

**Northamptonshire Transportation Plan**

**SYNOPSIS**

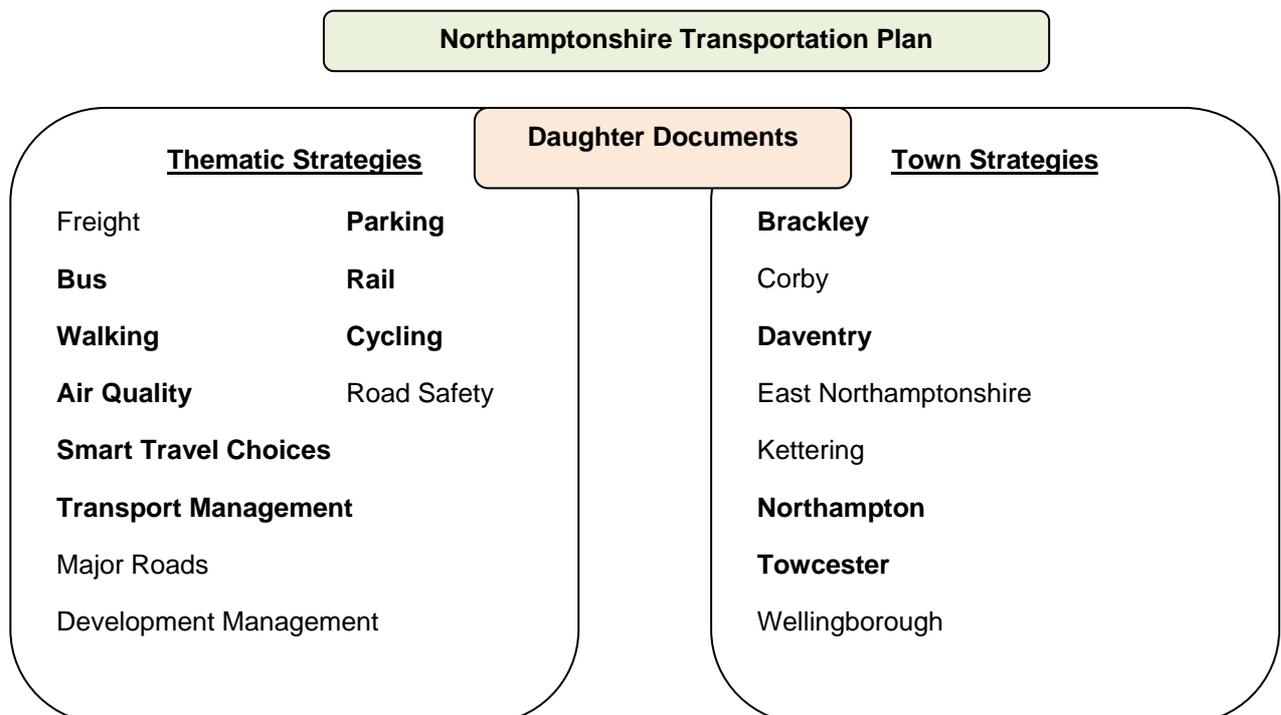
This report seeks endorsement of the officer response made to Northamptonshire County Council on the consultation on the draft transport strategies

**1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Northamptonshire County Council issued a number of transport strategies for public consultation. The draft strategies included:
- [Road Freight Strategy](#)
  - [Highway Development Management Strategy](#)
  - [Major Roads Strategy](#)
  - [Road Safety Strategy](#)
- 1.2 Consultation on the documents started on 16<sup>th</sup> September and ended on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2013. This is the earliest opportunity to inform the Committee of the consultation document. A Corby Borough Council officer response was submitted to meet the consultation deadline. Members are now invited to endorse this officer response, attached as Appendix A.
- 1.3 The consultation documents can be viewed on Northamptonshire County Councils website at [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk).

**2.0 Context**

- 2.1 The draft strategies are part of a series of daughter documents which sit underneath the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan and will provide more detail on strategy and policy for specific modes of transport and the main settlements within Northamptonshire.
- 2.2 The component parts of the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan are set out in the diagram below. Documents that have been completed are shown in bold.



### 3.0 Details

#### Northamptonshire Road Freight Strategy

- 3.1 The detailed Road Freight Strategy for Northamptonshire sets out a framework for road freight and freight related issues in the County and looks at freight in a wider regional and national context.
- 3.2 Its overall vision is stated as: “To encourage the sustainable distribution of goods through minimising road based travel and the associated environmental impacts of road haulage, whilst maintaining economic efficiency and helping to improve the quality of life for residents of Northamptonshire.” It identifies five key components central to the vision, namely:
- Accommodate freight operations;
  - Provision of lorry parking
  - Enforcement of freight management procedures
  - Freight in Northamptonshire; and
  - Reduce the impact of freight
- 3.3 Within each of these key components, the Road Freight Strategy identifies a series of policies by which to deliver them. The policies are broadly based and represent objectives to be supported i.e. freight policy 5 seeks to support the provision of secure lorry parking facilities and encourage developers to provide safe, secure lorry parks at strategic points across the county; which is a shared objective of the emerging draft replacement Core Strategy for North Northamptonshire.

#### Northamptonshire Major Roads Strategy

- 3.4 The Major Roads Strategy describes improvements being considered for each of the primary routes in the County. Of particular note and relevance to the Borough are:
- The A43 between Northampton and Stamford is described as one of the most important roads for internal movement within Northamptonshire. Upgrading schemes identified within the Strategy include the Corby Link Road (currently under construction) and the phased dualling of the A43 between Kettering and Northampton. There is also an aspiration to dual the A43 between the end of the current dual carriageway at Weldon and the A1 to the south of Stamford. The Strategy explains that this would most likely involve the provision of bypasses at Collyweston and Easton-on-the-Hill, but no work has yet been undertaken on this scheme.
  - Relatively modest traffic flows on the A427, and the fact that it does not pass through any villages means that there are no major improvements planned to the route, although minor improvements to accompany the development to the west of Corby are anticipated.
  - The Strategy explains that as part of the planned expansion of Corby to west, there are likely to be some improvements to the A6003. These will be described in a little further detail in the forthcoming Corby Town Transport Strategy.
  - The A6116 connects Corby with the A14 at Islip. The Strategy explains that as the road does not pass through any villages, and is of a suitable standard for the volume and type of traffic which uses it, there are no planned improvements to the route.

#### Northamptonshire Highway Development Strategy

- 3.5 The overall aim of the Highway Development Strategy is to “ensure that all developments within Northamptonshire mitigate their effects on the transport network” It identifies three elements that address delivery of development in the county:
- Development Management and Sustainable Development – ensuring that the transport elements of developments contribute to delivering sustainable communities in Northamptonshire
  - Delivery of Transport Infrastructure – ensuring that developments deliver the highway infrastructure necessary for a growing county

- Development Site Layout Policies – ensuring that developments meet layout, constructional and adoptable standards and requirements

3.6 Within each of these elements the Highway Development Strategy identifies a series of detailed policies by which to deliver them.

3.7 The appended officer response expressed concern that the document is too detailed for a strategic document. More specifically the officer response queried the status of local transport policies and standards, the consultation process, legality of proposed conditions and identified a number of typographical errors.

#### Northamptonshire Road Safety Strategy

3.8 The Road Safety Strategy sets out approaches and policies to enable the introduction and use of interventions for road safety and casualty reduction in Northamptonshire.

3.9 The overall aim of the Road Safety Strategy is stated as: “To develop an integrated approach to road safety that will reduce casualties and take opportunities to support healthier lifestyles utilising the ‘Three E’ approach of Education, Engineering and Enforcement.” The following policies are designed to address this aim:

- The County Council will deliver educational and promotional programmes to all age groups;
- The County Council will support the police in driver awareness courses;
- All schools will receive a Safer Routes to Schools study;
- Collision data analysis will be maintained and updated and used to identify emerging trends, specific road user groups at risk and the most dangerous sections of the road network;
- Partnership arrangements will be maintained through the Northamptonshire Safer Roads Alliance;
- Delivery of the Walking Strategy, Cycling Strategy, and Smarter Travel Choices Strategy will be supported;
- The County Council will continue to comment on planning applications to enable mitigation measures to be secured;
- Road Safety Audits will be encouraged for new development to identify the impact of changes in the highways and ensure the network is safe for all users; and
- The County Council will apply for all possible grants, developers funding as well as seeking out opportunities for sponsorship to enable delivery of Road Safety events and interventions

#### **4.0 Issues to be taken into account:-**

##### **Policy Priorities**

The strategies will influence projects and proposals throughout the County and aid in the development of Corby’s emerging Local Plan.

##### ***Financial***

There are no costs associated with the submission of a response to the County Councils draft transport strategies.

##### ***Legal***

Transport Act 2000

##### ***Performance Information***

None directly related to this report.

##### ***Best Value, Human Rights, Community Safety, Equalities and Sustainability***

None directly related to this report.

##### **Risk Management**

Submission of comments will ensure that issues affecting Corby Borough Council are taken into account.

## **5.0 Conclusion**

- 5.1 Comments were invited on a number of draft strategies before 25<sup>th</sup> October 2013. Officers submitted a response before the deadline. Members are asked to endorse the response (Appendix A) and instruct officers to retrospectively notify Northamptonshire County Council that the response has been endorsed by Corby Borough Council.
- 5.2 The consultation documents are strategic in nature and therefore the content is generally broad. The forthcoming Corby Town Transport Strategy will be key, as this will provide the details on how these policies will be delivered, and how they will affect the Borough. Northamptonshire County Council advises that the Corby Town Transport Strategy will be published next year.

## **6.0 Recommendation**

- 6.1 The Committee is requested to endorse the response from Corby Borough Council to the draft transport strategies (Appendix A).

### **Background Papers**

[Northamptonshire Transportation Plan](#), March 2012

[Northamptonshire Bus Strategy \(PDF format 636KB\)](#), January 2013

[Northamptonshire Cycling Strategy \(PDF format 1,148KB\)](#), January 2013

[Northamptonshire Highway Air Quality Strategy \(PDF format 1,447KB\)](#), January 2013

[Northamptonshire Highway Management Strategy \(PDF format 707KB\)](#), January 2013

[Northamptonshire Parking Strategy \(PDF format 574KB\)](#), January 2013

[Northamptonshire Rail Strategy \(PDF format 915KB\)](#), January 2013

[Northamptonshire Smarter Travel Choices Strategy \(PDF format 814KB\)](#), January 2013

[Northamptonshire Walking Strategy \(PDF format 705KB\)](#), January 2013

### **Wards**

All

### **Officers to Contact**

Terry Begley (Principal Planner Local Plans) ext 3185

## Appendix A

Transport Planning  
Highways, Transportation and Infrastructure  
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County Hall  
Northampton  
NN1 1ED

Please Contact: Terry Begley  
Telephone: 01536 463185  
terry.begley@corby.gov.uk

25<sup>th</sup> October 2013

Dear Sir or Madam

### **Corby Borough Council response to the draft transport strategies**

Thank you for providing Corby Borough Council with the opportunity to comment on the draft transport strategies.

Overall the policies within the draft transport strategies are broadly supported and will assist in the delivery of the Core Strategy for Northamptonshire. There are however some comments which officers of Corby Borough Council wish to make on the content of the draft Northamptonshire Highway Development Strategy. It is anticipated that these officer comments may be endorsed by members of Corby Borough Council in due course.

#### **Northamptonshire Highway Development Strategy**

Generally the Northamptonshire Highway Development Strategy is considered too detailed for a strategic document. More specifically the comments are as follows:

Page 14 – some of the policies and standards referenced within the strategy are out of date or have no local policy support i.e. Supplementary Planning Guidance on Parking (March 2003). The status of the documents and relationship to the Northamptonshire Transportation Plan should be clarified within the strategy;

Page 15 – the strategy states that the formal consultation period does not start until sufficient information has been provided to the County Council to form advice. However a request for further information or amended plans is identified as one of possible formal responses to the consultation. Clarification should be provided in the strategy on how the request for further information or amended plans sits with the twenty one day consultation period. The strategy should also explain what the position is where the County Council do not respond within the twenty one day consultation period e.g. is the local planning authority entitled to consider there is no objection or comment?

Page 16 – typo on DM Strategy diagram “sire”;

Page 18 – typo [www.northamptonshire...](http://www.northamptonshire...)

Page 20/21 – Policy DM4 refers to “nil detriment impact” but some developers have insisted this is not reasonable or lawful;

Page 21/22 – Northamptonshire County Council will have to justify any requests for Section 106 contributions having regard to the tests in the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations;

Page 25/26 – very detailed advice about sight lines/ junction spacing/ swept paths etc that is considered too detailed for a strategic document;

Appendix 2 – concerns about standard conditions/notes which effectively require streets to be adopted or which suggest an approved scheme may have to be amended are not acceptable.

Finally, Corby Borough Council encourages Northamptonshire County Council to actively engage with the Borough Council to help shape the forthcoming Corby Town Transport Strategy. The Chair of the Local Plan Committee invites County Council representatives to

give a presentation on the emerging proposals for the Corby Town Transport Strategy in advance of consultation on the draft plan.

We look forward to reviewing the outcome of the consultation process in due course.

Yours Sincerely

Terry Begley  
Principal Planner  
Corby Borough Council