

Bath & North East Somerset Placemaking Plan

COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO ID/3: MATTER 7 - SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Issue: Whether policies for supporting sustainable transport are soundly based

Q1. Why is it no longer necessary to safeguard routes for the Whitchurch bypass and Temple Cloud / Clutton by pass and studies to assess the Saltford bypass and an A46/A36 link?

1. A Rule 18 Cabinet Report on 22nd September 2014 entitled 'Review of Local Plan Policy T.17 (Safeguarded Highway Schemes)' (CD/PMP/G29) explains the circumstances which triggered the review of the proposed highway improvement schemes safeguarded under saved B&NES Local Plan Policy T.17 which includes the routes for the Whitchurch and Temple Cloud/Clutton by passes. This resolution was made after the Core Strategy was adopted in July 2014 hence the need to delete the reference to these schemes from the Core Strategy text as shown in Volume 1 of the Placemaking Plan (CD/PMP/G1/1, para 582).
2. Deletion of the references to the Saltford bypass and A46/A36 link in paragraph 582 was done in error. These references therefore need to be reinstated with a minor factual update in order to provide a clearer explanation of the status of these schemes. The proposed amendment to paragraph 582 is set out below and is also included in the Schedule of Rolling Changes (CD/PMP/E1)
3. The Council considers that para 582 needs to be amended as follows:
Para 582:
The B&NES highway network remains heavily trafficked highlighting the need to undertake transport and access improvements and major capital infrastructure projects to facilitate growth in housing numbers and jobs to minimise the adverse effect of traffic, and to enable environmental improvement to be made to existing centres. ~~The Council will continue to safeguard routes for the Whitchurch bypass and Temple Cloud/Clutton bypass and recognises the need for studies to assess the Saltford bypass and an A46/A36 link.~~ The Council remains concerned with the impact of through traffic, particularly HGVs, on the WHS. This is a particular problem in the east of the city due to the incomplete nature of the Trunk Road Network in this area. The Council will continue to press Highways England and Transport Ministers to address this serious problem and will lobby for solutions to be identified and funded in the next Road Investment Strategy to be published in 2020. The Council will also review the A4 corridor and, in particular, consider how best to improve the environment within Saltford and improve journey times and reliability between Bristol and Bath. This will include the options for a bypass of the village.