



Cheshire and West Chester Council

Northwich Transport Strategy Consultation



Cheshire West
and Chester

Introduction



Watling Street/ Chester Way Northwich
Town Centre Gyrotory

Aims

The Northwich Transport Strategy will support the delivery of the growth ambitions of Study Area the Local Plan and emerging local Neighbourhood Plans by setting out transport and infrastructure improvements for the wider area.

A Transport Strategy is needed for Northwich to:

- Make the current highway better able to meet growing car ownership and current and future development needs;
- Ensure that the improvement works we propose are robust and most importantly don't cause more problems than they solve taking into account economic growth;
- Have evidence to support the case for all our transport improvements so that we can obtain the funding from government and developers to do the work; and
- Encourage sustainable transport by supporting journeys on foot, by bicycle or public transport.

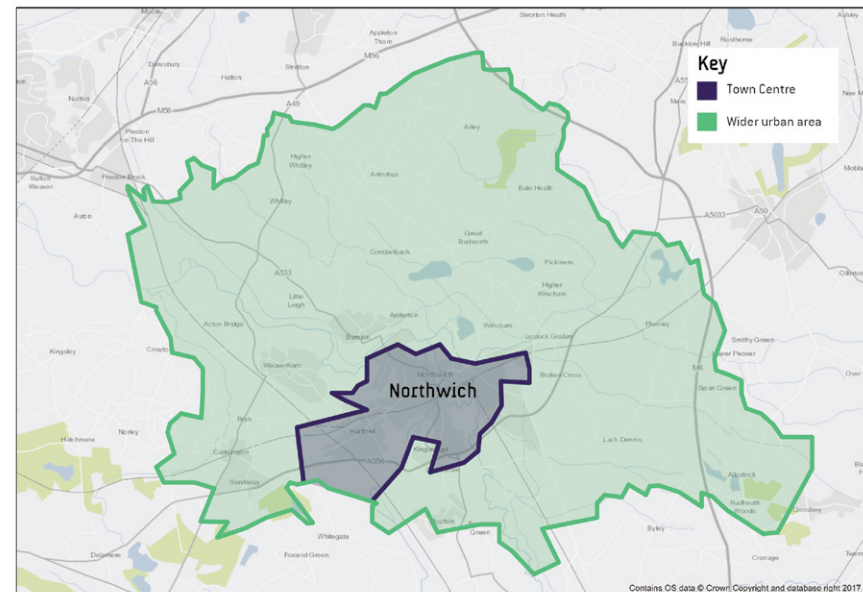
We have already done some work to put together a list of proposed improvements to roads, public transport and for walking and cycling. We now want to hear your views on the proposals we have come up with.

Study Background

Early work undertaken for this study has focused on understanding the current and future transport issues across the town which will need to be addressed as proposed growth comes forward. A series of initial stakeholder events have taken place and interrogation of the Northwich Traffic Model.

We want to get the most comprehensive approach we can and make sure we can deliver the improvements that you want in your area. At the moment we are exploring solutions based on robust evidence, not everything will go forward. Giving us your comments will help us make sure we address as many concerns as possible and get a Transport Strategy that works for all and address current and future transport issues.

Study Area



Study Time Line



How to take part

We would like to hear your feedback on the proposals and have developed a short survey to capture these. To fill out the online survey, suggest any alternative schemes, or to let us know something we may have missed, please contact us:

Online at: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

By email at: nts@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

By post at: Planning and Strategic Transport, 4 Civic Way,
Ellesmere Port CH65 0BE

By Phone: 0300 123 7 036



Barons Quay canal view from Furey Wood

The consultation period runs from Monday 25th September to Sunday 31st December 2017 inclusive.

You can speak to officers from Cheshire West and Chester Council and the study team by attending one of our public events during the consultation period:

- Barnton Memorial Hall, 30 Townfield Lane, CW8 4LH, Thursday 12th October 4pm-6.30pm
- Hartford Village Hall, 244 Chester Road, CW8 1LW, Wednesday 25th October, 4-7pm
- Weaverham Community Centre, Russet Road, CW8 3HY, Wednesday 1st November, 4pm-6.30pm
- Lostock Gralam Community Centre, 14 Stubbs Lane, CW9 7PU, Tuesday 7th November 4pm-7pm
- Northwich Memorial Court, Chester Way, CW9 5QJ Thursday 16th November, 4pm-7pm
- The Venue, Gadbrook Park, Gadbrook Road, CW9 7JL, Wednesday 22nd November, 4pm-7pm

The display will be on show in Northwich Customer Service Centre during the consultation period.

Key Issues

Town Centre Issues

- There are few evening bus services between parts of the wider urban area and Northwich Town Centre.
- Northwich Rail Station is served by an hourly train service which has poor quality trains and an uncompetitive journey time to Manchester.
- Northwich Rail Station is remote from the town centre and is poorly connected by bus, walking and cycling routes.
- There is a lack of cycling infrastructure to, within and around the town centre and existing off-road routes are poorly signed.
- Need to maintain good access by all modes to support Barons Quay and further town centre redevelopment.





Wider Urban Area Issues

- Several pinch points exist within the wider urban area, which cause congestion and delay.
- The future capacity of the road network is of concern due to the number of substantial developments planned or currently under construction.
- Concern that some potential solutions may have a displacement impact on other parts of the network.
- There are a number of corridors experiencing congestion e.g. the A559 Hartford corridor experiences severe levels of school related congestion.
- There are concerns about perceived poor air quality for residents in areas of congestion.
- The distribution of local services e.g. the concentration of schools in Hartford and the Mid Cheshire Hospital estate and future employment development presents transport challenges for non-car access to services and jobs.
- Poor walking and cycling networks.



Manchester bound platform Northwich Rail Station

Longer Distance Issues

- Lack of interchange between the Mid Cheshire Line and West Coast Mainline reduces rail connectivity to strategic locations.
- Bus links to locations e.g. Winsford and Leighton Hospital and further afield such as Altrincham and Warrington are infrequent, particularly at weekends, and unavailable during the evening period.
- Capacity issues on main roads linking Northwich to other urban areas and the motorway network.
- High levels of out commuting in Northwich present a need to create an efficient transport network to remain an attractive area for residents.
- Specific impact on the local network of HS2 during the construction phase.
- There is a need to ensure that connectivity is improved so that residents of Northwich and the wider urban area benefit from the Mersey Gateway Bridge and enhanced connectivity to national destinations from the proposed HS2 station at Crewe.
- Lack of long distance cycle routes.

Our Emerging Town Centre Proposals

Junction Improvements

- TC01 Winnington Hill Junction at Town Bridge, widening of the junction.
- TC02 Improve the town centre one way system at the junction of Town Bridge, Dane Street and Watling Street (A533).
- TC03 Improve junction capacity at the traffic lights at Chester Way and Venables Road.
- TC04 B5082 Middlewich Road / Manchester Road undertake improvements to enable right turn movements from Rudheath into Tesco and Northwich Station.

Highway Schemes

- TC05 Develop a new link road between Winnington and Leicester Street at Barons Quay aligning along from TATA Winnington works to the A533.

Walking and Cycling

Walking and Cycling Infrastructure improvements to be identified within Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan:

- TC06
 - Review of cycle route condition and deliver resurfacing improvements to off-road routes where possible (TC06a).
 - Explore options to deliver a new off-road town centre walking and cycling network making use of the canal and river systems (TC06b).
 - Undertake Town Centre cycle parking review and enhance cycle parking offer to support active travel (TC06c).

- TC07 Encourage private sector bike hire scheme at Northwich Rail station and key points across the town centre to support visitor connectivity, commuting and cycling opportunity and improved links to locations such as Gadbrook Park.

Public Transport

- TC08 Support Network Rail and Northern Rail to deliver a major enhancement of Northwich Station including new step free access to the Chester platform, improved interchange between bus and rail services and an improved station building.

Parking

- TC09 Following the completion of town centre development, consider appropriate locations for taxi provision.
- TC10 Enhance Electric Vehicle parking offer through introducing electric vehicle charging infrastructure within town centre car parks to meet Council Parking Supplementary Planning Document standards.

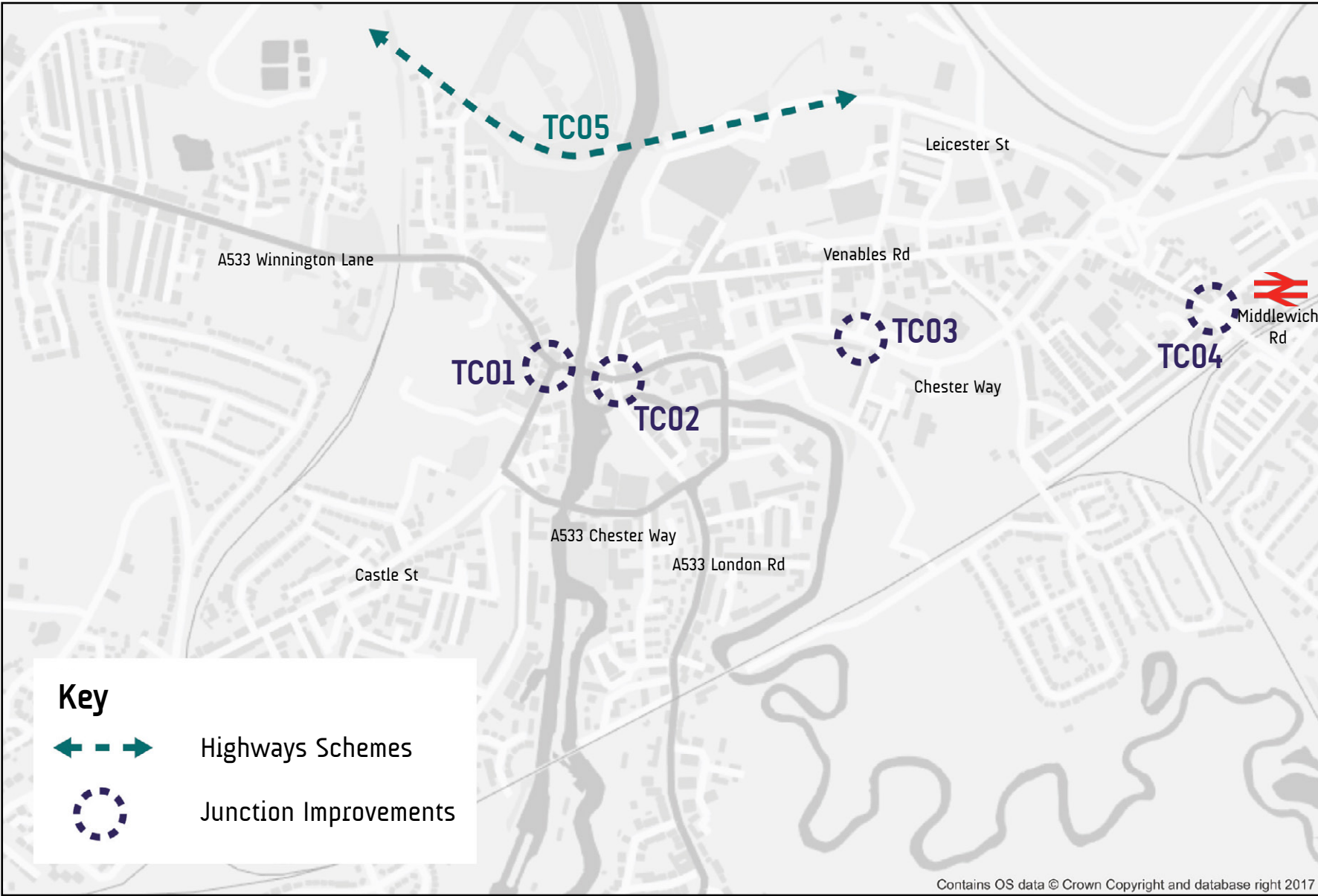
Demand Management

- TC11 Review service vehicle time restrictions to reduce HGV movement and pedestrian conflict, once Barons Quay is fully operational.



Cyclist along River Weaver

Our Emerging Town Centre Proposals



Our Emerging Wider Urban Area Proposals

Junction Improvements

Deliver schemes to reduce congestion at the key pinch point at the Winnington/Barton Swing Bridge pinch point:

- UA01 • In the short term by increasing junction capacity (UA01a).
- In the long-term by providing a new bridge to provide an alternative route (UA01b).
- Junction improvement at A533 Winnington Lane / Winnington Avenue (UA01c).

Reduced congestion along A559 Greenbank / Hartford Corridor through:

- UA02 • Junction capacity improvements along the corridor to reduce congestion (UA02a).
- Explore options for facilitating a west bound exit from A556 at Hartford (UA02b).
- Investigate opportunity to reduce congestion through Hartford through introduction of a right turn movement at A556 School Lane (UA02c).

- UA03 A533/A556 junction improvements at Davenham to support increased use and better accessibility to the A556.

Deliver junction improvements to reduce congestion along A556 in the vicinity of Gadbrook Park:

- UA04 • Develop a new junction on the A556 to the west of the existing Gadbrook Park site to open up development land (UA04a).
- Consider opportunities to introduce a second southern access to Gadbrook Park (UA04b).
- Implement improvement scheme at Gadbrook Road/ A556 junction to reduce congestion caused by traffic entering and existing Gadbrook Park. (UA04c).
- Junction improvement at roundabout junction with the A556/ A530 (UA04d).
- Junction improvement scheme at A530 King Street / B5082 Middlewich Road (UA04e).
- Junction improvement scheme at A556 / B5082 Penny's Lane (UA04f).

Junction improvements in Wincham along signed route into Northwich from A559:

- UA05 • B5075 New Warrington Road/ Chapel Street (UA05a).
- A559 Marston Lane/ Church Street (UA05b).

Junction improvements in Lostock Gralam:

- UA06 • A559 Manchester Road/ A559 Hall Lane/Station Road(UA06a).
- A559 Manchester Road / Stubbs Lane (UA06b).
- A556/A559 roundabout junction (UA06c).

Highway Schemes

- UA07 Bring closed private road up to required standard to support alternative route north through Marbury Country Park.

- Utilisation of former TATA railway to the south of the River Weaver to form a road link and new bridge crossing linking to Cosgrove Business Park (UA08a).
- Road link from new bridge crossing joining to the A533 to the north of Barnton (UA08b).

- UA08 • UA08c Utilisation of former railway line for use as a transport corridor to link to Winnington Avenue (UA08c).
- Utilisation of former TATA railway line as a road through Winnington near to Victoria Infirmary to A559 or new rail link joining the Mid Cheshire Line and Middlewich Branch line with a new Winnington Station (UA08d).

- UA09 Introduce a road link from Wallascote Road to A49 using the former rail alignment.

- UA10 Link the above road scheme to the A556 via the introduction of a further link road.



Our Emerging Wider Urban Area Proposals

Walking and Cycling

Walking and Cycling Infrastructure improvements to be identified within Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan:

- Improved cycling and pedestrian connection between Northwich Town Centre, Winnington (UA11a).
- Walking and cycling route utilising waterway into Northwich Town centre from Winnington and Anderton (UA11b).
- Review plans for radial corridor improvements from Northwich Cycling Strategy (UA11c).
- UA11 • Liaise with Hartford Campus schools to open pedestrian/cycling link from Manor Lane along River Weaver (UA11d).
- New pedestrian/cycle bridge to enhance walking route between Barnton and Winnington at Winnington Lane historic bridge (currently no suitable footway along the bridge) (UA11e).
- Cycle link utilising former rail alignment from A559 Chester Road to Greenbank Station (UA11f).
- Implementation of a footpath at Marbury Hollows to improve pedestrian access (UA181g).

Public Transport

UA12 Help the train operating companies to be more proactive at offering solutions to contain demand for car parking space through measures such as car sharing incentives, taxi sharing, cost effective incentives to encourage travel to / from the station by bus.

UA13 Support opportunities to increase parking supply at stations in Northwich wider area to meet forecast demand in rail patronage and increase attractiveness of rail based park and ride.

UA14 Investigate long term possibility of connecting Mid-Cheshire and West Coast Mainline railway lines at their intersection north of Hartford to enable interchange.

Public Transport

As part of borough wide Route and Branch Bus Service Review consider the following:

- Where appropriate introduce evening bus services to residential areas e.g. Rudheath, Comberbach to access town centre and leisure facilities (UA15a).
- UA15 • Implement measures of Winsford Transport Strategy for better bus services between Winsford, Middlewich and Northwich (UA15b).
- Review and promote opportunities to extend flexible/specialist bus services (UA15c).
- Explore options for enhanced bus travel to hospitals, possibly a new shuttle service similar to the Leighton Link Service that has been successfully introduced for Leighton Hospital in Crewe (UA15d).

UA16 Support smart, integrated ticketing system for all users of bus and rail services in the Northwich area and introduce a new system of subsidised travel cards for students across Northwich and the wider area.

UA17 Review and identify opportunities to enhance bus priority at junctions with traffic signal.

Parking

UA18 Implement recommendations of Gadbrook Parking Study to increase car parking, implement TROs in Rudheath and implement travel planning measures to reduce demand and introduce multi storey car park options to cater for future demand.

UA19 Implementation of waiting restrictions on residential roads impacted by on street parking near Hartford Rail Station.

Demand Management

UA20 Encourage other schools to follow St Wilfred's Greenbank in investigating staggering school start and finish times to reduce congestion.

UA21 Support extensions to the CWaC Parent Parking Charter to encourage parents to leave cars further from schools and complete their journeys on foot.

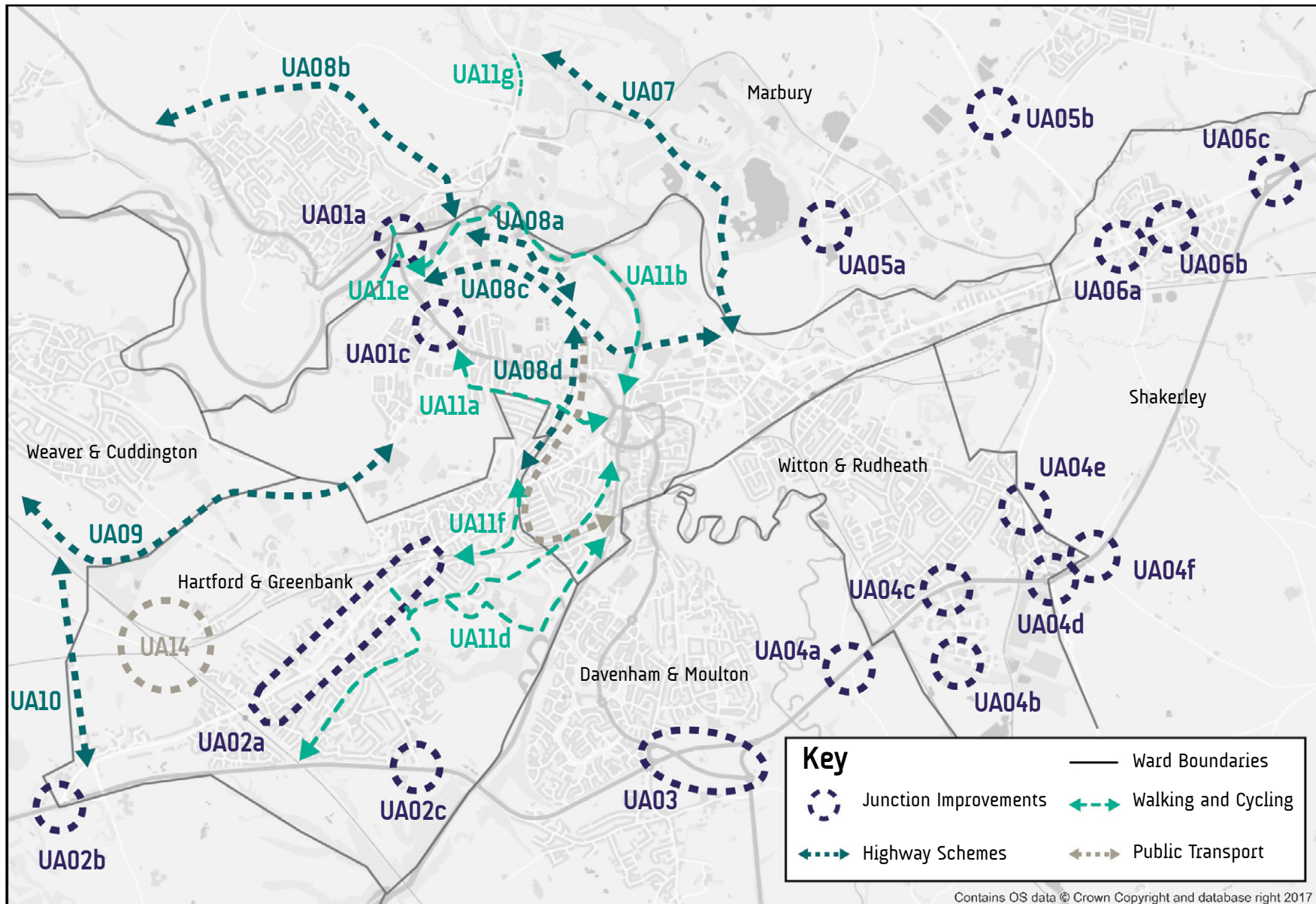
UA22 Introduce traffic calming measures on Hartford Road in Davenham.

UA23 Introduce a package of urban traffic control measures to improve linking of junction signal timings along congested corridors in Northwich.

UA24 Implement a programme of 20mph zones in suitable residential areas wherever supported by local communities.

UA25 Examine opportunity for an area travel plan for schools in Hartford.

Our Emerging Wider Urban Area Proposals



Our Emerging Longer Distance Proposals

Junction Improvements

- LD01** Implement junction capacity improvements at junction of A533/A49.
- Improved safety measures for incident hotspots, identified as:
- Smithy Lane / Ash Lane / A533, Little Leigh (LD02a).
 - Budworth Lane / A559 / High Street, Great Budworth (LD02b).
 - A556/A559 junction through improved road alignment at Cinder Hill, Hartford (LD02c).
- Implement junction capacity improvements at pinch points on A530:
- A530 / Davenham Road/ Crowder's Lane (LD03a).
 - A530/ B5309 King Street (LD03b).
- LD04** Support junction capacity improvements to support access to M6 at J19 A556/A5033 junction.

Walking and Cycling

- Walking and Cycling Infrastructure improvements to be identified within Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan:
- Support Cheshire East to implement schemes identified within their March 2017 Cycling Strategy including a Middlewich – Winsford – Northwich – Knutsford cycle connection by delivering new connections within Cheshire West (LD05a).
 - In partnership with Cheshire East Council, explore opportunities for a cycle link that runs broadly parallel to the new HS2 line (LD05b).

Public Transport

- Reopening of Middlewich Branch Line:
- Lobby Network Rail and work with Cheshire East Council to ensure that the Middlewich Branch line is reopened for regular passenger rail services (LD06a).
 - Work with Cheshire East to support proposals for a new station at Middlewich on the Middlewich Branch Line (LD06b).
 - Explore options for a new station at Gadbrook Park on the Middlewich Branch Line to serve Gadbrook and south Northwich (LD06c).
- LD07** Support proposals for an Airport Western Rail Link to link the Mid Cheshire Line and Manchester Airport.
- LD08** Lobby Northern to introduce timetable changes on the Mid Cheshire Line to better support rail commuting between Northwich and Chester and Northwich and Manchester.
- LD09** As part of borough wide Route and Branch Bus Service Review work with bus operators to explore possibilities of introducing an evening bus service to Warrington.

Demand Management

- LD10** Implement speed reduction measures on key local routes affected by speeding issues including the A556 Cuddington-Davenham-Allostock and the A559 up to the A56.



Leicester Street Roundabout

Our Emerging Longer Distance Proposals

