

Stevenage Strategic Transport Strategy 2031

Vision: *Sustainably connecting our communities*

- Sustainably connecting our residents to job, shops, transport nodes, parks and opportunities.
- Sustainably connecting our businesses to customers, suppliers, new markets and growth.
- Restore the neighbourhood streets to places that our community can enjoy, not streets that are dominated by parking issues and speeding traffic, with a Living Neighbourhood streets programme.

National Policies:

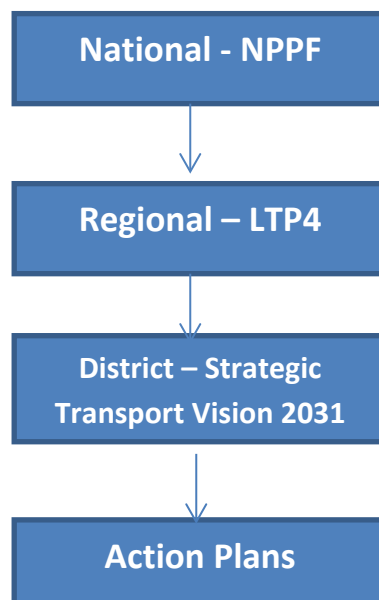
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – promoting sustainable development and sustainable communities. Transport hierarchy, promoting walking and cycling first.

Industrial Strategy – promoting growth in targeted industries with better interaction between businesses in clusters like Gunnels Wood.

County Policies

HCC as lead transport authority:

Vision 2050 and Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) – focus on sustainable towns like Stevenage; the A414 and A1 (M) corridors; taking the transport hierarchy to the regional level; possible reference to emerging sub-regional transport bodies like England's Economic Heartland.



Stevenage Strategic Transport Strategy 2031

Knowing the expected growth and infrastructure requirements in the Local Plan to 2031 we must ensure we secure the funding for the strategic infrastructure needed for the borough.

The council's plans for the regeneration of the town centre provide a once in a generational opportunity to re-imagine town centre living and connections. While we must also secure delivery of the local improvements to our neighbourhoods to ensure the town can continue to grow sustainably. We will improve the neighbourhoods for all while sharing the opportunities of growth.

The scale and scope of our ambitions for the town cannot be solely delivered by SBC as we have neither control or have responsibilities for them. These ambitions need support from our public and private sector partners, alongside our communities. As much of the improvements we are seeking. Working with partners like HCC, SmartGo Stevenage and other stakeholders we will promote and seek to secure the tangible aspects of an integrated Transport Network in developing our Strategy including:

The Strategy will focus on key areas, demonstrating our commitment to securing these vital improvements for our communities.

Air

- Improve public transport links to Luton, Stanstead, Gatwick, City and Heathrow Airports.
- Secure mitigation from Luton's growth for Stevenage's residents.
- Campaign for noise reduction measures from aircraft using Luton Airport.

Bus

- New bus station between the rail station and town centre, promoting other public transport (rail, walking, cycling) inter-changes.
- Town centre 'park / arrive and ride' electric / autonomous public bus linking our main town centre areas (new town, old town, leisure park, Roaring Meg) and employment areas.
- Champion improved bus provision across the town

Cycling

- Develop a town-wide cycle hire scheme.
- Look at railway station cycle hire options.
- Develop a cycling hub at Fairland Valley.
- Develop a cycling hub facility in or close to the new railway and bus stations, including cycle parking.
- Increase promotion of our cycle network including cycling events
- Improved signage, surfaces, maintenance and lighting of our cycle network with extensions to new developments.
- Refocus the town centre cycling ban and cycle parking.

Electric vehicles

- Develop a town-wide E-car club.
- Develop a town-wide Electric Vehicle charging network both on and off street.
- Require new developments to provide EV charging and cycle facilities.

Rail

- A new and improved Stevenage Railway Station.
- Examine options for a Stevenage South Railway Station.
- Secure the re-provision of the 'Hertfordshire Loop' railway service from Stevenage.
- Secure the 5th Platform at Stevenage Station.
- Promote non-intercity services running from Stevenage transferring to TfL.
- Expanding the Oyster zone to Stevenage.
- Integrate rail / bus / cycle hire ticketing.
- Ensure the Rail 20/20 new Thameslink services are delivered.

Road

- A1 (M) widening to 3 lanes plus a hard shoulder.
- Downgrading of Lytton Way to a predominately sustainable transport route.
- Improvements at junctions 7 and 8 on the A1 (M).
- Improvements to the Gunnels Wood Road / A602 junction.

Walking

- Promote walking routes for the public, schools and employers.
- Introduced a town centre way finding scheme highlighting walking routes / distances.
- As an employer SBC will develop an ambitious Green Travel Plan for 2019-2024.
- Developer walking routes between the new town centre and Roaring Meg.

Emerging SBC Policies to support this:

- Mobility Action Plan.
- Cycling Action Plan.
- Town Centre Parking Action Plan.
- Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Documents.
- Green Travel Plan 2019-2024.
- Living Neighbourhood Streets Action Plan.

Living neighbourhood streets

SBC wants to help residents reclaim their streets, making them safer, providing play and amenity space while providing genuine alternatives for car and van parking. The street is the heart of the place and should not be dominated by only cars and vans.

When we are talking to our residents about the CNM programme, we will include options for Living Neighbourhood Street (LNS). We will have direct consultation with residents possible the improvements to their local streets that would help create a safer, healthier and more enjoyable street for the residents.

Living neighbourhood streets projects may include;

- Planting,
- Cycling routes and parking
- Car parking changes,
- Safety improvements / traffic calming
- Green of the street
- Lighting improvements
- Seating
- 20 mph limits,
- Play provision
- Street van bans but alternative secure van parking
- On street electric vehicle charging

The improvements will be focused on the responses received from the resident's consultation, in a 'you said we did' approach. Improvements would feed into healthier living and lifestyles with reduced air pollution, improved options for play, walking and cycling. The most appropriate elements of 'Home Zones' and 'Living Streets' <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/> models will be considered.

Pilots will be trialled in the 3 CNM wards in 2018/2019, including a requirement for the development at north of Stevenage to design in the principals of a living neighbour into their new streets

Officers will engage with local SBC and HCC Councillors which may open up the opportunity for them to part fund some of the improvements.

As with the other transport improvements, SBC can only achieve this in partnership with local residents and key stakeholders like the highways authority.

Through our engagement with businesses, initially in Gunnels Wood Road, will we take a similar community lead approach to which local transport improvements we should focus on securing for local businesses.