

## Blaby District Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan 2024-2034

### Executive Summary

#### *Introduction*

Blaby District Council, with the support of Sustrans, has developed a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) to encourage active travel (cycling, walking, wheeling) for leisure, commuting, and exercise. The plan aims to create a high-quality, integrated network of cycling and walking infrastructure, which promotes health and environmental benefits, whilst reducing congestion and pollution. The LCWIP aligns with the Government's strategy to increase walking and cycling trips.

#### *Structure and Scope*

The LCWIP follows the Department for Transport's guidance and comprises six stages: determining scope, gathering information, network planning for cycling and walking, prioritising improvements, and integration. The plan focuses on areas within 10km for cycling and 2km for walking, considering current travel patterns, infrastructure, and significant trip generators like schools and employment hubs.

#### *Opportunities and Challenges*

Blaby District's flat terrain and close-knit settlements are conducive to active travel. Key opportunities include integrating with Leicester City's high-quality cycle network and leveraging new developments like New Lubbethorpe. Challenges involve improving access in rural areas and overcoming physical barriers like busy roads and railways.

#### *Gathering Information*

The plan assessed existing walking and cycling networks, travel patterns, significant trip generators, and public perception through surveys. Key findings indicate a need for wider and better pavements, more safe crossing points, and increased off-road cycle routes. Stakeholder engagement identified priority routes and areas for improvement.

#### *Network Planning and Prioritisation*

The LCWIP proposes a draft network map for cycling and walking, identifying key routes and necessary improvements, such as segregated cycleways, traffic calming measures, and enhanced crossings. Routes were audited for safety, directness, and coherence, with high-level cost estimates provided. Prioritisation considered effectiveness, policy alignment, economic value, and deliverability.

#### *Integration and Behaviour Change*

The LCWIP will be integrated into local policies, ensuring new developments support active travel. Blaby's Active Travel Strategy aims to double walking and cycling trips, secure investment from developments, and foster collaboration with Leicestershire County Council. Behaviour change initiatives will include educational programs, employer incentives, and awareness campaigns to promote active travel and reduce car usage.

#### *Conclusion*

The LCWIP outlines a strategic approach to enhance Blaby District's walking and cycling infrastructure over the next decade, aiming to improve health, reduce environmental impact, and support sustainable transport. Regular reviews and updates will ensure the plan adapts to changing needs and opportunities.