Accessibility Mapping Report

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1. Introduction

1.1 The Core Strategy is at the heart of the Local Plan and lays the foundations for the Site Allocations document. It sets out our vision for what we want to achieve in the district up to 2028. It also contains a range of policies to guide development, covering new housing, employment, community facilities and environmental protection. These policies are used to determine planning applications.

1.2 The Core Strategy has been subject to extensive consultation over 6 years, and after Independent Examination was found to be sound and formally adopted by Council Members in December 2012, it replaces the old Local Plan which was adopted in 1996.

1.3 As part of the Local Plan, the Council has developed an evidence base to justify the Core Strategy. The following studies have been undertaken to date:

- Housing Market Assessment (HMA)
- Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)
- Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)
- Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA)
- Open Space Audit and Strategy
- Employment Land Study (ELS)
- Appropriate Assessment (AA)
- Settlement Study
- Study of Physical and Environmental Constraints

1.4 In order to support and inform the work to date on the Local Plan, Staffordshire County Council has prepared district wide data for South Staffordshire, which considers the accessibility of local services to South Staffordshire’s communities. The initial study was carried out in January 2009 and has been recently refreshed to support the emerging Site Allocations document.

1.5 Staffordshire County Council, as highway authority, has responsibility for the Local Transport Plan. Accessibility strategies, targets and assessments should be included in Local Transport Plans (LTP) in relation to rural service provision. Accessibility is more than just the availability of transport but encompasses location of services and facilities, safety and infrastructure design.

2 Purpose of the Mapping Exercise

2.1 The purpose of the Accessibility Mapping Exercise is to provide background data on the relative access of South Staffordshire communities, by public transport, walking and cycling, to a range of services. These services include supermarkets, village centres, schools, doctor’s surgeries, and employment centres.

2.2 In order to understand the varying levels of accessibility to services at different times of the week, the mapping to different services was done at different on and off peak times. The accessibility mapping was undertaken by the County Council’s Transport Planning and Strategy Team using...
‘Accession’ software and the maps generated by programmes we listed below and marked in this report.

2.3 One of the issues in any rural area is the provision of services to the local population, and also how readily accessed these services are.

3 Results of the Mapping Exercise

3.1 The following accessibility maps have been produced:

1) Public Transport to LTP Major Centres (Bus and Rail) Saturday 10:00 to 12:00 hours
2) Public Transport to LTP Major Centres (Bus and Rail) Wednesday 07:00 to 09:00 hours
3) Public Transport Access to Employment Centres (Bus and Rail) Wednesday 07:30 to 09:30 hours
4) Walk Times to Primary Schools
5) Cycling Time to GP Surgeries
6) Walking Time to GP Surgeries
7) Bus Times to Supermarkets Saturday 10:00 to 13:00 hours
8) Bus Times to Supermarkets Wednesday 10:00 to 13:00 hours
9) Cycling Times to Supermarkets
10) Walking Times to Supermarkets
11) Bus Times to Main Village Centres / Local Shops Saturday 10:00 to 13:00 hours
12) Bus Times to Main Village Centres / Local Shops Wednesday 10:00 to 13:00 hours
13) Walking Time to Main Village Centres / Local Shops
14) Cycle Time to Main Village Centres / Local Shops
15) Hourly or Better Bus Routes - South Staffordshire

3.2 The accessibility maps provide a very useful indication of the accessibility of local communities to key facilities and services. The information has informed the preparation of the Settlement Study and will also assist the Council in reaching decisions about the location of new development.
Bus Times to Supermarkets Saturday 10:00 to 13:00 hours

Key
Supermarkets

Time (minutes)
0 - 10
11 - 20
21 - 30
31 - 40
41 - 50
51 - 60

Timetables valid from 19th May 2014

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