

As you may know, Wellington will experience a significant amount of housing and economic growth between now and 2026. Ensuring the transport network is sufficient to cope with this growth is a key part of our work and this document gives suggestions about the range of transport improvements that could be made to support future development.

Good transport links to, in and around Wellington, are fundamental to its economic and social vitality. However, congestion and its associated knock-on effects have been a concern for a number of years. Somerset County Council has been working on gathering evidence and assessing current and future traffic trends to feed into a long-term action plan to address transport issues from the present until 2026. While this may seem a long time period, it should be recognised that transport projects often take many years to plan, fund and build so it is sensible to plan this far ahead.

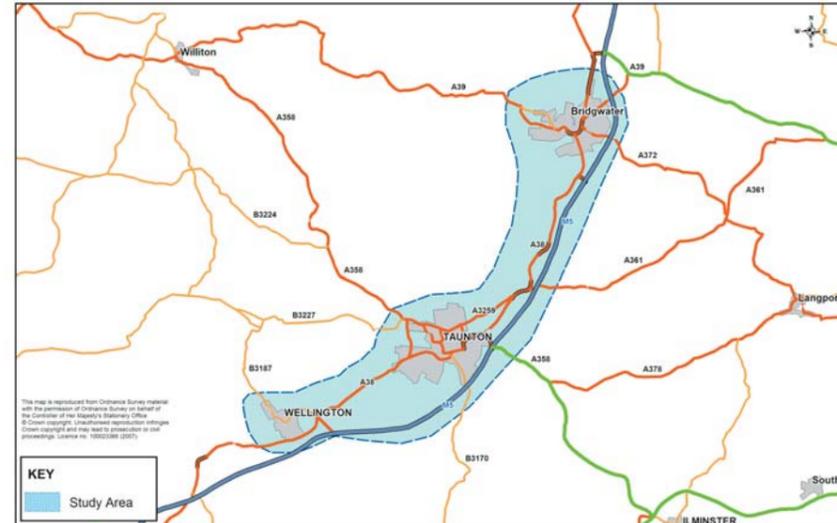
Through a detailed study of the transport trends in the town, the following issues have been identified:

- At the times of high demand, approximately 65% of people are making journeys for work purposes;
- There is not enough space on popular routes for all those who want to use them, so queuing and delay occurs – it is anticipated that this will worsen over time;
- Access to low cost, town centre, long-stay parking encourages people to drive;
- Over 50% of car drivers make short trips within the town;
- Perception of alternatives to the car is that they are more expensive, unreliable and poor quality;
- Air quality and noise cause localised environmental problems;
- Trips made by people are not predictable so often cannot be planned into public transport routes;
- Wellington is the largest town on the main West of London railway line without a station; and
- Increases in traffic in Wellington are likely to reduce the ease with which people can access services and facilities in their community.

In order to solve the issues outlined and achieve the objectives of the project, a problem-solving exercise was undertaken to draw out all the possible solutions that could be delivered from now until 2026. It should be stressed that while some of these proposals have already been made public, others are purely conceptual and are open to debate. Please see the map and explanations as a guide.

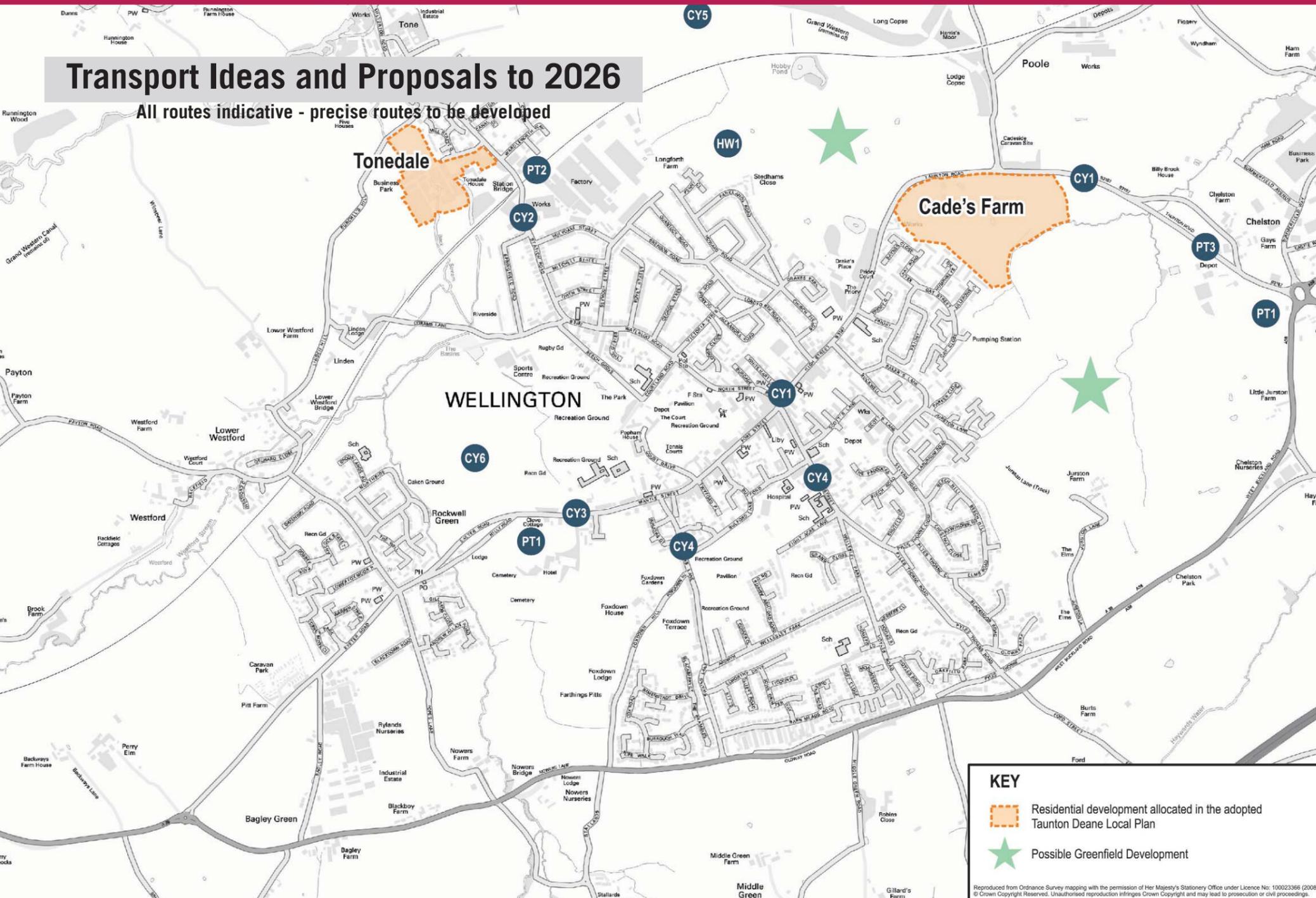
The next steps for this project will be to consider feedback from this exercise and integrate this into further development work to outline the main transport schemes likely to be taken forward. There will be a full consultation event on these proposals during 2009.

This document is part of the Taunton Area Transport Strategy Review, which covers transportation issues in Wellington, Taunton & Bridgwater.



Transport Ideas and Proposals to 2026

All routes indicative - precise routes to be developed



KEY

- Residential development allocated in the adopted Taunton Deane Local Plan
- ★ Possible Greenfield Development

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Potential new highways infrastructure to ease congestion at pinch points

HW1 New road between Taunton Road and B3187 (Milverton Road/Station Road)

Potential public transport improvements to increase use and reduce reliance on the car

PT1 New 'Park and Bus' sites at Mantle Street and on B3187 at junction with A38, providing car parking along the route of existing bus services

PT2 Possible reopened railway station linking Wellington to the national network and providing an alternative to use of the M5

PT3 Improved bus services along the A38 to Taunton

Potential new or improved cycle routes to increase cycling

CY1 Town Centre along B3187 to A38

CY2 Town Centre to Tonedale

CY3 Town Centre travelling south west along Mantle Street

CY4 Town Centre travelling south along Swains Lane and South Street

CY5 Holyoake Street to Taunton Road at Cade's Farm

CY6 Rockwell green to the sports centre and Station Road