

CABINET – 28 OCTOBER 2025**COMMENTS FROM MR DAVID PAGE CC IN RELATION TO AGENDA ITEM 5****Delivering the Local Transport Plan (LTP4) 2025-2040: Next Steps**

Market Harborough is rightly a pilot area for the Local Transport Plan, but the challenges we face here reflect wider issues across the county. We continue to under-invest in the everyday infrastructure that actually keeps our communities moving — footpaths, rights of way, local road improvements and well-planned cycleways.

At the same time, no clear transport strategy or modelling outputs have yet been shared following the 2023 refresh – since then we have hundreds more houses, residents and cars on our roads, with concerns being raised about the lack of forward thinking and poor integration of roading, cycleways and footpaths by new residents and old. This is leading to piecemeal schemes rather than a coherent, joined-up movement plan.

I ask Cabinet to ensure that:

1. A clear, published transport strategy is shared and consulted on before major spending is committed — setting out a proper end-state vision for Market Harborough and other towns.
2. Investment is prioritised for safe, connected footpath and cycleway networks, linking new developments, schools, town centres and railway stations. This is how we will reduce short car journeys while making roads safer for those who do drive.
3. We adopt a stronger, proactive framework for maintaining Public Rights of Way, including regular clearance of overhanging branches, undergrowth and narrowing verges — not simply reacting to complaints.
4. Enforcement against landowners who obstruct or neglect rights of way is strengthened, protecting our historic paths and ensuring safe rural access.
5. A consistent countywide standard is set for PROW maintenance, footpath safety and access — ensuring every community benefits from the same baseline level of investment and protection.
6. Parish councils are empowered and encouraged to play a greater role in supporting inspections and minor maintenance, with clear reporting lines and light-touch support.
7. All of this is integrated within a properly thought-through transport strategy that treats footpaths, cycleways, and roads as part of one system — not separate silos.

This is about getting the fundamentals right: safer roads, safer paths, better connectivity and more active, vibrant communities. It's time we matched fine words with firm delivery — in Market Harborough and across the whole of Leicestershire.

Thank you.
Kind regards,

David
Cllr. David Page
Market Harborough West and Foxton