



Transport Planning – Draft Local Transport Plan  
West Northamptonshire Council  
The Guildhall  
St Giles' Street  
Northampton  
NN1 1DE

22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024

Dear West Northamptonshire Council,

### **Response to the West Northamptonshire Draft Local Transport Plan Consultation**

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Local Transport Plan and its vision for improving transport in West Northamptonshire. We recognise the need for a sustainable and integrated transport system that supports economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection.

We have reviewed the LTP and its policies and objectives, and we would like to share some of our areas of concern and suggestions for East Hunsbury.

#### Areas of Concern for East Hunsbury

**Traffic Congestion:** Increased development could lead to more traffic in East Hunsbury, impacting local roads such as Towcester Road, Danes Camp Way, and Rowtree Road. We are concerned about the potential effects of congestion on journey times, road safety, and air quality. We hope that appropriate mitigation measures, such as traffic calming, junction improvements, will be considered.

**Public Transport Accessibility:** Ensuring that bus and rail services adequately serve East Hunsbury and connect it with other parts of West Northamptonshire and beyond. We are concerned about the availability, frequency, reliability, and affordability of public transport options for East Hunsbury residents, especially those who do not have access to a car or have mobility difficulties. We suggest that public transport provision should be enhanced and coordinated, with improved bus routes, timetables, and information.

**Active Travel Infrastructure:** Need for safe and extensive walking and cycling paths that link East Hunsbury with key destinations, such as schools, shops, workplaces, and leisure facilities. We are concerned about the lack of dedicated and continuous active travel infrastructure in East Hunsbury, which discourages people from choosing active modes of transport and reduces their physical activity and well-being. We suggest that active travel infrastructure should be expanded and improved. We also support the promotion of active travel behaviour through initiatives such as bike hire schemes, cycle training, and awareness campaigns.

**East Hunsbury Parish Council, Hunsbury Library, Overslade Close, Northampton NN4 0RZ**

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Environmental Impact: Potential impacts on local green spaces and air quality due to increased traffic and development. We are concerned about the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment in East Hunsbury, which provides valuable habitats, recreation, and health benefits for the community. We suggest that any new development should minimise its environmental impact and maximise its contribution to biodiversity, landscape, and climate change adaptation. We also support the adoption of low emission vehicles and technologies.

Response to the LTP policies

**Policy 1: Sustainable Transport Hierarchy**

**Response:**

- **Support:** East Hunsbury Parish Council supports prioritising walking, cycling, and public transport to reduce car dependency.
- **Request:** Specific investments in safe pedestrian crossings and dedicated cycle lanes within East Hunsbury to encourage active travel.

**Policy 2: Connected and Accessible Networks**

**Response:**

- **Support:** The Parish Council welcomes efforts to enhance transport networks.
- **Request:** Improved bus routes and frequency to better connect East Hunsbury with key destinations like Northampton town centre, health and leisure services, and nearby employment hubs.

**Policy 4: Bus, Coach, and Mass Transit**

**Response:**

- **Support:** Enhancing bus services is crucial for reducing traffic congestion.
- **Request:** Introduction of more direct bus routes from East Hunsbury to major destinations and ensuring buses are frequent and reliable.

**Policy 5: Rail Services and Stations**

**Response:**

- **Support:** Improved rail connectivity is beneficial for residents.
- **Request:** Better integration of bus and rail services, including synchronised schedules and convenient interchange facilities at Northampton station.

**Policy 6: Active Travel Network**

**Response:**

- **Support:** Expanding walking and cycling infrastructure is essential.

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- **Request:** Development of safe, well-lit, and continuous walking and cycling paths within East Hunsbury and Northampton, connecting residential areas with schools, parks, employment and shopping areas.

#### **Policy 9: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation**

##### **Response:**

- **Support:** Reducing transport-related emissions is vital for environmental sustainability.
- **Request:** Implementation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at suitable locations in East Hunsbury and promotion of EV use among residents.

#### **Policy 11: Air and Noise Pollution**

##### **Response:**

- **Support:** Measures to reduce pollution are crucial for public health.
- **Request:** Regular monitoring of air quality in East Hunsbury and implementation of noise reduction measures, especially near busy roads. Particular importance should be given to the A45 and M1 and the impact that these major routes have on East Hunsbury.

#### **Policy 12: Reducing Isolation and Improving Rural Access**

##### **Response:**

- **Support:** Enhancing transport options for vulnerable groups is important.
- **Request:** Understanding the importance of community transport services or demand-responsive transport options to ensure all residents, including the elderly and those with disabilities, have access to essential services. Funding for these services to ensure that they continue.

#### **Policy 14: Sustainable Developments and Embracing Technology**

##### **Response:**

- **Support:** Promoting sustainable development and new technologies is forward-thinking.
- **Request:** Ensure new housing developments include provisions for sustainable transport options and smart mobility solutions.

#### **Policy 15: Shared and On-Demand Mobility Options**

##### **Response:**

- **Support:** Encouraging car-sharing and on-demand transport can reduce traffic and emissions.
- **Request:** Promotion of car-sharing schemes and introduction of on-demand transport services tailored to the needs of East Hunsbury residents.



**Policy 16: Community Engagement and Collaboration**

**Response:**

- **Support:** Involving communities in transport planning is essential for meeting local needs.
- **Request:** Regular consultation with East Hunsbury Parish Council and local residents to ensure their voices are heard and their needs are addressed in transport planning.

We hope that our comments and suggestions will be considered and incorporated into the final LTP. We look forward to seeing the outcomes of the consultation and the implementation of the LTP.

Yours sincerely

**Caroline Holgate**  
Clerk to the Council