

Appendix B – Highways & Transport Annual Report highlights (draft 3.10.22).

Chapter 7. Strong Economy, Transport and Infrastructure

These highlights demonstrate the Council's efforts in supporting a strong economy, transport and infrastructure.

Infrastructure for sustainable economic and housing growth

We need our housing, transport and digital infrastructure to support economic and population growth, whilst helping to deliver net zero carbon emissions.



Progress in 2021/22

- With significant numbers of new homes needed by 2050 and a population set to grow by 20% in the next 20 years its crucial we put the right infrastructure in the right place. We are working with District Councils to plan for a future Leicestershire and with developers and partners to lever money - £120m over the last two years – to pay for the infrastructure communities need.
- A Statement of Common Ground relating to Housing and Employment Land Needs has been prepared by the County Council, the City Council and the seven district councils to confirm the apportionment of the 91,000 new homes that will be needed in the years to 2036 The statement was approved by the County Council in September 2022 but has not yet been endorsed by all partners.

Major Schemes and Road Maintenance

- Over £20m in income from Section 106 agreements has been secured for mitigating the impact on infrastructure from housing and economic growth across the county, including roads, schools, civic amenity sites and libraries.
- In September 2021 a multi-million-pound project to tackle congestion and ensure smoother journeys for motorists was completed on the M1 J23 and

A512 at Loughborough. The scheme funding comprised different sources including developer contributions, £5m from Highways England and £13.8m from the LLEP.

- In April 2022 work began on a package of road improvements in Hinckley which will mean smoother and more efficient journeys for motorists. The scheme is focused in and around Rugby Road, which suffered from significant congestion at peak times.
- In December 2021 we concluded an agreement to fund the southern leg of the Melton Mowbray Distributor Road. We expect to receive up to £18.2m from Homes England towards the total cost. The scheme unlocks the development of the Melton South Sustainable Neighbourhood with a minimum of 2,000 homes by 2036, alongside 20ha of employment land, a new local centre and primary school.
- The A511 around Coalville has been identified as part of the Council's Major Road Network (MRN), providing a key link between the A42 and M1. We expect to receive £41m from the Department for Transport towards the cost. The improvements will provide businesses with an enhanced route to the Strategic Road Network, which to the north offers connection to the international gateways including East Midlands Airport and Gateway Industrial Cluster (EMAGIC).
- In September 2021 after a successful bid, we received £250,000 towards upgrading old traffic lights to improve reliability and reduce faults to provide longer term maintenance savings. LED lights will also be retrofitted to some signals to save on energy use.
- In May 2022 work got underway to protect more than 600,000 square metres of Leicestershire roads from potholes. We also invested £11m more in maintaining and repairing our roads.
- The County experienced three major storms in Spring 2022. Over this period, our teams responded to 176 trees down as well as several flood related issues. Over 350 enquiries were dealt with.
- In 2021/22 a total £19.28m was invested in Highways Asset Maintenance including £15.6m on carriageways, £1m on footways and rights of way, £0.42m on bridge maintenance and strengthening, £1.63m on street lighting maintenance, £0.26m on flood alleviation and £0.23m on traffic signal renewal.

Public Transport

- In October 2021 we published our Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) setting out our ambitions to deliver the Government National Bus Strategy and in April 2022 our Enhanced Partnership with Local Bus Operators was formed, which will be the delivery vehicle for our BSIP ambitions going forward.
- 13 Community Transport Projects continue to help provide accessible public transport across the County. We have launched a fresh approach designed to

better connect rural areas. 3 fully accessible minibuses bookable via app or call centre offer a modern, on-demand transport service between Leicester and Hinckley. FoxConnect is a 3-year trial funded through our successful bid for £1.3m from the Government's Rural Mobility Fund.

Walking and Cycling

- We secured c£170,000 of Government funding to support development of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans, with Loughborough and an area to the south of Leicester the first two to be developed.
- In March 2022 staff at workplaces were encouraged to take part in a new challenge by travelling in an active way and leaving their cars at home. The Let's Go Workplace Challenge took place, with participants from 75 workplaces clocking up miles of green and healthy travel. The challenge invited anyone who travels to work to walk, run, wheel, ride or use public transport.
- An interactive map of 1,800 miles of public footpaths made available to the public to encourage walking

School Transport

- We teamed up with schools to run park and stride schemes to get children to walk safely to school. The schemes allow children to meet in a nearby car park before making the 5-10 minute accompanied walk to school. The initiative aims to reduce traffic congestion, boost activity and reduce air pollution.
- More than 500 fines were issued to drivers putting the safety of children at risk by parking illegally outside the gates of Leicestershire schools. Our two electric camera enforcement cars patrol 167 schools at picking up and dropping off times.
- The Schools Streets Initiative aims to provide a solution to congestion issues often experienced outside of schools by providing a time limited congestion free zone within the immediate vicinity of the school.
- A new system which allows parents to apply for SEN transport went live in February 2022 with compliments from members of the public on how easy to use and effective the new system is.

Lowering emissions

- A successful bid with Midlands Connect and four other local authorities is providing £935,000 Government funding for 349 electric vehicle charging points across the Midlands with up to 100 further charging points across Leicestershire.
- We are developing further plans to generate renewable energy, run electric park and ride buses and convert council fleet vehicles to run on renewable fuels. We are also fitting solar panels and low energy lights to buildings.

Chapter 8. Safe and Well

8.1 People are safe in their daily lives

We aim to keep people safe by working with partners such as district councils, NHS, Police and Fire and Rescue services to raise awareness of and prevent crime.

Progress in 2021/22

- Our Highways Service works with Leicestershire Police to change street lighting settings to support local policing operational activities and prioritises the removal of graffiti on council highways assets that is racially offensive or sexually explicit.
- We have installed more measures including vehicle-activated signs which show a slowdown message and village gateway signs designed to encourage road users to slow down before entry. Funded from our £1.4m scheme to provide small scale highway and environmental improvements.