

# **Chapter Three:**

# **Wider Context**



# Introduction

- 3.1. This chapter sets out the wider planning and policy context for accessibility planning in Greater Nottingham. Accessibility planning will allow the authorities, in partnership with other local agencies who have a key role to play in delivering employment services, education, healthcare and other core local services, to develop a better understanding of accessibility needs in Greater Nottingham and how these can be met. The accessibility planning process will contribute to the delivery of the authorities' wider vision and objectives on economic regeneration, welfare to work, social inclusion, health, education, housing provision and quality of life for residents in Greater Nottingham.

## Social Inclusion

- 3.2. There are a number of local community strategies focusing on improving social inclusion in the Greater Nottingham area that will be supported by the accessibility planning process as set out in Table 3.1.
- 3.3. Nottingham is seeking to accelerate the rate of change in its most deprived wards and neighbourhoods through its Community Strategy 'One Nottingham - One Plan'<sup>1</sup>, due to be adopted in April 2006. Developed by the Local Strategic Partnership, 'One Nottingham', the plan identifies issues that are priorities in addressing social inequalities. One Nottingham comprises representatives from the public, private and voluntary sectors who are working together to address the issues of crime, employability, health inequalities, young people, and sustainable neighbourhoods. 'One Nottingham – One Plan' sets out a vision for Nottingham to offer opportunities to all who choose to live, work, learn, invest in and visit the City under five themes:
- Choose Nottingham
  - Transforming Nottingham's Neighbourhoods
  - Active and Healthy Nottingham
  - Young Nottingham
  - Respect for Nottingham.
- 3.4. Accessibility planning has assisted One Nottingham to identify priorities and will support this strategy by basing actions on a clear understanding of the communities' needs and aspirations, and preventing transport problems being a barrier to social inclusion. The Community Strategy supports schemes such as 'Safer Routes to School', increasing accessible bus stops and demand responsive buses, and includes a specific accessibility indicator (access to district centres).
- 3.5. The Community Strategy provides the overarching framework for other City Council plans. Its objectives will be delivered 'on the ground' through Local Area Action Plans

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<sup>1</sup> One Nottingham – One Plan, 2006 – 2009, Community Strategy, One Nottingham, April 2006

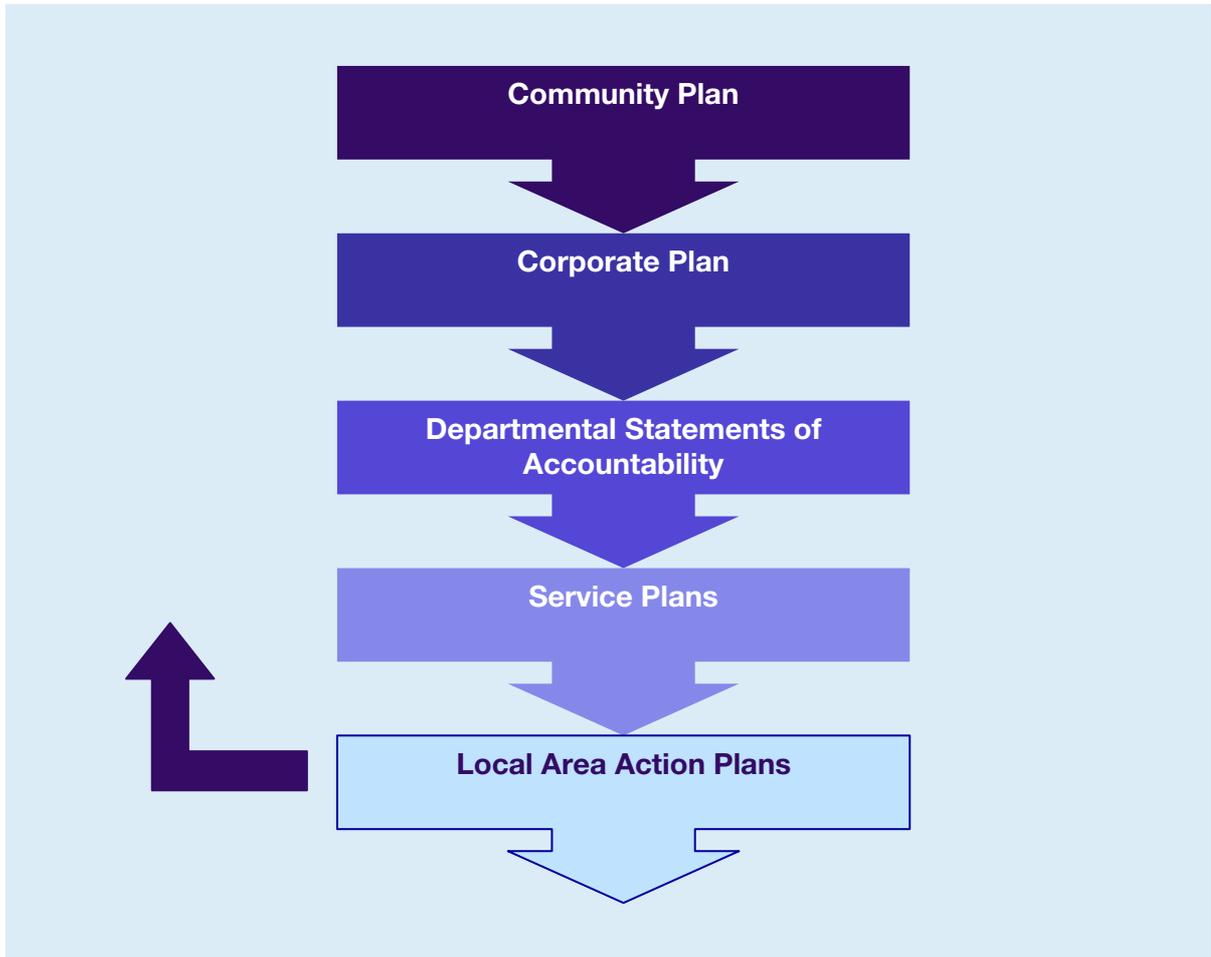
which are the local interpretation of the strategy. The Nottingham City Council Corporate Plan 2006 - 2011<sup>2</sup> contains five key themes to deliver best value services, which are closely aligned with those of the Community Strategy.

- 3.6. The vision for the County part of Greater Nottingham is set out in Nottinghamshire's Community Strategy for 2005/9 'All Together Better'. This landmark strategy was adopted in September 2005 by the Nottinghamshire Partnership, ([www.nottinghamshirepartnership.org.uk](http://www.nottinghamshirepartnership.org.uk)), which includes over 70 of the key organisations which have an influence over people's lives in the County. This includes the County Council, Police, District/Borough Councils, voluntary and community sector, Primary Care Trusts and Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue.
- 3.7. 'All Together Better' draws closely from the more localised vision set out in District Community Strategies, including those for Ashfield, Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe. This integration of vision between local and county level is reinforced by the strong representation on the Nottinghamshire Partnership of District Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs).
- 3.8. An element of the vision for Nottinghamshire, set out in the Community Strategy, is of "a place in which everyone can succeed, with fair access to opportunities and support". There are five priorities within the Community Strategy:
- Safer and stronger; making Nottinghamshire safer, building a strong sense of community and enriching lives;
  - Healthier; improving health and wellbeing;
  - Learning and earning; helping everyone to reach their potential
  - Cleaner and greener; protecting and improving the environment; and
  - Travel and access; travelling easily and safely and being able to access all the services people need.
- 3.9. This clearly illustrates the critical role which accessibility to jobs, learning, affordable food, essential services, health care, and leisure and cultural facilities have on life chances and well-being. Matching people more effectively with where they need to get to can help to make inclusion in society possible for the whole community. The goal that opportunities and benefits should be available to everyone is a cornerstone of the transport strategy for Greater Nottingham, as well as one of the shared priorities of national government and local transport authorities.

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<sup>2</sup> Nottingham City Council Corporate Plan 2006-2011, April 2006

**Figure 3.1: Hierarchy of Plans**



3.10. Local Area Agreements (LAA) is a new Government initiative to simplify funding streams, improve co-ordination of services, reduce bureaucracy and devolve more decisions to local partnerships. Tackling inequalities and promoting diversity and community cohesion will be a central cross cutting theme running throughout the Community Strategy as will promoting Nottingham's role in the Greater Nottingham conurbation and City Region, and these themes will be integral to the City's LAA. A full LAA has been developed by One Nottingham with the government, which encompasses Children and Young People, Healthier Communities and Older People, Economic Development and Enterprise, and Safer and Stronger Communities. Nottingham City is one of 66 local authorities in Britain to be included in the second rollout of the LAAs, which means implementation will begin from April 2006. They will be the delivery mechanism for the priorities of the Community Strategy, along with government set mandatory outcomes, and reward element (former Local Public Service Agreement) targets.

3.11. The Nottinghamshire LAA is a new 3-year agreement, due to be signed between government and a number of local partners in March 2006, which sets out a series of local outcomes and targets which partners collectively have agreed to deliver. It is

focused in on local priorities identified through the community strategies for the area, and in particular on those that can benefit from improved partnership working. The LAA is also concerned with streamlining the funding and performance management relationship between government and local agencies. Accessibility has been identified as a key local priority within the LTP area, and the Nottinghamshire LAA has included an outcome on accessibility. One specific target concerns general accessibility to key services, but there are also targets relating to the uptake and use of concessionary travel passes. This reflects the need to address in particular the accessibility needs of the elderly and disabled, which has become evident from both the LAA and Accessibility Planning consultation processes. The LAA also makes provision for “pooling” Rural Bus Subsidy Grant, which is a key funding stream for improving accessibility in rural areas, and seeks greater flexibility in its use. This should help to ensure that the money available is best used to meet accessibility need in the County area.

- 3.12. The ‘Community Cohesion Strategy’<sup>3</sup> (Nottingham Together Programme Plan) is concerned with addressing and removing barriers and fractures within and between communities and encouraging positive interaction between different groups. Nottingham does have significant issues that destabilise some of the most vulnerable communities, including the disconnection of some young people in our outer estates from the rest of the City, inter-generational tensions, territorialism, poor physical design of some of our council estates, low ambition and under-achievement and inter-cultural disputes. The strategy’s prime objective is to develop strong, safe communities that are able to positively impact on issues affecting the social and economic well-being of their members. Similarly to accessibility planning, the development of the strategy will require the active engagement of local people and their representatives, as well as other local service providers and key partners.
- 3.13. Gaps and opportunities for further action to improve community relations highlighted in the strategy include developing and monitoring an ‘outer estates’ action plan (focusing on disconnection and under-achievement of some young people) and enhancing opportunities to use arts, sports, culture and leisure events to highlight and strengthen community cohesion. The strategy will support the aims of accessibility planning because it has an opportunity to enhance current arrangements for developing employment and training opportunities for people from the City’s most disadvantaged communities by increasing staff awareness, developing trainee schemes, liaising closely with local colleges and schools, and promoting good practice across the authority and the City. It will also increase participation of under-represented groups such as children and young people, faith communities, and tenant and resident groups.

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<sup>3</sup> Community Cohesion Strategy, Nottingham Together Programme Plan. Nottingham City Council, 2005.

**Table 3.1: Local Community Strategies**

Strategy	Priorities
<b>'All Together Better: Nottinghamshire Community Strategy' 2005 - 2009'</b>	Includes plans to reduce barriers to people gaining employment, widen access to sport and active recreation, and roll out Children's Centres across the County. Ensuring that roads, public transport, footpaths, cycle ways and rights of way are safe and easy for all to use is part of this. The strategy aims to help everyone access the services they need and enjoy by improving their proximity and means of access. The Local Plans produced for the boroughs of Broxtowe, Gedling, and Rushcliffe together with Ashfield District complement this strategy. Social inclusion cuts across the 5 themes of the strategy.
<b>'One Nottingham – One Plan', 2006 - 2009</b>	Sets out a vision for Nottingham to offer opportunities to all who choose to live, work, learn, invest in and visit the City. Developed through the Local Strategic Partnership it brings together the public, private, voluntary, and community sectors to focus on addressing crime, education, health, employment and housing issues. Accessibility planning has assisted ON in the identification of priorities and 'One Nottingham – One Plan' recognises the importance of local neighbourhood accessibility to employment, education, health facilities, and other services. The Accessibility Strategy will form a tool for ensuring those people most in need can access services, and consequently help to readdress social inequalities within the City. Social inclusion cuts across the 6 themes of the strategy.
<b>The Ashfield Partnership – 'Working Together Community Strategy for Ashfield 2001 - 2006'. A sustainable strategy for the regeneration of Ashfield's communities</b>	With an aim to tackle social exclusion, this strategy seeks to encourage access to facilities, services and goods and other people in ways that also minimise impact on the environment.  Social inclusion cuts across the 6 themes of the strategy. The consultation process has started for the next strategy covering the period 2006 – 2021.
<b>Broxtowe's plan- 'Making Broxtowe Better (2001 – 2006) A Strategy for our Community'</b>	Wants to develop successful and inclusive and safe communities and plans to examine and address any barriers preventing access to services and facilities. The plan aims to ensure access to quality learning and childcare provision for all under fives, and wants to promote life long learning, by ensuring that the whole community has access to learning opportunities. Through improving safety the plan can also contribute to improving accessibility. Social inclusion cuts across the 5 themes of the strategy. Consultation has started on the strategy for the period 2006 onwards.
<b>Gedling Community Strategy 2006 – 2008. Gedling Partnership 'Working Together'</b>	To develop a prosperous borough and a thriving and safe community. Health is identified as a priority and improving access to health services, particularly for older people is identified as an issue. The plan also wants to make the countryside and culture accessible to all and supports the priorities of the LTP. Social inclusion cross cuts across all the 5 themes of the strategy.
<b>Rushcliffe's plan – 'A Better Future for Rushcliffe. Rushcliffe Community Strategy 2005 – 2020'</b>	Includes the building strong and safe communities by increasing inclusion and supporting the development of integrated community facilities and opportunities. It plans to protect and improve the environment by managing where new developments are built and promote sustainable transport solutions. Social inclusion cuts across all the 5 themes of the strategy.

- 3.14. The City Council's area committee structure aims to encourage service providers to work together on the things that matter most to local people and provides the opportunity for local residents and other partners to be involved in the council's decision-making processes at a local level. Membership includes local councillors, local tenants and residents, voluntary and community organisations, health, Police, Fire Service, local businesses, local partnerships and other organisations. There are nine area committees who produce 'area committee action plans' specific to the needs of the area. These illustrate improvements that the community would like to see covering community safety, health, education, housing and the living environment. Each section lists projects designed to improve neighbourhoods. These plans will be used in the accessibility planning process to highlight specific accessibility issues in each area.
- 3.15. Both authorities are engaged in Local Agenda 21 work. Nottingham City's Local Agenda 21 Plan, 'Changing our City, Changing Ourselves'<sup>4</sup> recognises that providing greater accessibility to jobs and services will help to create a fairer, more inclusive society, and promotes development in more accessible places. Nottinghamshire Agenda 21 Forum's strategy includes a vision of 'a county which is efficient, clean, safe and accessible to all', where 'travelling by foot, cycle and public transport should be a convenient and viable option'. It has agreed a series of actions to add value to transport and accessibility initiatives throughout the County.
- 3.16. 'Welfare to Work for Disabled People, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, Joint Investment Plan 2004-2007'<sup>5</sup> is aimed at ensuring appropriate and timely support is available to disabled people who need support to remain in their employment, wish to re-enter employment, are entering employment for the first time, or those who are not ready for work, but want to move closer to the world of work. The document links into the development process for the LTP, and through the accessibility planning partnership and processes has identified specific issues around transport.

## Land Use Planning

- 3.17. Reform of the planning system through the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 has placed increased importance on inclusive accessibility. Under section 42 of the Act there is a requirement for design and access statements to be submitted to support certain planning applications, and that such statements should consider road layout, public transport links and access to individual buildings within a site. Additionally, in terms of the development plan, government guidance in Planning Policy Statement 1<sup>6</sup>, includes in its key principles that, "Development Plans should contain clear, comprehensive and inclusive access policies – in terms of both location and external physical access". In particular, the document notes that all members of

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4 Changing our City, Changing Ourselves, Nottingham's Local Agenda 21 Plan, Nottingham City Council and Nottingham Green Partnership, July 2001.

5 Welfare to Work for Disabled People, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, Joint Investment Plan, Nottinghamshire County Council, 2004.

6 Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development, 2005

the community should have access to jobs, health, housing, education, shops, leisure and community facilities. Accessibility is therefore fundamental to spatial planning.

- 3.18. The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Joint Structure Plan (JSP)<sup>7</sup> sets out the strategic land use policies to guide the scale and location of development in the City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire County areas. The Joint Structure Plan was adopted in February 2006 and will be valid for three years or until the Regional Spatial Strategy is adopted (currently anticipated for early 2008). The JSP establishes the scale and broad location of housing and employment land, the protection and enhancement of the environment, transport, recreation and tourism, and shopping. A key aim is to promote sustainable development, and it seeks to do this by integrating social, economic and environmental factors in development proposals and encouraging development that works positively towards all three factors. For example, the provision of public transport infrastructure not only reduces the burden on natural resources but also encourages social inclusion and can help bring about further growth in the local economy.
- 3.19. The JSP sets out the framework for local plans that in turn determine land use allocations at the local level. The local plans within the Plan area are at differing stages of their preparation as shown in Table 3.2. The plans will support accessibility by ensuring that land use allocations are sited where there is transport choice and through reducing the need to travel.

**Table 3.2: The status of Local Plans**

District	Status of Local Plan
<b>Ashfield (Hucknall only)</b>	Local Plan adopted November 2002
<b>Broxtowe</b>	Local Plan adopted September 2004
<b>Gedling</b>	Local Plan adopted July 2005
<b>Rushcliffe</b>	The revised Local Plan is likely to be adopted in summer 2006
<b>Nottingham</b>	Local Plan adopted November 2005

- 3.20. The Planning and Compensation Act 2004 requires all local planning authorities to replace their Local Plans with Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) by 2008. The core strategy will be a central document in the LDF and the LTP needs to reflect and support the aims of this. Land use planning, in turn, must consider the existing transport network and plans for its development. As accessibility planning is now a key element

<sup>7</sup> Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Joint Structure Plan, Draft for Adoption ; Nottingham City Council & Nottinghamshire County Council, October 2005.

of the LTP process, land use planning must continue to take into account the impact that the control, and location, of development can have in terms of reducing the need to travel and tackling the barriers that people, particularly in disadvantaged groups and areas, face in accessing jobs and key services. The LDFs should recognise the importance of directing developments towards sites that are already accessible by public transport, and should set out proposed improvements to the transport network in support of the core strategy.

- 3.21. Evidence required to inform the associated Development Plan Documents includes information on accessibility to transport infrastructure. Nottinghamshire County Council will be the provider of this for the borough planning authorities. The districts' research and data collation on land uses to enable them to prepare LDFs will be used in future mapping to be carried out by the County for Accessibility Planning.

## Economic Regeneration

- 3.22. Produced by the Greater Nottingham Partnership (GNP), the Sub-Regional Strategic Partnership (SSP), the 'Development Strategy for Greater Nottingham'<sup>8</sup> sets out the economic vision and necessary actions to ensure the local community benefit from a growing and successful economy, and seeks to build on Nottingham's inclusion in the Core Cities group. The strategy identifies priorities for investment in transport as part of improving connectivity. Although the focus is on regional connectivity as a means of promoting the city's performance, the comprehensive transport investment programme to improve communications infrastructure will have positive accessibility impacts.

## Health

- 3.23. The authorities have a positive history of working in partnership with the health sector. In particular:
- The City Council's Health Promotion Strategy, 'Living Health'<sup>9</sup>, reflects the importance placed on the local authority's contribution to the health promotion and ill-health prevention agenda. This strategy demonstrates the commitment to working in partnership with the Nottingham City Primary Care Trust and other main organisations tasked with tackling health inequalities and reducing the health gap. Accessibility planning will help the health service to tackle health priorities through improving patient transport services, improving advice and information available to patients and promoting accessibility considerations in decisions in healthcare infrastructure.

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<sup>8</sup> Development Strategy for Greater Nottingham, Greater Nottingham Partnership, 2004

<sup>9</sup> Living Health, Nottingham City Council, 2001.

- The Transport Health Initiatives Group (THIG), a multi sector partnership including the local authorities, the PCT's and voluntary sector representatives, has undertaken a 'Health Impact Assessment of the Local Transport Plan for Greater Nottingham'<sup>10</sup>. A 'Follow on Report'<sup>11</sup> was produced after a second stakeholder workshop was held in 2004 to look at what has been done, to implement the original recommendations, and review what still remains to be done. Several recommendations linked to improving accessibility were identified including: the improvement of information provision; focusing on the needs of those who are not IT literate; improvements in public transport provision in rural areas; and consideration of transport issues when deciding locations of health facilities.

3.24. It is a time of rapid and significant policy change in the NHS and there are several changes to the commissioning and delivery of services that could potentially have accessibility implications for Greater Nottingham residents:

- **NHS Choice Agenda** - Giving patients more choice about how, when and where they receive treatment is one cornerstone of the Government's health strategy. Since December 2005, patients needing elective treatment have been offered a choice of appointment and at least four providers once their GP has decided that a referral is required. As well as choosing where they go, patients can choose when they go by phoning an appointments line, booking over the internet, or booking at the GP surgery. A recent survey carried out by MORI found that 68% of people aged over 40 would choose a non-local NHS hospital within their strategic health authority if it could deliver treatment in half the time of their nearest NHS provider. This agenda is likely to result in patients with access to a car travelling further to receive treatment, whilst those patients without cars will be restricted to their local facility. However, the changes may help residents dependent on public transport because they will have more freedom to choose convenient appointment times.
- **Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) reorganisation** - There are currently five PCTs operating within Greater Nottingham and the proposed reconfiguration plans would result in either one or two commissioning organisations in Nottinghamshire. Geographical areas of the new PCTs are likely to broadly reflect those of Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council, which may encourage better co-ordination between health, social care and other local services. The reorganisation will not result in changes to the direct delivery of services patients receive, but will effect changes to the management and administration of services. Changes will mean GPs have more say in how health services are designated and delivered, ensuring they reflect the choices their patients and communities are making. The new proposals are currently undergoing a phase of consultation and all changes will be complete by October 2006. The PCTs are some of the authorities' key partners in accessibility planning; any changes to their structure could hinder the successful

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<sup>10</sup> Health Impact Assessment of the Local Transport Plan for Greater Nottingham, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, NHS, 2002.

<sup>11</sup> Health Impact Assessment of the Local Transport Plan for Greater Nottingham, Follow on Report, Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, NHS, August 2004.

partnership working to date, but may also provide opportunities for partnership working in the future.

- **Hospital Trusts Merger** - Nottingham's two leading acute teaching hospitals – Nottingham City Hospital and Queen's Medical Centre are merging the two existing Trusts on 1st April 2006 to create a new NHS Trust. The Trusts' Board believes that the single new Trust will be well placed to make existing partnerships work more effectively over the coming years, as the pattern of healthcare in Nottingham evolves with the government's programme of modernising the health service. It is anticipated that the new Trust will provide a range of clinical services similar to that provided by the existing Trusts and that substantial services will remain on both sites. A limited number of patients may have their treatment location transferred to the other hospital as a result of service reconfiguration. The accessibility implications for specific groups of patients will be considered as details become available. Any such substantial reconfiguration would be clinically led and subject to further consultation.

3.25. Accessibility planning will support and inform the roll out of two development programmes aimed at addressing health inequalities. (See also Figure 7.21):

- LIFT (Local Improvement Finance Trust) is a government initiative to support investment in health and social care facilities. The Greater Nottingham LIFTCo is a 25 year Public Private Partnership established in June 2004; it aims to benefit local communities, by enabling new or additional health, social care and local authority services to be provided within new, purpose built centres. Complementary healthcare and social services will be combined on to single locations which will improve access to these services for the local population. The first three LIFT sites (Carlton, Clifton and Stapleford) are due to open in early 2006, and construction is underway at a further two sites (Hyson Green and Keyworth) due to open in 2007/08. Three further centres (Arnold, Bingham and Eastwood) have been identified as being in need of modernisation as part of the next phase;
- Healthy Living Centres (HLC) provide a real opportunity to improve health and reduce health inequalities through local community action. They need to be accessible to around 20% of the population in the UK and are targeted in the most deprived areas. HLCs have the potential to improve access to mainstream services for those who do not currently use them, or provide a better alternative to mainstream primary care. HLCs will focus on health in its broadest sense, providing opportunities to improve quality of life and enable people to achieve their full potential. Five HLCs have been developed in Greater Nottingham.

3.26. In addition to more mainstream health services, partners in Greater Nottingham have also been developing work around access to food for local communities for a number of years. The Food Initiatives Group (FIG) is a unique, not-for-profit, local food partnership whose members include the PCTs, local authorities, the Soil Association and local farmers. FIG promotes the production and consumption of healthy, safe and affordable food, including locally grown and organic food.

- 3.27. FIG produced the ‘Barriers to Healthy Food Research Report’<sup>12</sup> to identify barriers people face to eating the recommended amount of fruit and vegetables to sustain their health. The research looked at health data from across the Plan area, and focused in detail on Eastwood and Sneinton. The study identified that in these areas, although the severe health problems experienced were due in part to dietary factors, these were not solely due to the absence of affordable fresh food.
- 3.28. In response to this FIG has developed ‘Food for Thought’<sup>13</sup>, a strategy for improving food, health and the environment for Greater Nottingham. The strategy aims to address issues of social exclusion and ensure that people on a low income have access to healthy, affordable food. The food choices people make are determined, and therefore limited, by the food they can physically access. In deprived neighbourhoods and rural communities this is a particular problem. Several recommendations and areas for action are identified, including supporting community developed food projects and influencing local policy around infrastructure.

## Key services for local communities

- 3.29. The City and County Councils, alongside the district councils in the Plan area, provide key public services that affect the origins and destinations of journeys made by residents. How these local services are delivered, and where they are located, have a direct impact on accessibility. Service planning and investment programming is already being informed by the new emerging accessibility planning process. In particular accessibility planning will help evidence the reasoning behind decisions and inform decision makers in a more systematic and comparative way. A comprehensive timetable of corporate programmes has been compiled to inform accessibility planning’s priority identification, which can be found in Annex D.
- 3.30. The City Council has appointed consultants to develop a series of Area Asset Management Plans (AAMP) to assess provision of council assets and joint working opportunities. The objective is for AAMPs to be produced which are designed to contribute to making services more accessible and effective. The brief includes a requirement to provide a top tier review at the city-wide level and a second tier review at the local level. This process will involve:
- Mapping of the assets (location, purpose, usage, condition);
  - Making connections to funding opportunities such as Building Schools for the Future, LIFT, Housing Investment programmes etc;
  - Taking account of population, demographic changes and transport routes and usage.
- 3.31. To start the process initial reviews are being carried out in the Meadows, Bulwell and St Ann’s areas of Nottingham. When the overall review is completed this assessment could potentially result in the creation of three tiers of assets/facilities:
- **City wide assets:** Central facilities such as sports facilities, central library, theatres, central office accommodation;

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<sup>12</sup> Barriers to Healthy Food Research Report, FIG, November 2002.

<sup>13</sup> Food for Thought, A strategy for improving Greater Nottingham’s Food, Health and Environment, FIG, 2003.

- **District assets:** (Possibly, north, central and south) maybe comprising major joint service centre hubs, large wet and dry leisure centres, cricket ground, library, FE college, secondary schools, large parks, district office accommodation;
- **Area assets:** (The City is divided into nine areas at present) possibly comprising Surestart/nursery, primary school provision, local community services, local leisure e.g play areas, multi-use games and sports facilities, dry leisure centres, local parks, and local housing and social services provision.

3.32. Furthermore the City Council is carrying out a Corporate Asset Management Review for each department to assess availability, suitability and accessibility of assets.

Accessibility planning will help to support this process by ensuring that services are located in the most appropriate locations and that services are delivered in the most appropriate way for the communities that need to use them. The planning of housing provision, education, and leisure and community services is of particular importance and informing the development of these programmes will be a priority within the accessibility planning process.

3.33. The combined outcome of the Area Asset Management Plans and the Corporate Asset Management Review will ensure a more efficient and co-ordinated delivery of local services, and will inform the delivery of the Area Committee Action Plans and the Community Strategy. The new Corporate Asset Management Plan will be prepared in line with the CPA timetable and will inform the next stages of the accessibility planning processes. The forthcoming Action Plans will ensure that the planning of public transport support and infrastructure investment programmes takes into account the pressures and issues highlighted from the asset management planning processes.

## Housing

3.34. In addition to the role of the planning authority determining the allocation of residential development through the Local Plan and Structure Plan, the City Council has a role to play in the supply of housing. Housing plays a critical role in enabling social inclusion. Where people live directly affects their access to services.

3.35. The Government have set the target of achieving decent homes by 2010. 'Nottingham's City Housing Strategy 2004-05'<sup>14</sup> includes a 10% Stock Condition Survey of property carried out in 2002 which indicates that 47% of council properties fail the decent homes standard. This may offer future opportunities for redevelopment of those housing areas where significant numbers of properties fail to meet the standard and consideration of access to local services should be part of any such redevelopment process. On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 management of the City's 32,500 council homes was transferred to an arms length management organisation (ALMO) called Nottingham City Homes. Accessibility of local housing offices has also been raised as an important consideration within asset management.

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<sup>14</sup> Housing Strategy 2004-05, Nottingham City Council

- 3.36. Housing Area Investment Plans are currently being drafted for the most deprived 46 of the 96 letting areas in Nottingham. There is an oversupply of local authority owned housing in some parts of the City and the plans will give the time-table for investment. They will be used in the accessibility planning process to provide detailed information about supply of housing and services in specific areas of the City.
- 3.37. The remainder of housing in Greater Nottingham is the general responsibility of the district councils and the authorities will continue to work with the districts to understand accessibility needs.

## Education

- 3.38. Accessibility planning will inform the provision of education services from local nursery and early years provision through primary and secondary education to the provision of further education services which tend to generate longer travel journeys.
- 3.39. The City Council's Local Education Authority (LEA) is committed to raising achievement in all City schools. The overriding priority in the 'School Organisation Plan 2003-2008' is to develop a strategy to secure schools that are stable, self-reviewing, collaborative and achieving higher standards for all pupils<sup>15</sup>. Nottinghamshire's 'Vision Statement for Education' is to provide high quality education; ensure all young people have the same opportunity to learn; encourage everyone to develop and achieve; promote lifelong learning; prepare all young people to contribute to society as responsible citizens; and aim for excellence. The County Council's Strategic Plan 2005/6 includes the priorities of promoting social inclusion, community and economic regeneration and lifelong learning, and improving the allocation and use of resources and provision of school places. Improving the standards in all schools will result in improved access to education.
- 3.40. On 25<sup>th</sup> October 2005 the Department for Education and Skills published the Schools White Paper<sup>16</sup>, which sets out plans to radically improve the school system. It will ensure that choice is more widely available to all within an increasingly specialist system, academies will remain at the heart of the new system. Nottingham's education strategies, as detailed below, conform to the key strands of this paper. The paper proposes extending the rights to free school transport to children from poorer families to their three nearest secondary schools within a six-mile radius (when they are outside walking distance) and piloting transport to support such choices for all parents.
- 3.41. For the Plan area there are four key areas of change and investment in education in the short to medium term: The development of the first wave of Children's Centres; the Primary Schools Organisation Programme; the Building Schools for the Future initiative; and the Extended Schools Strategy.

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15 School Organisational Plan 2003-2008; Nottingham City Council

16 Higher Standards, Better Schools For All, Department for Education and Skills, October 2005

- 3.42. Accessibility planning should support future planned investment in services for children aged 0 to 5 years. Nottingham is committed to a programme of SureStart Children's Centres that offer joined up services for families with young children through a network covering the whole City, to ensure all children get the best start possible in life. The Centres offer a range of services including family health services, childcare, early education, family support and outreach services, and links to employment and training opportunities. Government guidance states that a Children's Centre should be a building 'ideally on or close to a primary school site and within pram-pushing distance of the community it serves'. So far nine Children's Centres have been opened across Nottingham, seven of which are SureStart Children's Centres. By March 2008 a further seven Children's Centres are planned, site suitability and accessibility is considered in location along with deprivation, and existing service provision. By 2010 all families with young children will have access to services delivered from a Children's Centre.
- 3.43. The Primary Schools Organisation programme will involve the consolidation of sites, with the selective closure of a number of schools, reduction in the number of surplus places by 21% by 2008, and more efficient use of resources. The number of children of school age is projected to fall by about 7% by 2011<sup>17</sup>.
- 3.44. Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is a Government programme of investment in secondary and special school provision; the City has been selected to receive funding as part of the second wave, totalling £135 million. Changes will occur over two phases. For the first phase an outline business case will be submitted to the government in July 2006. Advance work has been developed on three reference schemes to inform this process. The accessibility of proposed sites was considered as part of the decision-making process to ensure that the proposals continue to offer pupils a choice of healthy, safe and sustainable travel options, and that any negative impacts on school journeys in terms of length and mode of travel are minimised.
- 3.45. Alongside Building Schools for the Future work in secondary schools, the City intends to develop 3 academies, an 'Eastern Academy', one in the western area of the City, and a third northern Academy in Bulwell. Academies are schools established by sponsors from business, faith or voluntary groups working in highly innovative partnerships with central Government and local education partners. Nottingham already has one Academy - Djanogly City Academy in Forest Fields. The new academies will be for pupils of all abilities, and will offer a range of subjects, although they can be more flexible than the National Curriculum. The specialisation of academies may result in pupils travelling further to attend a preferred school, and consequently have significant accessibility issues.
- 3.46. Nottingham's Extended School Strategy aims for all children in the City to have access to a variety of activities outside the traditional school hours by 2010. All primary schools in the City will be offering wrap-around child care throughout the year from 8am – 6pm to all families who want it, plus a range of activities and services for pupils, parents and the wider community. Not all of the provision will be delivered on individual school sites, but schools will work in partnership with local providers, the voluntary sector and neighbouring schools. Also all secondary schools will be open 8am - 6pm throughout

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<sup>17</sup> Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Joint Structure Plan (November 2003)

the year offering a wide range of activities to young people together with wider community access to sport and leisure facilities where that need has been identified. Extended schools and SureStart Centres will have strong links. In 2005/06 clusters in St Ann's, Bestwood and Top Valley, and cluster around the Hadden Park School have worked towards meeting the core offer of services. It is recognised that services should be available to all children across the City in areas of disadvantage as well as more affluent areas. More intensive support will be needed in some areas to ensure that services reflect the diversity of communities.

- 3.47. There is a joint approach to management of post-16 education transport through the County Education Department's Post-16 Transport Partnership Group. The City and County share "travel to study" areas and the further education colleges and sixth forms within the City boundary attract substantial numbers of students from the County.
- 3.48. Accessibility planning for further education provision is already underway. The Nottinghamshire Learning and Skills Council (LSC) commissioned a study to investigate current accessibility issues affecting the post-16 education and training sector across Nottinghamshire in order to develop recommendations for improvement in access that will increase participation and improve retention rates. The study<sup>18</sup> investigated the accessibility to providers of post 16 education by walking and public transport to 9 colleges of further education, 47 schools with sixth forms and 12 schools catering for learners with special educational needs across Nottinghamshire. It found that overall levels of accessibility for 16 to 19 year olds to their nearest college are very good with 83% able to travel within 30 minutes and 95% able to travel within 60 minutes. How these results relate to accessibility in the Plan area is discussed in the Strategic Accessibility Assessment. The study produced a series of recommendations to ensure high levels of access to educational choice are attained. Reports were produced for each institution showing the location of existing learners and the numbers of potential learners in the local area under the categories of not in education, employment or training (NEET), single parent families and those with long term limiting illnesses (incapacity benefit customers).

## Leisure, Culture and Tourism

- 3.49. Leisure, culture and tourism facilities are not identified within the core destinations set out in the Guidance<sup>19</sup>. However leisure, culture and tourism plays an important role in the Greater Nottingham economy and the area is home to a number of major cultural and sporting destinations of regional, national and international importance. There are also major local, regional and national attractions and facilities outside the Greater Nottingham area that attract users living within Greater Nottingham.

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<sup>18</sup> Accessibility to Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Post 16 Education, LSC, JMP Consulting, October 2005

<sup>19</sup> Guidance on Accessibility Planning in Local Transport Plans, DfT, December 2004.

3.50. Leisure & Community/Leisure & Culture are also core services for the authorities and there are strong links to the key services identified in the Guidance:

- Leisure and tourism offer potential for economic regeneration and local job creation;
- Major new capital investment programmes offer potential for shared use facilities particularly for leisure and education;
- Leisure services and sports and recreation provision have a key role to support local health programmes promoting healthy lifestyles.

3.51. Therefore Leisure, Culture and Tourism has been adopted as an additional local theme for the accessibility planning process. There will be different accessibility issues for the different service users of national and regional attractions, including overseas visitors, compared to the needs of local residents using core community services such as leisure centres, community facilities, and library services. The accessibility planning process will need to prioritise these user groups accordingly.

3.52. In the City the Leisure Centres Transformation programme will be supported by the accessibility planning process. The programme involves the development of fewer, better quality leisure centres to match customer expectations and better promote sport, active lifestyles, health and well-being. The capital cost of the programme of works put forward by the council will total around £18.4 million and provide a 'fit for purpose' stock for at least 20 years.

3.53. PPG17<sup>20</sup> requires that all local planning authorities undertake an assessment of existing and future needs of their communities for open space, sports and recreational facilities. This assessment should include an audit of existing facilities, including access in terms of location and costs and opportunities for new facilities, and should consider both quantitative and qualitative elements. A Green and Open Space Audit is currently being undertaken in accordance with this requirement. An important element of the work will be the setting of local standards in terms of the quality of provision, quantity of provision, and access to different facilities. So far all parks and natural sites have been mapped, and the future assessment of accessibility will include consideration of aspects such as distance, physical barriers and cost. Once set, these standards will be included in the Local Development Framework (LDF). The other planning authorities in the Plan area will need to complete Open Space Audits as part of their LDF development work and links have been made with the district planners to advise that this information is shared as part of the accessibility planning process.

3.54. Experience Nottinghamshire is the lead organisation for the development of the tourism industry in Greater Nottingham. Following its formation in May 2004 a business plan<sup>21</sup> was produced to set out the future of tourism until 2008/09. The 'Experience Nottinghamshire Tourism Strategy' seeks to increase the number of visitors to the area and therefore envisages a need to cater for an increasing number of trips from further

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20 Planning Policy Guidance note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation

21 The Development Strategy for Greater Nottingham; Greater Nottingham Partnership, May 2004; Greater Nottingham Partnership Business Plan 2005-2008; Greater Nottingham Partnership, January 2004; Transitional business plan for a countywide destination management partnership and associated application for East Midlands Tourism start-up funding; Experience Nottinghamshire, 2004.

afield and the provision of information for localised trips for those unfamiliar with the area. Links from Nottingham East Midlands Airport and the provision of improved facilities at Nottingham Station are also important in developing the attraction of the conurbation for visitors. The development of cheap long distance coach services is also increasing longer distance travel opportunities for those on low incomes.

- 3.55. Greater Nottingham is linked to mainland Europe via the Nottingham East Midlands Airport (NEMA) in Leicestershire. Both authorities are represented on the airport access group, which has two sub-groups, including public transport and cycle access to the airport. The public transport group has advised the airport on improvements to bus infrastructure and procured tendered bus services. The group has also been responsible for the planning of a strategic public transport report undertaken by consultants looking at surface access issues over the next 10-20 years. A particular success has been the 24-hour Nottingham Skylink direct bus link to the airport and the case for rolling out similar services for Derby and Leicester is being currently investigated. Improvements to the A453, when implemented by the Highways Agency, will improve access by road. East Midlands Parkway station, which will be located in Nottinghamshire, now has planning approval, and is expected to become operational by 2008, providing access to the airport by rail. From 2007 it will also be possible to link with Eurostar services to the continent via the Midland Mainline with the completion of the International Rail Terminal at St Pancras London. Measures to improve bus links to NEMA for passengers and employees from the Greater Nottingham area will be assessed as part of the County Council's approved prioritisation framework for supported bus services.

## Community Safety

- 3.56. Perceptions of safety have a major impact on how people access services and their willingness to use different forms of transport. For instance, reducing the opportunity for crime and disorder and improving residents' perceptions of the place where they live will improve walking and cycling conditions. The following strategies will help to improve accessibility:
- The 'Nottingham City Crime, Drugs and Anti-social Behaviour Strategy 2005 – 2008'<sup>22</sup> has an overall vision to systematically reduce crime, problem drug use and anti-social behaviour to the average levels in Nottingham's 'family' of comparable cities, and to make the City a safer place to live and work.
  - 'Nottinghamshire's Community Safety Strategy 2003-05'<sup>23</sup> sets out a key target of reducing the number of children banned from school buses per year by 25% by 2005 to promote 'Safe Transport and a Safe Environment'. It cites the LTP as having a vital role in improving public transport safety, recommending, amongst other actions, that new and refurbished infrastructure has safety and security at the forefront of design.

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22 Safe for Nottingham, Crime, Drugs and Anti-social Behavior Strategy, 2005 - 2008, Nottingham City Council.

23 Nottinghamshire's Community Safety Strategy 2003-2005, Nottinghamshire County Council.

- The 'Respect for Nottingham Strategy'<sup>24</sup> aims to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and improve quality of life for residents. 'Respect for Transport' is integral to this and plans to install CCTV on buses, trams and at bus stops, increase lighting at bus stops, and reduce waiting and journey times. Nottingham City Transport in partnership with the City Council has also launched the Safemark scheme with schools to improve behaviour of pupils using public transport. The County Council has also undertaken travel behaviour awareness training with certain schools, and is a partner in the Respect for Transport initiative.

## Sustainability

- 3.57. Both authorities are committed to sustainable development and recognise the role of integrated transport measures to address climate change. These approaches also help to improve accessibility.
- 3.58. 'Changing Our City, Changing Ourselves', Nottingham's Local Agenda 21 Plan<sup>25</sup>, sets out a framework for working towards a more sustainable Nottingham. The target is to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide by 20% by 2010 (from 1990 levels). It identifies transport as a priority area for achieving this, and promotes improvements in public transport provision, more people walking and cycling and reducing the need to travel as areas that need to be addressed. The City Council has recently signed up to the Local Authority Carbon Management programme. This is a long-term programme up to 2050, which will include actions to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from transport and other sources.
- 3.59. The Nottinghamshire Agenda 21 Forum is keen to raise awareness of climate change and develop strategies to minimise its adverse effects and maximise the opportunities it may present. It recognises that Nottinghamshire will need to tackle climate change by mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. The 'Sustainable Developer Guide for Nottinghamshire'<sup>26</sup>, sets out useful information about responsible planning and design and focuses on how the wider impacts of development can be managed. This includes advice on the importance of successfully integrating transport and land use planning to improve accessibility.

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24 Respect for Nottingham Strategy, Nottingham City Council,

25 Changing our City, Changing Ourselves, Nottingham's Local Agenda 21 Plan, Nottingham City Council and Nottingham Green Partnership, July 2001.

26 Sustainable Developer Guide for Nottinghamshire, Nottinghamshire Agenda 21 Forum, October 2004.