



Stamford Transport Strategy Summary

October 2023



Foreword

“Home to a collection of beautifully picturesque buildings, medieval churches and a historic charm that sits among the very best in England, Stamford is one of Lincolnshire’s most treasured gems.

Stamford welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors every year and plays a very important role in the county’s economy. That’s why we’re committed to improving and investing in its local infrastructure and transport services to meet the daily needs of everyone that uses them, both now and in the future.

And this strategy will help achieve just that.

As part of its development, we spoke to residents, businesses, schools and other important local groups and organisations because the new Stamford Transport Strategy will affect every single person that lives, works and learns in the town.



Our main goals for this new strategy are to:

- protect and enhance Stamford’s historic core and vibrant town centre
- work towards transitioning to low carbon travel and low emission vehicles
- support the development in the local area
- improve connectivity and journey time reliability for central Stamford and the surrounding rural areas
- offer a wider range of affordable, reliable and environmentally-friendly travel options for people

In the end, we want to help make Stamford a more prosperous, attractive and healthier place to live, learn, work and visit – all while supporting planned economic growth for the area.

Within this document, you’ll find a number of proposals for us, the district council and developers to consider over the next twenty years, including enhancements to the town centre; the area’s roads; and its cycling and walking infrastructure.

Combined with other measures, like improving bus and rail services, the strategy aims to ensure that Stamford has the infrastructure it needs to meet travel demands over the coming decades.

The challenge now is finding the funding needed to make these improvements a reality. And the only way we’re going to be able to do that is if everyone gets behind the plan and works together.”

Cllr Richard Davies

Executive Member for Highways & Transport at Lincolnshire County Council



Overview

The Stamford Transport Strategy has been developed by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and provides a place-based vision for the future of transport and travel in and around Stamford up to 2038.

The transport strategy seeks to increase travel choices and improve the transport network for those living, working, and visiting Stamford. It aims to tackle congestion in the town centre, improve accessibility from more rural areas, deliver more sustainable and lower carbon travel options, and help the town grow, adapt and be resilient to wider challenges over the next 15 years and beyond.

Alongside protecting Stamford's unique character and historic core, it aims to provide a transport network that helps to deliver a vibrant town and thriving high street, improve access to local services and provide the infrastructure that allows the town to grow sustainably.

Figure 1 - study area



The strategy area covers the historic town of Stamford and its wider hinterlands extending to Uffington and Newstead in the east and is bordered by the A1 along the western edge.

What is the purpose of the strategy?



The strategy aims to provide the framework for improving the travel choices and everyday journeys for people living, working, and visiting Stamford over the short, medium, and longer term.

Sitting alongside the County Council Corporate Plan, The Green Masterplan and Lincolnshire's Local Transport Plan, the strategy will have an important role to play in helping to address a range of transport challenges that will affect Stamford over the coming years. These include:

- the need to protect and enhance Stamford's historic core and vibrant town centre
- the significant environmental challenges resulting from transport and travel and the transition to low carbon travel and low emission vehicles
- supporting the sustainable roll out of the town's planned housing and urban extension
- the need to provide a more connected and reliable transport network which serves both central Stamford and surrounding rural areas
- the need for improved travel choice and flexibility across different and changing travel patterns, including how people access different activities such as employment, education, healthcare, retail, leisure, and tourism

In developing this strategy, consideration has been given to a wide range of themes and issues including:

- the national and regional policy and strategic context and direction, including the transition to low carbon places, supporting economic growth and the wider trends which have an influence on Stamford
- the views and experiences of the public and stakeholders
- the changing way transport is provided and accessed, and the new challenges and opportunities presented by technology
- improving travel choice, as well as increasing opportunities to do things digitally
- the plans for new housing and the urban extension on the northern edge of Stamford
- the need to improve the links to the surrounding rural areas and villages



Vision



Stamford – A connected, vibrant and inclusive town.

Improving travel choice and enhancing public transport, walking, and cycling access to help protect the town's historic core and deliver a thriving, connected and future ready Stamford.

By 2038, Stamford will have continued to capitalise on its unique character and historic environment to deliver a vibrant and thriving town centre.

Enhancements to the public transport, walking and cycling network have helped to reduce congestion around the town centre, improve accessibility and protect the town's historic core and its cultural and heritage assets. Improved footways and crossings and targeted cycle improvements mean that walking and cycling is the natural choice for shorter journeys to and from the town centre and surrounding residential areas.

Rural-urban travel has also been improved through a combination of more frequent, reliable, and flexible local bus services and improvements to the highway network. Enhanced local bus stop facilities will have been delivered across Stamford, and in the surrounding villages, which will improve the customer experience and help to make bus travel a more attractive, inclusive, and viable option.

Improvements to the rail station have improved access for all and helped to turn it into a key transport hub for the town and gateway to the wider rail network. Importantly this has improved the experience for those travelling from outside of Stamford further supporting the town's visitor economy.

The high-quality walking, cycling, and public transport infrastructure has enabled the Stamford north and east developments to come forward in a sustainable way, minimising the impacts on the local road network. This has been embedded within both developments from the start and links into the wider improvements delivered across the town.

Strategic and local access to the town has also been complemented by a comprehensive network of electric and low emission charging infrastructure and a range of shared transport opportunities accessed through digital mobility platforms. This has included electric vehicle car clubs and e-bike hire.

Objectives

Objective theme	Objective
Protecting and celebrating heritage	To protect and enhance Stamford's unique historic core and heritage assets through reducing the impact of vehicular traffic and improving the public transport, walking, and cycling network
Thriving and vibrant high street	To improve access to Stamford's historic core for residents and visitors helping to increase footfall within the town centre and create a more people centric environment.
Economy and tourism	Strengthen Stamford's position as a key market town and visitor destination by improving strategic connectivity, public transport connectivity and network resilience.
Walking and cycling	To make walking and cycling the natural first choice for shorter journeys by improving the pedestrian environment in and around the town centre and cycle routes to the centre of Stamford.
Health and well being	To enhance the health and wellbeing of Stamford by improved air quality, reduced noise levels and increased physical activity and safety.
Sustainable urban extensions	To support the sustainable delivery of new housing and employment sites, including the Stamford North development, through integrating sustainable transport infrastructure and delivering strong walking, and cycling and public transport connectivity.
Rural connectivity	To increase the accessibility of the town centre and rail hub from more rural areas by increasing multi-occupancy, shared mobility, local bus, and passenger transport options.
Strategic connections	To ensure Stamford's key strategic links, including the A1, operate efficiently and effectively and continue to support sustainable economic growth.
Improved travel choice	To provide a flexible and resilient transport network that improves choice and supports the needs of residents whilst also catering for the demands from visitors and tourism.
Climate change and carbon net zero	To support the Net Zero 2050 carbon reduction targets through reducing the impact of travel and providing the infrastructure to increase the numbers of people walking, cycling, and travelling by public transport.
Future mobility ready	To ensure the strategy area is future mobility ready, facilitating the use of electric, shared, connected, alternative fuelled and automated transport as well as the business models that support them.



What are the challenges?



A focus on the environment

The focus is on reducing the environmental impact of transport, particularly on cleaner, more sustainable modes of transportation. This includes reducing congestion and air pollution, traffic noise, road safety, and climate change. Additionally, the preservation of Stamford's cultural and heritage assets is crucial, as the high volume of motorized vehicles passing through the town centre negatively impacts the town's environment.



Enabling sustainable economic growth

Stamford's economic growth will be primarily driven by an expanding population and new housing, and it is crucial that this is supported by a sustainable and inclusive transport network. As new housing brings more people, businesses, and opportunities, the demand for travel will increase, and further investment in infrastructure and services will be needed to support more journeys on foot, bicycle, and public transport, improving travel choice and providing alternatives to private cars.



Improving access

Stamford's walking and cycling network is fragmented and varies in quality, with narrow pedestrian footways and limited designated cycling facilities. This can make walking around Stamford difficult and there is a need for a more accessible and safer pedestrian network that better caters for those with differing mobility needs.

The town's physical constraints also have an impact on accessibility, with several main roads passing through the town centre and only one crossing of the River Welland. This results in high volumes of traffic converging on a relatively small area, causing congestion during peak travel periods and affecting other users' movement. Opportunities to improve travel choice and reduce the reliance on the private car will help to improve conditions in the centre of Stamford.

The town's bus network has a limited service, with few having a 30-minute or better frequency or operating in the evenings or at weekends. Stamford currently has few publicly available charging points and there is also an urgent need to provide infrastructure to support the uptake of electric vehicles both for residents and visitors.



Improving health and wellbeing

Road traffic accidents are an issue at various locations in Stamford, including along the A1 and within the town centre, and they often have a greater impact on more vulnerable groups including pedestrians and cyclists. There is a need to take forward schemes that help to address the existing issues and to promote an environment in which people feel safe to travel.



A changing society

There are a wide range of societal changes that are also having a big impact on how and when we travel.

- the retail sector is experiencing significant changes which are having a visible impact on the 'high street'.
- online shopping has increased the number of delivery vehicles on our roads.
- home working and co-working hubs are becoming the new normal for businesses.
- we have an ageing population which will have an impact on how we access health and care services.
- walking and cycling is travel is playing an increasingly important role in encouraging healthier lifestyles, reducing sickness and ill health and enabling people to stay active longer.



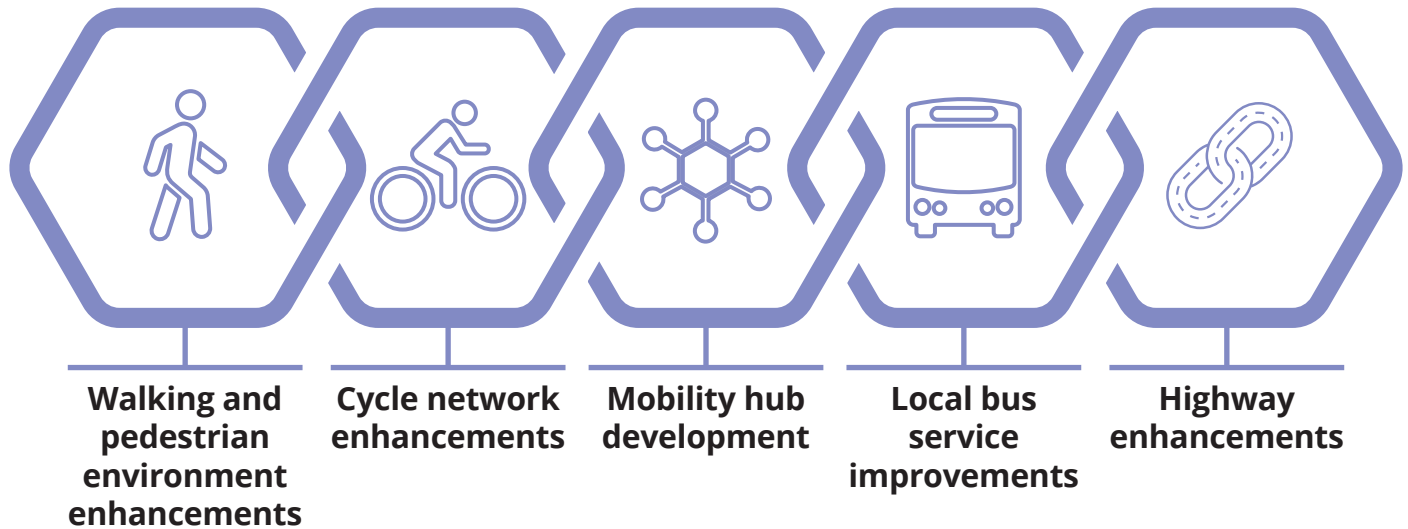
How we travel

The way we travel is rapidly changing due to advancements in digital connectivity and new emerging technology. There is a focus is on walking and cycling for shorter journeys, which can reduce traffic, improve travel choices, and support healthier lifestyles. Public transport plays a crucial role in improving access and travel choice, especially in rural areas and for those without private cars. Contributing to the national net zero carbon emissions targets requires investment in walking and cycling infrastructure and low carbon public transport, support to the use of electric and lower emission vehicles and associated infrastructure. The future of mobility is uncertain and influenced by factors such as behaviour change, electrification, sharing, automation, and new business models. However, the pace of change is uncertain, making it difficult to predict when certain technologies will appear and when the right time to adopt them is.





Key pillars



Walking and pedestrian environment enhancements

The walking and pedestrian environment enhancements include footway widening and wayfinding improvements, pedestrian crossing enhancements and assessing the feasibility of changing the operation of the highway network to improve safety and better support other users.

Cycle network enhancements

The cycle enhancements are focused on targeted network improvements, cycle hire and improving cycle parking within Stamford. The aim is to provide high quality infrastructure to encourage more people to travel by bike.

Mobility hub development

The mobility hub package will look at opportunities to develop a series of enhanced transport hubs across the town to improve how people access to different modes of travel. These will be adapted to each location and could include enhancements to the railway station and bus station.

Local bus and public transport enhancements

The public transport interventions focus on improving the frequency of local bus services, extending CallConnect services to Peterborough and working with providers to introduce smarter ticketing arrangements.

Highway enhancements

To support the delivery of the town's urban extensions we will work with partners to deliver the Stamford North link road which will link the B1081 Old Great North Road to A6121 Ryhall Road.

Supporting infrastructure



Electric vehicle charging infrastructure

This package aims to support the uptake of electric vehicles by increasing the availability of public charging points and working with providers to roll out Electric Vehicle car clubs across Stamford.

Speed limit review

To improve safety and the town centre environment the strategy proposes to look at opportunities to change the speed limits in the town centre, around schools and in the surrounding residential areas.

Parking package

This package will consider the feasibility of implementing parking restrictions; residents parking schemes; and removing some public on street parking within the town centre.

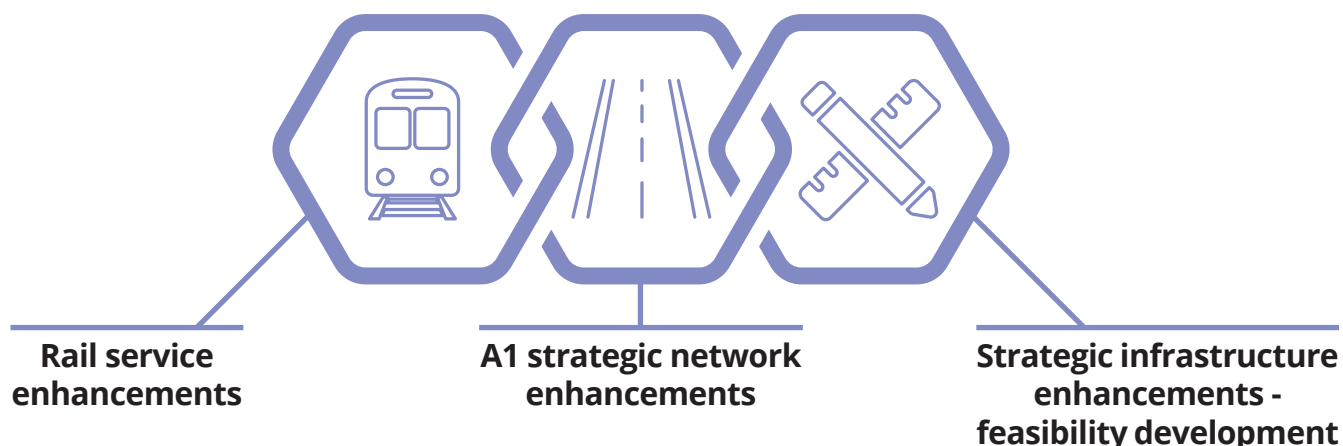
Park and stride package

To help manage traffic demand within the centre of Stamford we will look at opportunities to create a series of park and ride and park and stride services and sites to allow visitors and residents to park on the edge of the town centre and use either a local bus service or walk into the centre of Stamford.

Behaviour change and demand management

The behaviour change and demand management package is focused on reducing the impact of vehicular traffic at peak periods and encouraging more sustainable travel through the development of travel plans and travel management strategies.

Strategic network enhancements



Rail service enhancements

We will work with the train operating companies and Network Rail to improve facilities at the station and increase the frequency of services.

A1 strategic network enhancements

We will look at opportunities to work with partners to support ongoing assessments and schemes that will improve the operation, capacity and safety of the A1 junctions close to Stamford.

Strategic infrastructure enhancements – feasibility development

We will look to assess and consider the benefits, impacts, and feasibility of bypasses to the north, south or east of Stamford; replacing the Tallington level crossing with a new overbridge; and providing a second River Welland road crossing.

Delivering the strategy



Collaborative approach

The Stamford Transport Strategy Board will manage and own the strategy. Led by the Executive Member for Highways and Transport and formed by Members and Officers of Lincolnshire County Council and South Kesteven District Council, the strategy board will bring together stakeholders from a wide range of different disciplines to review the delivery of the proposals contained within the strategy.

It is important to understand that no single organisation can deliver the whole strategy and its success will be dependent on the support, funding, and resources from a range of stakeholders. A partnership approach will be vital, and the strategy board will take the lead in identifying potential partners and bringing these groups together as needed to progress each element of the strategy.

Funding will also be vital in enabling the strategy to achieve its vision and objectives. This will continue to be challenging and the board will take the lead in identifying funding routes and securing the investment needed to support the delivery of the schemes and enhancements contained within the strategy.

Programming the strategy

The strategy sets out the long-term vision for transport across Stamford up to 2038 and it is aligned with the policies in the Local Plan and the Lincolnshire Local Transport Plan.

The timescales for delivering the interventions will vary and will be linked to the availability of funding and the complexity and scale of the schemes. Some elements will be delivered in the short to medium term whilst others are likely to remain ongoing throughout the strategy period. The timescales will be set by the board and each scheme will be brought forward as soon as feasible and affordable.

Monitoring the strategy

Continuously monitoring and reviewing the strategy is vitally important to ensure progress is being made. The transport strategy board will be responsible for monitoring the strategy and ensuring that progress is being made. As part of this, the board will provide a progress report at a minimum of two-year intervals that assesses progress against the following outcomes:

- **reduced traffic in the urban area** and an increase in the number of journeys being made by walking, cycling and public transport
- **improved access to Stamford's historic core** and increased footfall within the town centre through the creation of a more people centric environment
- **enhanced the health and wellbeing of Stamford** through improved air quality, reduced noise levels and safety
- **the sustainable delivery of the Stamford North development**, through the integration of sustainable transport infrastructure and delivery of strong walking and cycling and public transport connectivity
- **increased accessibility of the town centre** and rail hub from more rural areas through improved rail and local bus services
- **continued growth of Stamford's economy** and visitor economy through improvements to its strategic transport infrastructure including the highway and rail networks leading to improved journey times and reliability
- **delivery of a flexible and resilient transport network** that has improved travel choice for residents and visitors
- **reduced carbon emissions** from transport to enable the county council to reach its net zero emission target in 2050 and mitigate the impacts of climate change
- **delivery of infrastructure that supports the uptake of electric, shared, connected, alternative fuelled transport** as well as the business models that support them