

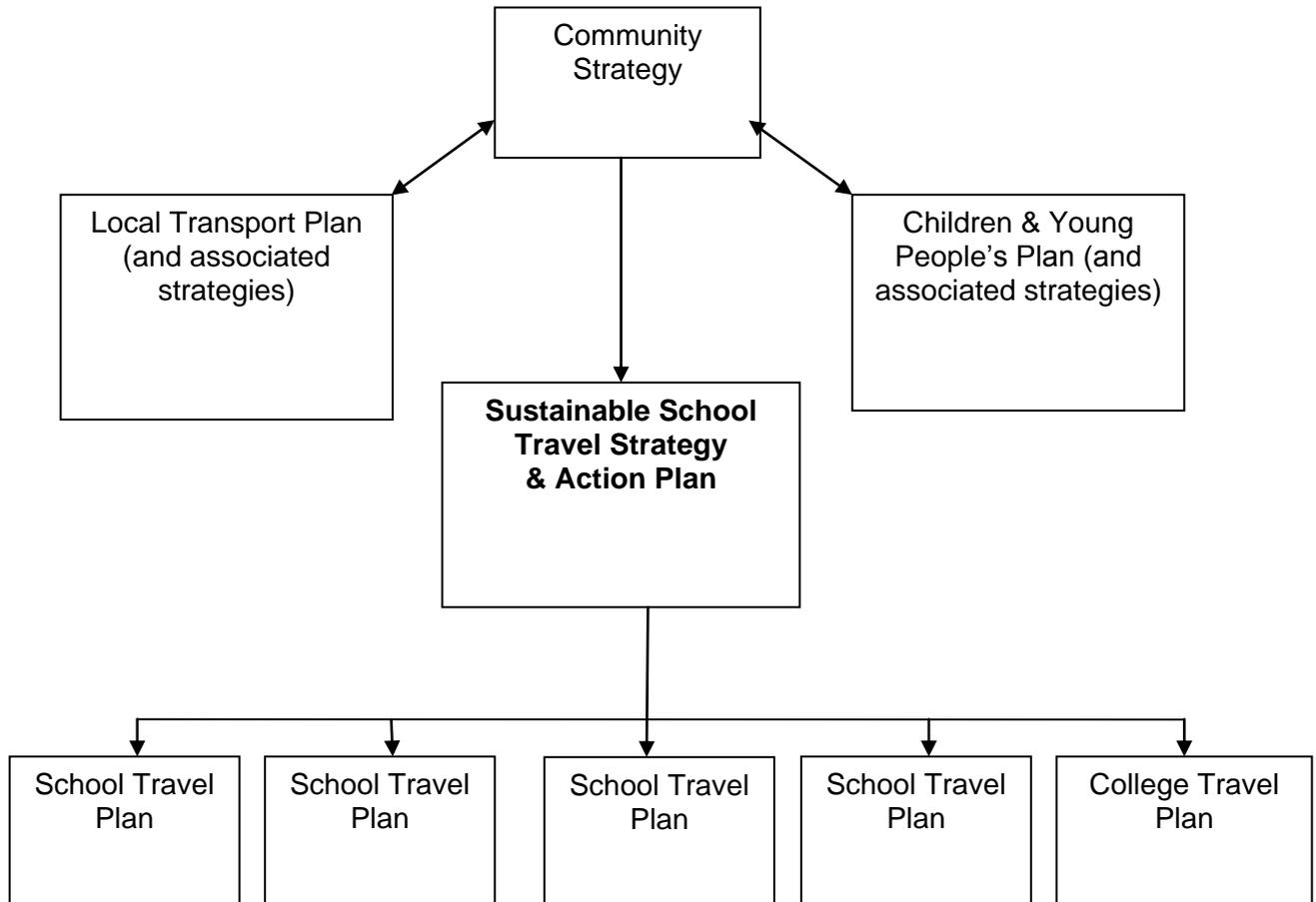
Sustainable School Travel Strategy for Nottinghamshire 2007-2011: Summary

What is the Sustainable School Travel Strategy?

Access to education is a key priority within local accessibility strategies. The development of children's services, and greater diversity of education provision are influencing travel needs and demands. The increasing promotion of choice; the availability of extended services in and around schools and the transformation of opportunities for young people aged 14-19 all rely to some extent on the ability to travel.

In recent years there has been an increasing awareness of the links between education provision and transport. Coupled with this, there has been greater environmental awareness and a desire for sustainability both in transport and education policies and provision.

This Strategy covers the period to 2011, in line with the Local Transport Plans for Nottinghamshire. It seeks to build on and complement other strategies by drawing together the specific issues relating to travel for the purpose of education into one document. It outlines the context for Nottinghamshire, provides an assessment of need and an audit of infrastructure, and then sets out a strategy to develop the sustainable travel and transport infrastructure and promote sustainable school travel. An action plan sets out in more detail how these intentions will be met over the period of the Strategy.



Why are we doing this?

The strategy should help families choose safer, more active and environmentally friendly ways to travel to and from school each day.

This should help pupils to become healthier, more independent and allow them to get involved in improving travel and transport facilities in and around their school. More than 40% of pupils travel to and from school each day by private car, yet we know more young people would like to be able to walk or cycle to school with their friends. We aim to continue to develop cost effective high quality services for children and families whilst reducing the number of cars on the school run, reducing pollution and improving the environment.

School Travel Patterns

The annual school census (PLASC) in January 2007 included for the first time a question on how pupils usually travel to their school. The overall results shown were for schools with a travel plan.

Fig 3.1: Mode of travel to school

Usual mode of travel to school (schools with a travel plan)	Primary school pupils years 1-6	Secondary School pupils years 7-11	Post-16 secondary school pupils years 12-13
Walk	57%	53%	56%
Car or van	35%	13%	10%
Car share		0.4%	
Dedicated School bus	3%	17%	13%
Public School bus	0.5%	14%	20%
Other bus (type not known)	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%
Cycle	1%	2%	0.5%
Train			
Tram			0.1%
Taxi	0.2%	0.4%	0.1%
Other	0.1	0.2%	0.7%
Total absolute number of pupils	21,625	7,712	1,283
Total schools surveyed	118	8	8

The strategy aims to:

- Reduce the number of car journeys on the 'school run'
- Encourage greater use of alternative travel methods such as walking, cycling and public transport
- Improve the experience of pupils on the school buses
- Improve road safety
- Improve child health
- Improve the quality of the local environment

How do we know what needs to be done?

Through the development of our travel plans we have asked children and young people on how they would like to get to and from school each day. Their answers have shown us which methods are the most popular and sustainable.

In addition to this we have reviewed all of the transport network, buses, cycle routes and walking routes and identified areas, which could be improved to meet children's needs.

In order to make improvements we have prepared an action plan, which is subject to regular review. The plan for September 2008 – March 2010 contains 3 main themes:

- Travel plans and accessibility

To ensure 85% of schools have a completed travel plan by 2010. Currently 266 of 342 County Schools (78%) now have travel plans.

To continue making routes safer by improving roads, cycle lanes and walking lanes

Develop travel plans for Area Strategy Groups (partnerships between Colleges of Further Education & school 6th forms), which are implementing the National Diplomas

- Learning and skills for children and families

Maximising the use of the public bus network to take into account the transport implications of extending services around schools

Additional support is to be provided to develop innovative transport solutions for the National Diplomas

- Operational quality and efficiency.

Implement extended rights to free travel

Working with children, young people and schools to improve the home to school transport experience

Implementation of Framework contracts, with resulting efficiencies being reinvested in the public transport network

Enhance the quality of transport information available to all customers including children & young people

This strategy seeks to highlight the issues affecting children and young people in Nottinghamshire. In addition to core objectives to address environmental concerns and achieve sustainability, access, travel and transport solutions will continue to play a significant part in achieving the five Every Child Matters outcomes.