

Chapter One:

Introduction

Purpose and Scope of the Framework

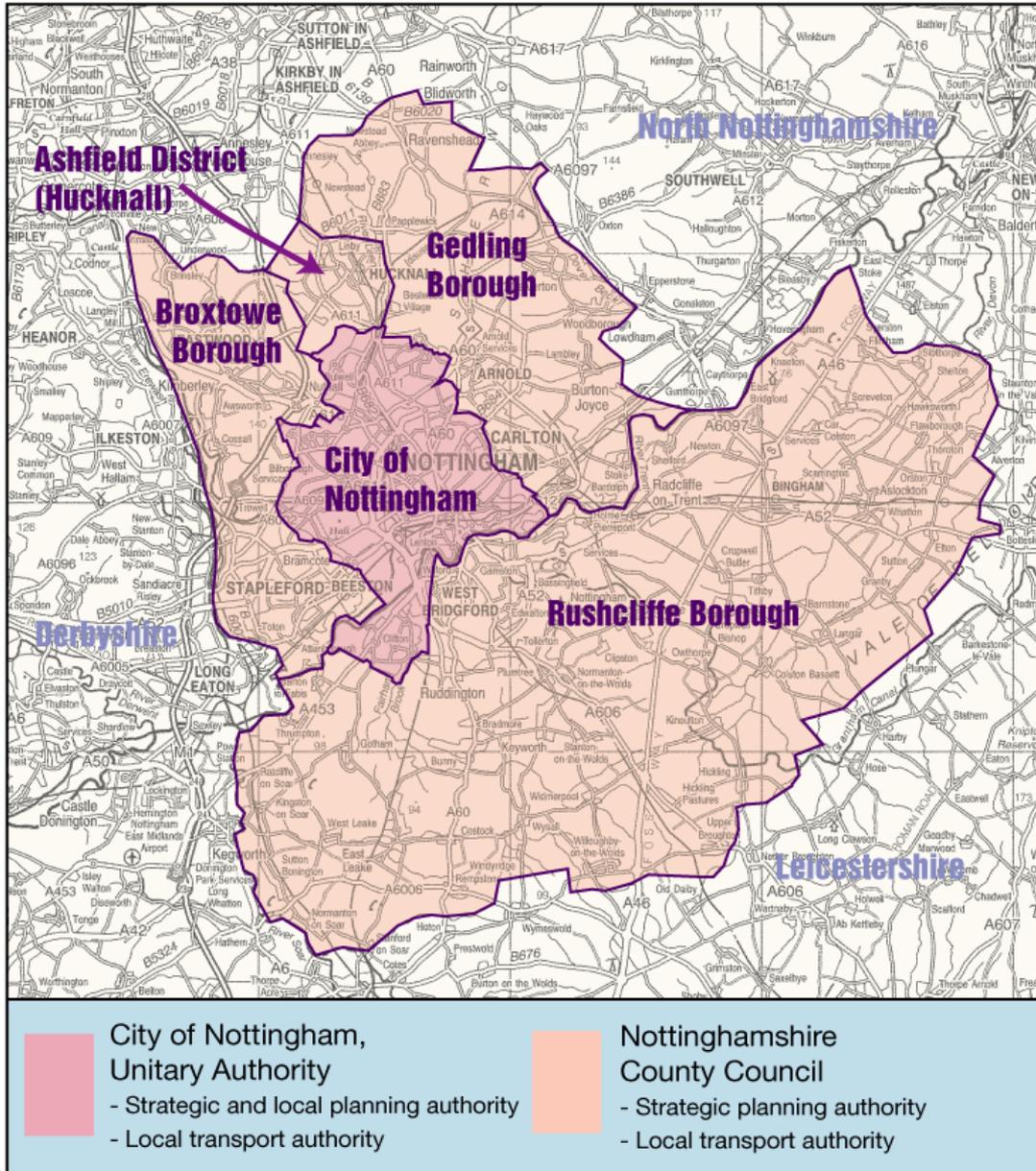
Accessibility Strategy

- 1.1. The concept of accessibility planning was introduced in the Social Exclusion Unit's report *Making the Connections*¹ which put forward a cross-government strategy for improving access to essential public services, including employment, education, healthcare and food shopping.
- 1.2. Department for Transport's (DfT) guidance on the preparation of the second round of Local Transport Plans and the additional guidance on the accessibility planning process (*Guidance on Accessibility Planning in the Local Transport Plan and Local Transport Plan Guidance*²) clearly identify that accessibility planning should be an integral part of Local Transport Plans.
- 1.3. The Greater Nottingham Local Transport Plan (LTP2) is produced jointly by Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council and covers the five-year period from April 2006 to March 2011. Correspondingly the Greater Nottingham Accessibility Strategy has also been developed jointly by the two authorities for the same Plan area as shown in Figure 1.1. Over the Plan period there will be opportunity to apply approaches and initiatives developed to improve rural accessibility in the neighbouring LTP areas, including North Nottinghamshire, to the rural areas of Greater Nottingham.
- 1.4. In order to fully demonstrate how the main requirements for the Accessibility Strategy set out in section 2.6 of the guidance have been met it has been decided to submit the Greater Nottingham Accessibility Strategy as two separate documents, this strategy document and the supporting partner statements accompanied by Local Accessibility Action Plans, which form part of the suite of documents comprising the Greater Nottingham Local Transport Plan 2006/7 – 2010/11. More Local Accessibility Action Plans will be developed through the Plan period and this document will be updated accordingly.
- 1.5. The Accessibility Strategy sets out the links between social exclusion and transport, progress on the accessibility planning process for Greater Nottingham including consultation, development of partnership working, the accessibility priorities and includes a number of early Local Accessibility Action Plans. Table 1.1 sets out how chapters in this document relate to the main components required for the Accessibility Strategy. Figure 1.2 shows how the information in the Accessibility Strategy relate to the accessibility planning process set out in the DfT's Guidance.
- 1.6. The Local Transport Plan has a complementary chapter on accessibility and how the transport strategy will deliver improvements to accessibility to key services in Greater Nottingham is clearly identified throughout the LTP document.

1 Making the Connections, Social Exclusion Unit, February 2003.

2 Guidance on Accessibility Planning in Local Transport Plan, Department for Transport, December 2004

Figure 1.1: Greater Nottingham Local Transport Plan Area – responsibilities and administrative boundaries



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Table 1.1: Main components of the Greater Nottingham Accessibility Strategy

Chapter		Requirements for Accessibility Strategy (DfT 2004)
1	Introduction	
2	Accessibility Vision for Greater Nottingham	High level accessibility vision and objectives, including the approach to be adopted and the priority to be placed on accessibility issues within the LTP area.
3	Wider Context	A description of how accessibility objectives link with, and are integrated within, the authorities' wider vision and objectives for economic development, employment, housing health, education and social inclusion etc.
4	Links to the Local Transport Plan	A description of the accessibility implications of wider transport policies adopted in the LTP.
5	Using Accessibility Planning	A description of the intended use of the accessibility analysis on the authorities' wider transport strategies and policies.
6	Partnerships and Consultation	Evidence that partnerships have helped to develop the strategy and that specific partnerships have been put in place to assess and develop solutions to the identified priorities.
7	Strategic Accessibility Assessment of Greater Nottingham	An improved analytical and evidence base including an initial strategic level assessment of accessibility levels in the LTP area (by public transport, cycling and walking) using appropriate locally available indicators to identify likely challenges and opportunities.
8	Accessibility Priorities for Greater Nottingham	Prioritisation of the identified problems with an explanation of why specific issues, groups, areas or destinations have been prioritised. More in-depth local accessibility assessments around an authority's priorities.
9	LTP Programme for improving accessibility 2006/7 – 2010/11	A phased programme for improving accessibility setting out the timeframe for tackling the identified priorities over the remaining LTP period.
10	Indicators and Targets	Identification of local accessibility indicators and targets for measuring and monitoring accessibility to support the objectives of improved accessibility a) overall and b) particularly for those most in need, and with an explanation of how these have been derived.
Annex A	Wider Reference and Core Steering Groups - Membership.	
Annex B	Sample Accessibility Questionnaire	
Annex C	Local Accessibility Action Plan Pro-forma	
Annex D	Development Programme for Greater Nottingham	
Supporting document	Local Accessibility Action Plans	An outline of initial local accessibility action plans worked up for the authorities' priorities. This section supplements the supporting statements from key partners prepared for the Framework Accessibility Strategy.

Figure 1.2: Accessibility planning process in Greater Nottingham

