REPORT TO CABINET

Open		Would any decisions proposed :	
Any especially affected Wards	~~Mandatory/~~ ~~Discretionary /~~ Operational	Be entirely within Cabinet's powers to decide Need to be recommendations to Council Is it a Key Decision	YES NO NO
Lead Member: Councillor Alistair Beales E-mail: cllr.alistair.beales@west-norfolk.gov.uk		Other Cabinet Members consulted: Councillor Moriarty	
		Other Members consulted: Members of the Regeneration and Development Panel and Members of the Transport Informal Working Group	
Lead Officer: Duncan Hall E-mail: Duncan.hall@west-norfolk.gov.uk		Other Officers consulted:	

Financial Implications NO	Policy/ Personnel Implications NO	Statutory Implications NO	Equality Impact Assessment YES If YES: Pre-screening/ ~~Full Assessment~~	Risk Management Implications YES	Environmental Considerations NO

Date of meeting: 23 September 2025

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL – TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMAL WORKING GROUP

Summary

This report presents the recommendations from the Regeneration and Development Panel relating to the work of the Transport and Infrastructure Informal Working Group which was tasked by the Panel to assist with the formation of high-level strategy and action plan for Transport and consider the existing and future uses and opportunities for transport over the next 30 years.

Recommendation

1. That Cabinet acknowledge and note the recommendations put forward by the Panel, as set out in part 3 of the report, and that they be submitted to officers to inform future plans, strategies and policies dealing with Transport and Infrastructure as appropriate.
2. That Cabinet express their thanks to Members and officers involved in the work of the Informal Working Group.

Reason for Decision

To allow for Member input on matters relating to Transport and Infrastructure during the development of policies and strategies.

1 Background

The Transport Strategy Informal Working Group was established by the Regeneration and Development Panel at its meeting on 16th April 2025. The Group's terms of reference are summarised below.

1. To assist with the formation of a high-level strategy and action plan for Transport in King's Lynn, including considering and inputting into:
    a. King's Lynn Area Transport Strategy
    b. Norfolk Rail Prospectus
    c. Car Parking Strategy
    d. Future plans for the Ferry Service
2. The Group will consider the existing and future issues and opportunities for transport in King's Lynn over the next 30 years.

2 Options Considered

2.1 The Group met on ten separate occasions. Agendas and Minutes for the meetings are available for Councillors to view on Mod Gov and a summary of topics discussed at the meetings are set out below.

22nd August 2024 – Setting the Work Programme, topics for discussion and agreeing the Terms of Reference.

12th September 2024 – The Group received a presentation from the Planning Policy Manager on the emerging Local Plan, Government consultations on the National Planning Policy Framework and Wider Planning Reform.

15th October 2024 – Representatives from Norfolk County Council and the County Council Portfolio Holder for Transport were present at the meeting and provided information and answered questions on the King's Lynn Transport Study, Rail Prospectus Consultation.

7th November 2024 – The Group held a discussion on the Ferry.

19th November 2024 – Ben Colson was present at the meeting and presented his thoughts and ideas on the future of bus services.

2nd January 2025 – Representatives from Norfolk County Council were present at the meeting to discuss the further allocation of Bus Service Improvement Funding for the 25-26 Financial Year. The Group put forward their ideas for consideration. Following the meeting a survey was also sent to all Councillors to enable them to put forward ideas for funding opportunities.

14th January 2025 – Representatives from Norfolk County Council were present at the meeting and provided an update on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and STARS.

4th March 2025 – Representatives from Norfolk County Council were present at the meeting and presented information on the Norfolk Rail Prospectus, New Rail Stations Feasibility Study. The Group also received information from Borough Council officers on King's Lynn and Hunstanton Parking Strategy including an update on the progress of the Draft King's Lynn Transport Study with a presentation of the findings and work carried out to date.

11th March and 1st April 2025 – The Group discussed and formulated their recommendations back to the Panel.

2.2 The Informal Working Group submitted their recommendations to the Regeneration and Development Panel on 3rd June 2025 and the Panel supported the recommendations for onward consideration by Cabinet.

3 Proposals

The Regeneration and Development Panel request that Cabinet consider the below recommendations, indicate their support for all or part of the recommendations and agree that they be submitted to officers for use in future plans, strategies and policies dealing with Transport and Infrastructure as appropriate.

3.1 Recommendations relating to Rail

1. A viability study on a parkway station and transport hub near or on the Enterprise Zone, King's Lynn is carried out, considering timetabling constraints, proximity to provision of a travel hub and associated car parking.
2. The Group acknowledge the Rail Prospectus Report from Norfolk County Council and the issues it highlights, but feel that priority should be given to making improvements and providing additional provision to accommodate future growth in the area. Creation of new settlements and their needs to access railway stations, be it improvements to existing stations, or additional provision should be considered in the next Local Plan.
3. Watlington Station.
    a. Improvements to the roads leading to the station.
    b. Increase car parking provision to accommodate future growth
    c. Explore opportunities to create a transport hub.
4. Downham Market Station
    a. Investigate making this a 'travel hub' by connecting with other modes of transport i.e. better bus services.
    b. Additional provision of CCTV covered cycle storage.
    c. Improve walkways from nearby car parks to encourage users to park in other car parks and walk to the station.
    d. Increase car parking provision
    e. Improvements to the platform crossings.
    f. Explore opportunities to create a transport hub.
5. King's Lynn Station

    a. Consider expanding the car park provision into King's Lynn Station and creating a travel hub. Possible location for a multi storey car park.
6. Work with bus operators to explore opportunities to provide joint ticketing.
7. Recognise the importance of supporting growth and multi modal transport by investing in stations and increasing the frequency of service.

3.2 Recommendations relating to the Ferry

1. Ensure it is included in the new Local Plan and King's Lynn Masterplan as appropriate to support future growth in the area which could unlock access to funding opportunities.
2. Continue to work on feasibility studies and improvements as budgets allow. Acknowledging that the full scheme presented by WSP was unfeasible.
3. Clarify ownership and responsibility.
4. Continue to engage with the operator and provide signposting and support on how to access business support funding/grants.
5. Consider the former Del Monte site as additional car parking for the Ferry, for inclusion within the King's Lynn Masterplan.
6. Promote 'Park and Sail' to commuters and tourists, consider this within the King's Lynn Parking Strategy.
7. West Lynn site for overnight campervan parking and leisure provision, for consideration of future land use within the King's Lynn Masterplan.
8. Later services to improve access to the nighttime economy.

3.3 Recommendations relating to Travel/Cycling

1. Endorse that priority is being given to active travel at the West Winch Growth Area and support the work of the LCWIP in this area.
2. Improvements to crossings at Tennyson Road should continue to be a priority, working with Network Rail.
3. Endorse STARS and Southgates Regeneration as a priority.

3.4 Recommendations relating to Buses

1. Joint Ticketing opportunities to be explored – including with rail.
2. Consider opportunities in the Bus Services Act including Franchising. Encourage/lobby that this work is commenced now so that it can be progressed by the new Unitary/Strategic Authority.
3. Endorse the priority areas in the Bus Service Improvement Plan and continue to engage with NCC to ensure that funding is used to make improvements to services in West Norfolk which include:
    a. Later services to support the night time economy and employment.
    b. Investigate an 'orbital' service for King's Lynn which can assist with active travel/park and ride/parkway station access.
    c. Upgrading to smart shelters across the Borough.
    d. Bus service to complement the Ferry – e.g. later on in the evening a service to the Ferry Car Park etc.

e. Circular/town centre service in Downham Market, including access to the Leisure Centre now that car parking charges have been introduced in this area.

4. Investigate active travel hubs in Hunstanton to support the tourist offer/access to the coast etc and support cycle hire in this area.

4 Policy Implications

Recommendations from the Panel will be taken into consideration during creation of future plans, policies and strategies relating to Transport and Infrastructure as appropriate.

5 Financial Implications

None directly associated with this report. Any proposals from this group will form part of overarching policies and projects.

6 Personnel Implications

None

7 Environmental Considerations

None

8 Statutory Considerations

None

9 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

Pre-screening Form is attached.

10 Risk Management Implications

None.

11 Declarations of Interest / Dispensations Granted

None.

12 Background Papers

Agendas and minutes from the Informal Working Group and 4th June 2025 report to the Regeneration and Development Panel.

Stage 1 - Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

For equalities profile information please visit Norfolk Insight - Demographics and Statistics - Data Observatory

Name of policy/service/function	Report from the Transport Informal Working Group			
Is this a new or existing policy/ service/function? *(tick as appropriate)*	New		Existing	✓
Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened. Please state if this policy/service is rigidly constrained by statutory obligations, and identify relevant legislation.	To ask Cabinet to indicate their support to the recommendations relating to Transport and Infrastructure and that those recommendations be taken into consideration in the formulation of relevant future plans and policies as appropriate. Comments and recommendations will feed into future projects and policies which will be subject to the usual democratic processes and subject to further EIA pre-screening.			
Who has been consulted as part of the development of the policy/service/function? – new only *(identify stakeholders consulted with)*	Members of the Transport Informal Working Group. Relevant Portfolio Holders Members of the Regeneration and Development Panel.			

Question	**Answer**				
1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service? Please tick the relevant box for each group. NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group. ***If potential adverse impacts are identified, then a full Equality Impact Assessment (Stage 2) will be required.*** **For more information on health inequalities please visit The King's Fund*		Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
	Age			✓	
	Disability			✓	
	Sex			✓	
	Gender Re-assignment			✓	
	Marriage/civil partnership			✓	
	Pregnancy & maternity			✓	
	Race			✓	
	Religion or belief			✓	
	Sexual orientation			✓	
	Armed forces community			✓	
	Care leavers			✓	
	Health inequalities*			✓	
	Other (eg low income, caring responsibilities)			✓	
Please provide a brief explanation of the answers above:					

The recommendation is that the recommendations from the Informal Working Group be taken into consideration during the formulation of future plans and projects. Those future plans and projects would be subject to separate decisions and EIA monitoring as required,			
Question	**Answer**	**Comments**	
2. Is the proposed policy/service likely to affect relations between certain equality communities or to damage relations between the equality communities and the Council, for example because it is seen as favouring a particular community or denying opportunities to another?	~~Yes /~~ No		
3. Could this policy/service be perceived as impacting on communities differently?	~~Yes /~~ No		
4. Are any impacts identified above minor and if so, can these be eliminated or reduced by minor actions? If yes, please agree actions with a member of the Corporate Equalities Working Group and list agreed actions in the comments section	Yes / No	**Actions:** n/a	
		Actions agreed by EWG member: Alison Demonty	
If 'yes' to questions 2 - 4 a full impact assessment will be required unless comments are provided to explain why this is not felt necessary: **Decision agreed by EWG member:** Alison Demonty			
5. Is the policy/service specifically designed to tackle evidence of disadvantage or potential discrimination?	~~Yes /~~ No	**Please provide brief summary:**	
Assessment completed by: Name	Duncan Hall		
Job title	Assistant Director		
Date completed			
Reviewed by EWG member	Alison Demonty	**Date**	**24.07.25**

✓ **Please tick to confirm completed EIA Pre-screening Form has been shared with Corporate Policy** (corporate.policy@west-norfolk.gov.uk)