliver services more locally. Aspects of the **nurture strong communities** theme were also reflected in the discussions; with an aspiration to support community groups to provide services/transport for older residents expressed.
- 7.12** The targeted initiatives addressing the needs of the aging population were not specifically prioritised within the final workshop; however, the cross-cutting policy areas of community, accessibility of services and access for all were given prominence within the **nurture strong communities** theme and stakeholders felt that the needs of older people would be supported in these areas.

### LTP Objectives

#### RELEVANT OBJECTIVES

**Objective 2 (Accessibility):** Improve access to key services (employment, education, health, shopping and leisure) and reduce the need to travel.

**Objective 5 (Health):** Support active and healthy lifestyles.

## 7 Prepare for an Increasingly Older Population

### Transport Challenges & Policy Solutions

- 7.13** Many of the transport challenges for older people are cross-cutting and relate to the policies and initiatives within other chapters of the LTP, particularly **Chapter 2: Sustainability** and **Chapter 5: Communities**.
- 7.14** However, the sections below outline the particular issues for older people concerning the availability of transport, physical accessibility and safety, affordability of transport and accessibility of services.

#### POLICY

**Policy O1 Targeted Action for Older People:** The Council will work with stakeholders to ensure that transport provision and facilities meet the needs of older people.

### Availability of Transport

- 7.15** For many older people, driving or travelling as a passenger, can be a lifeline to maintaining their independence and preventing isolation. For the increasing proportion of older drivers, a number of measures could be implemented to assist older people. For example, driver assessment and training initiatives, as well as highly reflective road studs and road markings which can help with visibility, particularly in wet conditions.
- 7.16** However, despite the number of older driving licence holders, declining driving ability and financial constraints mean that many motorists will have to adjust their driving practices and ultimately could have to give up their car.
- 7.17** A high proportion of older people are dependent on public transport. The local bus network consists of fixed route services, complimented by flexible community transport solutions of both a general and specialised nature. Community transport is particularly valued by those unable to use conventional buses due to disability or mobility issues.
- 7.18** National research has shown that awareness of transport schemes for older people (e.g. Dial-a-Ride and shopmobility) can be low. This can mean that those with the greatest need fail to benefit from services that have been specially implemented to help them<sup>c</sup>.

#### O1 Policy Initiative (Availability)

- 7.19** **Travel options awareness:** Use targeted promotion and marketing to ensure that people aged 65+ are aware of, and know how to use, pre-booked transport options such as Dial-a-Ride. Promotional activities

## 7 Prepare for an Increasingly Older Population

will be linked to initiatives that develop capacity of pre-booked services. Examine ways of delivering targeted training in computer skills to our older population to enable easy access to on-line travel information.

- 7.20 Older driver assessment and training initiatives:** Work with third party providers to promote and develop an older driver assessment and improvement scheme.

O1 Related Initiatives	Policy
Provision of high quality parking	B6 Parking
Shopmobility	C3 Access for all
Community-led initiatives	C1 Community
Supported services	S4 Public transport (Service Levels & Reliability)
Social care transport options	C3 Access for all

### Physical Accessibility & Safety

- 7.21** Cheshire East's relatively fit and active population is something to celebrate, maintain and seek opportunities to improve. Encouraging older people to continue walking and cycling will contribute to a healthy older age and helping people to stay fit and active for longer.
- 7.22** However, older people often experience barriers to mobility and physical difficulties associated with walking and accessing public transport. Common concerns include poor condition of footways, inadequate crossing facilities, boarding/ alighting buses and trains, and steps at railway stations<sup>d</sup> (also see **Chapter 5: Communities**).
- 7.23** Research commissioned by Age Concern and Help the Aged shows that over 800 older people per day fall whilst travelling on a bus and nearly two million are concerned about falling due to abrupt stop/starting<sup>e</sup>. Other issues include moving off before passengers are seated, insufficient hand rails, overcrowding and erratic driving practices can increase the risk – and the perception of risk – of an accident. Such concerns can be addressed with improved driver training.



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- 7.24** “Building Society for all Ages” (2009) proposes a range of national initiatives to improve transport for the older population. These include, for example, requirements that by 2020 all rail vehicles will have to meet accessibility standards and that all buses and coaches



**Accessible bus**

used on local scheduled services must meet accessibility targets by 2017. 62% of buses have already been made accessible.

- 7.25** Older people can experience health issues that may weaken their ability to walk. Poorer vision and hearing, mobility difficulties, walking more slowly, problems with balance, reduced ability to make head and neck movements (affecting looking), reaction times and a reduced ability to change speed or direction quickly to avoid hazards.
- 7.26** Each year, 35% of over 65's experience one or more falls. About 45% of people over 80 who live in the community fall each year. Between 10-25% of such fallers will sustain a serious injury<sup>f</sup>.
- 7.27** Pedestrians between the ages of 76 to 85 are at increased risk of death or injury per 1000 head of population than child pedestrians. However, the number of child pedestrian KSIs are greater<sup>g</sup>. It is known with some certainty that the number of people aged over 65 will increase dramatically over the next 15 years, so there is a risk that the number of older pedestrians being killed or seriously injured will increase.

### O1 Policy Initiative (Accessibility)

- 7.28** **Targeted access improvements:** Improve the physical infrastructure most heavily used by our older population, such as provision of dropped kerbs, pedestrian crossing points and accessible bus stops. The focus will be on areas likely to make the greatest impact to the lives of older people, for example routes approaching community centres, care homes and healthcare centres. Furthermore, areas of the borough where the greatest mobility and disability problems exist will be targeted.

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O1 Related Initiatives	Policy
Bus driver training	S4 Public transport (Service Levels & Reliability)
Target high risk groups	H1 Targeted Health Action
Target high risk groups	H6 Road Safety (Education)
Accessibility audits	C3 Access for all
Accessible vehicles	C3 Access for all

### Affordability

- 7.29** In Cheshire East, around 4 million bus trips per year are undertaken by older people using concessionary fare discounts. Concessionary travel journeys now equate to 37% of all bus journeys undertaken in Cheshire East.
- 7.30** The English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS) enables free bus travel after 9.30am to all eligible older people and disabled people. The concession provides greater freedom and independence to some of the most vulnerable people in our society, representing a major step forward in tackling social exclusion.
- 7.31** Cheshire East currently operate a number of discretionary enhancements to the scheme, such as half fare travel before 9.30am and the ability to use the pass on Dial-a-Ride services. The enhancements extend the advantages of the scheme, particularly for those who live in areas with limited bus services.
- 7.32** However, carers of older people currently pay full price which may result in problems of affordability – a further discretionary enhancement could include companion bus passes for carers at a reduced rate. In addition, taxi vouchers could be provided to residents who live where there are no fixed route bus services.
- 7.33** As part of the concessionary travel scheme, Cheshire East currently offers both the Senior Railcard and Disabled Persons Railcard to eligible residents at a discounted price through the power of bulk buying directly from National Rail.
- 7.34** The Senior Railcard is available to anyone over 60 whilst the Disabled Persons Railcard is available to people who meet the National Rail Disabled Criteria. This card also entitles a companion to travel at the same discounted price.

Y0 Related Initiatives	Policy
Monitor & review the fare structure	S4 Public transport (Fares & Ticketing)
Concessionary bus travel	C3 Access for all

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Y0 Related Initiatives	Policy
Concessionary rail cards	C3 Access for all

### Accessibility of Services

- 7.35** The ease of access to key services (e.g. healthcare, food shops, employment and education) is an important factor influencing the quality of life of older people, although it should be noted that most accessibility issues are addressed in **Chapter 5: Communities**.
- 7.36** The 2008 accessibility survey found that hospitals were the most difficult key service to access in Cheshire East, particularly for older people. There are large variations across the borough with regard to life expectancy factors, which will be a key consideration in service planning. The length of time people live with a limiting long term illness also varies considerably across the borough.
- 7.37** The Council will seek to influence any changes in the delivery of healthcare in the future, by working with service providers to consider the location, design and delivery of healthcare services. Future reforms may also impact on commissioning of health-related transport, so the Council will need to influence and respond to changing circumstances.
- 7.38** Many older people wish to maintain their independence when, for whatever reason, they feel unable to continue living in their own home. Extra Care Housing provides the opportunity to deliver this, with residents able to live independently with the backup of help and assistance if they require it. It is important that Extra Care Housing is located in areas with good access to services by walking, cycling and public transport.

### O1 Policy Initiative

- 7.39** **Extra care housing:** Work with registered social landlords to guide and direct future developments of extra care housing provision in locations that are accessible to key services, families and friends by public transport, walking and cycling.

Y0 Related Initiatives	Policy
Local service delivery	C1 Community
Key service location	C2 Accessibility of services
Multi-use premises	C2 Accessibility of services

## 7 Prepare for an Increasingly Older Population

### End Notes

- a. Older People: Their transport needs and requirements – Main report (Department for Transport)
- b. Labour Force Survey, June 2005
- c. Older People: Their transport needs and requirements – Main report (Department for Transport)
- d. Older People: Their transport needs and requirements – Main report (Department for Transport)
- e. Bus falls – Policy Update, Age Concern and Help the Aged, July 2009, Edition 114
- f. Falls and fractures, developing a local joint strategic needs assessment, Department of Health
- g. Cheshire Safer Roads Partnership, June 2010, Cheshire East: Road Traffic Collision Casualties 2005-2009 Profile Report

## 8 Unlock the Potential of Our Towns

### 8 Unlock the Potential of Our Towns

#### Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) Priorities

**8.1** The SCS identifies three priorities for action to unlock the potential of towns within Cheshire East:

- Regenerate Crewe;
- Revitalise Macclesfield; and
- Deliver sustainable growth for our towns.

**8.2** Transport is fundamental to the success of towns – it supports the exchange of goods and services, it facilitates the participation in leisure, social and cultural activities, and it enables access to employment and education. Transport networks can therefore either help or hinder efforts to regenerate, revitalise or grow our towns. While the availability and quality of different modes of travel serving town will help determine whether growth can be sustainable for future generations.

**8.3** A heavily congested road network that causes delays accessing town centres will be a deterrent to both business investment and visitor appeal – particularly where no effective alternative means of access exists by rail, bus, cycling or walking. It is clear too that many town centre highway networks do not have the capacity to efficiently deal with current vehicle numbers during peak hours. A “tool kit” of highway network management techniques can be employed depending on the circumstances of congestion – these are outlined in **Chapter 3: Business** and they range from relatively inexpensive signal timing improvements and parking enforcement, through to enormously expensive town centre bypass schemes. This tool-kit can be employed alongside initiatives to encourage mode-shift – i.e. enabling more people to travel by train, bus, cycling and walking to reduce congestion.



## 8 Unlock the Potential of Our Towns

- 8.4** Encouraging and enabling non-car access to town centres will not only help tackle congestion, but will also support access by the full spectrum of the community – from people with disabilities or mobility problems, young and older people who are unable or unwilling to drive, through to low income groups who are unable to afford car travel. Initiatives supporting non-car access to towns are set out in **Chapter 2: Sustainability**.
- 8.5** Finally, transport is also an issue to consider in the planning of towns in terms of accessible land use decisions. This seeks to plan the future development in towns in a way that will minimise unnecessary car use, by providing appropriate facilities and residential areas in close proximity or in locations connected by established public transport links. Issues of accessibility are included in both **Chapter 5: Communities** and **Chapter 2: Sustainability**.
- 8.6** One of the defining characteristics of Cheshire East is the distribution of settlements – with Crewe and Macclesfield being the largest developed areas in the borough and a series of vibrant market towns and smaller towns that offer a range of services. In addition, there are some major employment sites that are located outside these towns (e.g. Manchester Airport, Alderley Park and Pym's Lane) which provide an important employment function within the borough. This pattern of land use leads to a complex level of inter-dependency unlike many other local authority areas, which typically have one major urban area that serves as a focus for all activity (e.g. Warrington).
- 8.7** For transport to play its role in delivering sustainable growth in our towns, it is important to recognise the interrelationships which exist between Cheshire East's principal towns, key service centres and the surrounding small towns, villages and rural communities. Transport plays an important role in unlocking the potential of towns and enabling future development in these locations.

### Stakeholder Opinion

- 8.8** The stakeholder engagement process highlighted the diverse nature of Cheshire East. Stakeholders made it clear that a unique approach to the transport issues in each town would be required to enable responsive delivery of the SCS at a local level.
- 8.9** In addition to discussion on the role of transport in towns to **create the conditions for business growth, create a sustainable future, nurture strong communities** and **improve health**, a range of specific issues were identified at key locations. These issues ranged from the need for improved traffic management through to requirements for drop-kerbs, dependent on local circumstances.
- 8.10** This feedback from stakeholders resulted in the Transport Frameworks for Towns approach set out within the **Policy T1: Towns**.



## 8 Unlock the Potential of Our Towns

### LTP Objectives

#### RELEVANT OBJECTIVES

**Objective 1 (Congestion):** Minimise congestion in our urban areas and on important routes and improve the overall efficiency of the highway network.

**Objective 2 (Accessibility):** Improve accessibility to key services (employment, education, health, shopping and leisure) and reduce the need to travel.

**Objective 3 (Maintenance):** Improve maintenance of the highway and transport network.

**Objective 4 (Community):** Support community involvement and decision-making.

**Objective 5 (Health):** Support active and healthy lifestyles.

**Objective 6 (Environment):** Protect and enhance the local and global environment.

**Objective 7 (Safety):** Improve road safety for all users and increase personal and community safety.

### Transport Challenges & Policy Solutions

- 8.11** Each of the towns in Cheshire East will need a tailored approach to address local concerns. For example, in some towns the overriding problem will be traffic congestion, while in others the greatest priority might be the need to improve pedestrian links. As such, each of the policies set out within this LTP will need to be appropriately implemented at local level in accordance with locally agreed priorities.
- 8.12** Communities and stakeholders often have strong views on the types of transportation intervention that would be most effective in their locality to solve local issues. This local knowledge is important to capture alongside the strategic concerns of the LTP, and in certain locations a large amount of consultation has already taken place (e.g. Crewe Vision and Macclesfield Town Centre Regeneration). The challenge is to deliver on local priorities in a way that complements and helps deliver the objectives for the borough as a whole.
- 8.13** When considering the future of towns, the LDF process will identify suitable housing and employment land for development, which will have local and strategic implications on the demand for transport infrastructure and services. As such, a mechanism will be needed that is capable of both considering existing problems locally and the potential new (or exacerbated) transport issues arising from new development – e.g. increased congestion at junctions, new rights of way required, or improved pedestrian environments.

## 8 Unlock the Potential of Our Towns

- 8.14** Many small towns and rural communities have strong connections to the nearest significant town as the main location to access vital services including schools, shopping, healthcare and employment services. As such, the policies implemented as priorities in each of the towns will also need to relate to the challenges and problems faced by nearby small towns and rural communities.
- 8.15** The LTP needs to support the SCS priorities to regenerate Crewe, revitalise Macclesfield and deliver sustainable growth in towns. The approach taken to **Policy T1: Towns** is therefore driven by the diverse individual characteristics of Cheshire East towns and the recognition that in order to deliver on the LTP objectives different approaches will be required in different communities.



### POLICY

**Policy T1 Towns:** Work with stakeholders and the community to develop a local approach to transport issues that helps address local priorities and deliver the strategic objectives of the SCS and LTP.

### T1 Policy Initiative

- 8.16** **Transport Frameworks for Towns:** In order to ascertain local priorities and undertake locally specific discussion on transport issues, a series of Transport Frameworks will be prepared for each of the principal towns and key service centres (to be defined by the LDF).
- 8.17** The aim of each document will be to provide an opportunity for people help define the transport priorities at a local level and set out these priorities in a structure consistent with the LTP. The document will also reflect any proposed land use changes arising from the LDF process. Locally defined priorities will then be used to guide implementation at a local level and seek to ensure delivery of the wider LTP objectives at a borough-wide level.
- 8.18** Each document will consist of a prioritised list of LTP policies accompanied by an outline of how the LTP policy will be implemented locally. These documents will be “owned” by the local community and will be used to develop local initiatives in the second implementation plan (to be prepared by 2014). [Please

## 8 Unlock the Potential of Our Towns

*note: the first implementation plan is being prepared to accompany the LTP and will set out implementation activities for the forthcoming three-year spending period, in line with LTP objectives and identified ward priorities].*

- 8.19** The aim will be to prepare all transport frameworks during years 1-3 of the LTP to help identify and prioritise initiatives within the second implementation plan. This will enable the framework documents to take account of proposed development implications and local community aspirations.
- 8.20** A large amount of development work has already been undertaken in Crewe and a draft Framework for Crewe is attached in **Appendix A** to illustrate the approach that will be rolled-out across the borough in years 1-3 of the LTP.

### Appendix A: Draft Transport Framework for Crewe

#### Introduction

- .1 Crewe is one of the largest and most economically important places in Cheshire East. The town is home to one-third of Cheshire East's residents, around 5,000 businesses, and provides employment for some 60,000 people.
- .2 Crewe is well positioned with excellent strategic transport links provided by its close proximity to the M6 and density of train services serving Crewe station.
- .3 Crewe's "Strategic Framework for Economic Growth 2010-2030" describes the challenges for economic development and the role that transport needs to take to support the long-term prospects of Crewe's economy, businesses and community.
- .4 The strategic aim relating to accessibility in Crewe seeks to:
  - Facilitate more sustainable transport movements within and around Crewe.
  - Fully leverage Crewe's strategic transport gateway status.
  - Establish a competitive and first rate Next Generation Broadband network across Crewe.
  - Develop stronger economic links to neighbouring city-regions.
- .5 In terms of Crewe's physical development, liveability and local transport objectives, the strategic framework outlines aspirations to:
  - Support significant population growth and enhancement of the area's housing offer through fully integrated urban extensions that are well served by public transport and mainstream service provision.
  - Connect areas of opportunity with areas of need by developing effective local public transport networks.

#### Transport Challenges for Crewe

- .1 A number of underlying themes arise through the "vision" including tackling congestion, enhancing Crewe's role as a 'Gateway to the Northwest', improving public transport and providing quality, sustainable transport infrastructure.
- .2 There is a heavy reliance on access by private vehicle in Cheshire East. However, in the 2001 Census, the Crewe LAP area demonstrated the lowest levels of car use for commuter travel and the highest levels of travel by bus, motorcycle and bicycle. The number of people who travel to work on foot was also high compared to most LAP areas. These patterns would suggest that there is great potential in Crewe to increase the uptake of public transport and create substantial benefits from improvements in sustainable transport infrastructure provision.

## Appendix A: Draft Transport Framework for Crewe

- .3 Road and pavement repairs were identified as the issue most in need of improvement (and amongst the highest in terms of making Crewe a good place to live) for residents in Crewe LAP, while traffic congestion was ranked as the 4th most important priority for improvement<sup>a</sup>. Congestion and community severance in Crewe are compounded by the un-bridged railway lines which dissect the town, while poor quality footpaths and road surfacing are a problem in key locations.
- .4 The map of average delay in Crewe (2009 data) illustrates the points on the highway network where the volume of traffic limits both the movement of cars and buses, and affects the reliability of public transport services.
- .5 The A534 and A532 are of particular concern. Traffic on the A534 causes significant delay on Nantwich Road and around Crewe Railway Station (causing problems for bus-rail interchange reliability). The A532 runs close to Crewe town centre and experiences heavy traffic flow at peak times, limiting traffic circulation in the town centre.
- .6 There are also two Air Quality Management Areas in Crewe (Nantwich Road and Earl Street) that are directly linked to emissions from vehicles travelling along these roads. Policies to minimise congestion and reduce traffic levels along these routes will be important for improving air quality.
- .7 Life expectancy and the age at which people experience a difficulty or limiting long-term illness is lower in Crewe than all other LAP areas<sup>b</sup>. This is linked to higher rates of deprivation and a higher percentage of residents who select an unhealthy lifestyle. The creation of an environment that encourages active travel (such as cycling and walking) has the potential to improve health and wellbeing. Localised areas of poor health also occur in Haslington within the Crewe LAP area.
- .8 The crime rate in Crewe and Haslington is also marginally higher than elsewhere in Cheshire East (though still comparatively low); however, there is no evidence that this crime rate is particularly related to transport.
- .9 Crewe benefits from a prime location on the West Coast Main Line and the M6 Motorway and serves as a 'Gateway' for people travelling both north and south. However, the quality of the existing public transport gateways, including the railway station and town centre bus station, create a poor first impression for visitors and do little to encourage people to use sustainable transport modes.
- .10 Additionally, access to the M6 J16 (via the A500 Barthomley link) can be hampered by congestion and poor journey time reliability.
- .11 A number of sites in and around Crewe have planning permission or have been identified as having strong development potential in the Councils Economic Development Strategy. Such sites, when developed, are likely to generate a significant amount of additional traffic on the highway network. This could, if not properly managed, exacerbate congestion problems on the highway network in and around Crewe. The Crewe Strategic Framework report also identifies

## Appendix A: Draft Transport Framework for Crewe

poor public transport links exist between job growth areas in the University Quadrant, Crewe Business Park, Crewe Industrial Park and the West End (where deprived areas are located), presenting a transport barrier to employment.

- .12 The implications of new development proposals on the public transport and highway networks will be examined in conjunction with the Local Development Framework and will be incorporated into the LTP Implementation Plan and LDF Local Infrastructure Plan. i.e.:
- .13 Basford is one of the North West's Strategic Regional Sites, and its size and location presents a significant strategic opportunity as the gateway to the North West. Crewe's "Strategic Framework for Economic Growth 2010-2030" identifies the potential to create high value, high technology employment uses for the site. Measures to unlock this potential will include implementing the Crewe Green Link Road Scheme and capacity improvements to Crewe Green Roundabout and the A500 Barthomley link road.
- .14 Any other sites...

### Objective Statement for Crewe

#### RELEVANT OBJECTIVES

**Objective Statement for Crewe:** The Council will support agreed aspirations for economic growth and development in Crewe by seeking to strengthen national connectivity, reduce congestion and improve sustainable access to employment.

### Policy Interpretation Table - Sustainability

SCS Theme	LTP Policy	Policy focus in Crewe	Delivery
<b>Sustainability</b>	<b>Policy S1 Spatial Planning:</b> Seek to minimise the future need to travel through a strategy in the Local Development Framework that focuses most new developments in larger settlements where there is a good range of housing, jobs, shops and services already	Implementation of planning policy in Crewe will be centred on fully understanding the transport implications of the Local Development Framework, influencing final strategic site selection around Crewe. Regard will also be taken of improving the links to the town centre by foot / bicycle from the railway station, along with the quality of streetscape.	Short-term



## Appendix A: Draft Transport Framework for Crewe

SCS Theme	LTP Policy	Policy focus in Crewe	Delivery
	accessible by public transport, cycling and walking.		
<b>Sustainability</b>	<b>Sustainability Policy S3 Public Transport (Integration &amp; Facilities):</b> Work with passenger transport providers (bus, rail and community transport) to improve public transport integration and facilities.	<p>Public transport policy implementation will focus on partnership arrangements to secure significant transformational improvements to the quality of Crewe Railway Station and forecourt bus/taxi interchange.</p> <p>Additional parking will be investigated at the railway station and Crewe Bus Interchange.</p> <p>New funding and partnership opportunities will be investigated to encourage private sector investment in public transport facilities, particularly where these will support economic regeneration, inward investment and carbon reduction targets.</p> <p>Action will also be taken to support further rail electrification to improve services and reduce carbon emissions. Medium linked with the West Coast re-franchising timescale.</p>	Medium linked with the West Coast re-franchising timescale.
<b>Sustainability</b>	<b>Policy S4 Public Transport (Service Levels &amp; Reliability):</b> Work with passenger transport operators (bus, rail, community transport & taxis) to explore	Bus reliability issues in Crewe are a matter of concern and the implementation of this policy will focus on working with operators to improve timetable reliability. Bus service levels to the railway, town centre, MMU and	Short-medium term

## Appendix A: Draft Transport Framework for Crewe

SCS Theme	LTP Policy	Policy focus in Crewe	Delivery
	improvements to service levels and reliability.	business parks will also be reviewed alongside the potential for providing higher frequency evening services.	
<b>Sustainability</b>	<b>Policy S4 Public Transport (Service Levels &amp; Reliability):</b> Work with passenger transport operators (bus, rail, community transport & taxis) to explore improvements to service levels and reliability.	Aspirations for re-opening the Middlewich rail line linking Crewe, Sandbach, Middlewich, Northwich and Knutsford will remain. A review of the latest business case will be undertaken if population, employment or travel patterns alter sufficiently to potentially influence the conclusions of this report.	Long term
<b>Sustainability</b>	<b>Policy S5 Public Transport (Information &amp; Marketing):</b> Work with passenger transport operators to promote the use of public transport through improved information and publicity.	Focus on improved information displays and interpretation at Crewe bus station, with more timetables provided at bus stops. The use of public transport will also be promoted through the innovative and cost effective delivery of bus information to potential users.	
<b>Sustainability</b>	<b>Policy S7 Walking:</b> Work with stakeholders to improve facilities for walking so that it is attractive for shorter journeys.	Footway and footpath improvements are needed in a number of important locations including the town centre and links to the town centre from the railway station and Basford sites. This will include the provision of improved signage.	Short-term
<b>Sustainability</b>	<b>Policy S8 Cycling:</b> Work with stakeholders to improve facilities for cycling so that it is attractive for shorter journeys.	Crewe has great potential for increasing use of cycling due to its flat topography and existing levels of cycling. The implementation of a Cycling policy in Crewe will focus on ensuring new	Medium-long term

## Appendix A: Draft Transport Framework for Crewe

SCS Theme	LTP Policy	Policy focus in Crewe	Delivery
		development provides cycle facilities and identifies opportunities to make cycling safer and more attractive than travel by car.	
<b>Sustainability</b>	<b>Policy S9 Technology &amp; Energy Efficiency:</b> Encourage technological development in transport services in partnership with operators and will improve energy efficiency of transport infrastructure.	Work with providers to help ensure a competitive and first-rate broadband network across Crewe to support sustainable development and accessibility proposals.	

### Policy Interpretation Table - Business

SCS Theme	LTP Policy	Policy Focus in Crewe	Delivery
<b>Business Growth</b>	<b>Policy B1 Strategic Partnerships for Economic Growth:</b> Work with neighbouring authorities, appropriate regional/sub-regional organisations, public transport operators and providers to enhance cross-boundary and strategic investment opportunities in transport.	<p>The implementation of strategic partnership policy within Crewe will focus on developing partnerships with the Highways Agency, Network Rail and train operators to establish stronger linkages to neighbouring city-region networks (including science, technology, innovation and business).</p> <p>The Highways Agency has an important role to play in promoting Crewe's location close to the M6 and as a North-South 'Gateway'. These connections and the effective management of the</p>	

## Appendix A: Draft Transport Framework for Crewe

SCS Theme	LTP Policy	Policy Focus in Crewe	Delivery
		<p>strategic road network will be vital in attracting future inward investment.</p> <p>Reinforcing Crewe's role as a rail 'Gateway' will also be important, particularly in relation to High Speed Rail development proposals. A strong partnership between the Council, Network Rail and the Train Operating Companies will be necessary to support Northern Rail Hub proposals and improve rail access to the airport.</p>	
<b>Business Growth</b>	<b>Policy B2 Enabling development:</b> Seek to enable appropriate new development by supporting transport infrastructure, regeneration and/or behaviour change initiatives that will mitigate the potential impact of new development.	Identifying tailored transport and accessibility improvement solutions for final site allocations. Investigations will include assessing the local impact of development proposals on the transport network and identifying need for improvement associated with potential sites.	
<b>Business Growth</b>	<b>Policy B2 Enabling development:</b> Seek to enable appropriate new development by supporting transport infrastructure, regeneration and/or behaviour change initiatives that will mitigate the potential impact of new development.	One component of the vision for Crewe is to enable high quality links between the railway station and the Basford development sites. The potential for 'Personal transport' (as seen at Heathrow airport) will be investigated.	Long-term
<b>Business Growth</b>	<b>Policy B3 Network Management:</b> Effectively manage the highway network to reduce the	Implementation of network management policy in Crewe will focus on the congestion 'hotspots' and Air Quality Management	

## Appendix A: Draft Transport Framework for Crewe

SCS Theme	LTP Policy	Policy Focus in Crewe	Delivery
	level of delay and provide for the needs of all road users including pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.	Areas along Nantwich Road AQMA and Earl Street AQMA.	
<b>Business Growth</b>	<b>Policy B4 Network Improvement:</b> Work to improve the operation of the highway network for all users through provision of new and enhanced infrastructure.	Improvement to the highway network will also be delivered through the implementation of Crewe Green Link Road (South). This is identified as a cross-cutting initiative and is discussed in more detail the LTP. Short-medium term priority	
<b>Business Growth</b>	<b>Policy B5 Freight:</b> Work with freight operators and organisations to establish appropriate freight routes, delivery routines and driver practices to minimise congestion and pollution.	The focus of freight policy implementation in Crewe will be on facilitating the development and use of rail-freight by Crewe-based businesses (Already a component of the agreed Basford West development.)	
<b>Business Growth</b>	<b>Policy B7 Business Innovation:</b> Support businesses to reduce carbon emissions from transport and minimise car use.	The business transport innovation policy for Crewe will be important both for securing a robust and nationally-competitive Next Generation Broadband (NGB) infrastructure that effectively supports large-scale homeworking, raises productivity levels within the local economy, helps to address local congestion issues as well as supporting mainstream service delivery improvements.	
<b>Business Growth</b>	<b>Policy B8 Maintenance:</b> Adopt a robust and efficient approach to maintenance to minimise deterioration in the highway network and associated infrastructure assets (lighting, street furniture etc.)	Public perceptions of road and pavement repairs in Crewe is currently poor and the focus of the maintenance policy will be on improving pavement condition at priority locations within the town centre, near bus stops, shopping areas and around community centres.	

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### Policy Interpretation Table - Health

SCS Theme	LTP Policy	Policy Focus in Crewe	Delivery
Health	<b>Policy H2 Promotion of Active Travel and Healthy Activities:</b> Work in partnership to promote walking, cycling and horse riding as active travel options and healthy activities.	Promoting cycling and walking as active and healthy forms of travel and as a means to reduce carbon emissions and to improve the health of Crewe's population.	
Health	<b>Policy H4 Air Quality:</b> Work to improve the quality of our air in Cheshire East.	Measures to improve air quality in the Air Quality Management Areas along Nantwich Road AQMA and Earl Street AQMA.	

### Policy Interpretation Table - Communities

SCS Theme	LTP Policy	Policy Focus in Crewe	Delivery
Communities	<b>Policy C2 Accessibility of Services:</b> Work with partner organisations and local communities to make key services easier to access with a particular focus on disadvantaged groups and areas, including people living in rural areas, older people, young people and those without access to a car.	Access to work from areas of deprivation – particularly links to any new employment sites in Crewe – will be the focus of this policy in Crewe.	Medium term

### Crewe Smarter Choices

- .1 20. Crewe Smarter Choices package will capitalise on Crewe's potential to become a more sustainable town by investigating the potential for modal shift to reduce car use in the town centre by promoting alternative modes of transport as part of a packaged approach. This will be implemented in parallel to initiatives to improve services and facilities where possible in a corridor approach along key routes.



## Appendix A: Draft Transport Framework for Crewe

### Major Scheme: Crewe Green Link Road (South)

- .1 For the full strategic potential of the Basford sites to be realised, the completion of the Crewe Green Link Road (CGLR) will be necessary. The first phase (North) was completed in 2004 and has played an important role in facilitating employment growth east of the town centre. Completion of CGLR South will facilitate the delivery of Crewe's vision for economic growth to 2030, which will see Basford East firmly established as one of the UK's largest science-focused business parks with over 800,000 square feet of grade A accommodation, housing multi-national companies, leading edge logistics firms, university spin-outs and a wide range of technology-rich enterprises.

### Basford Development Site & Crewe Green Link Road Proposals

- .1 The CGLR South will support sustainable economic growth and ensure that Crewe has the infrastructure needed as a key regional transport gateway. It will provide a link between areas of deprivation to the north of Crewe and employment opportunities to the south east. It will reduce traffic congestion, increase freight efficiency and reduce the impact of traffic on the local environment and local community.
- .2 Crewe Green Link Road South will help deliver a range of policy aspirations for Crewe including:
- .3 **S1 Spatial Planning** aspirations to provide well-connected accessible sites.
- .4 **S4 Public Transport (Service Levels & Reliability)** to minimise delay for buses by reducing congestion, particularly in the vicinity of the railway station, while also offering the potential for new routes linking to new employment opportunities.
- .5 **B3 Network Management & B4 Network Improvement** to tackle congestion and air quality issues in Crewe.
- .6 **B5 Freight** to facilitate appropriate route choice and capitalise on Crewe's "gateway" status.

## Appendix A: Draft Transport Framework for Crewe

### End Notes

- a. Cheshire Community Survey, 2008
- b. Health of the Population within Local Area Partnership Boards within Central and Eastern Cheshire, 2010

Cheshire East Council  
Westfields, Middlewich Road  
Sandbach, Cheshire CW11 1HZ  
**[www.cheshireeast.gov.uk](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk)**

**This information is available in other formats on request**

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