Proposed Refurbishment and Remodelling of Internal office accommodation at the William Knibb Centre, Montagu Street, Kettering, NN16 8AE

TRAVEL PLAN

for

Northamptonshire County Council

Date – September 2016
Ref – NCC TP V1
WILLIAM KNIBB CENTRE – TRAVEL PLAN

William Knibb Centre is a Northamptonshire County Council owned building close to the centre of Kettering. The site comprises an old red brick former school building and a 1960’s three storey extension. Parts of the 1960’s three storey extension are currently used as staff offices.

The Council has been carrying out a significant project to introduce and embed Next Generation Working principles of flexibility to support Asset Utilisation projects and the proposals for the William Knibb Centre form part of this work. As part of the transformation programme, the Council is modernising the way people work and the way that property is used, through the introduction of modern technology and new ways of working.

It is proposed that the William Knibb Centre is developed as a hub building in the north of the County complementary to the new Angel Square headquarter building in Northampton.

A Travel Plan is being developed for Angel Square and it is envisaged that it will be adopted in the rest of the County with minimal adaption, either immediately or as part of future planned projects and will provide an opportunity to bring consistency of practice.

It is recognised that there is an opportunity for the Travel Plan to encourage healthy and sustainable travel options which can tie into both the Wellbeing and Environmental programmes of the Council. The Travel Plan introduces a suite of alternative options for travelling to work as well as business travel. These options encompass:

- Public transport
- Sustainable travel such as cycling
- Car travel, including car sharing
- Alternative business travel solutions

The Travel Plan and a Car Parking Scheme are designed to support both the Next Generation Council model and new flexible Next Generation Working methods.

- Next Generation Working practices can reduce both home to work and business travel by offering through the use of mobile devices and remote connectivity the opportunity for staff to work from a wider range of locations including home, partner bases, Libraries and even public spaces where appropriate. This should cut unnecessary travel. Flexible working practices can reduce the level of travel to work in peak hours. Other technologies such as Skype for Business now also offer opportunities to increase video conferencing and document sharing between different venues, thus reducing the number of times it will be necessary to actually travel in the future.

The proposals include work to the existing car parks to improve safety and to make better use and management of the facility and include improvements to the access to and egress from the existing car park and an electronic barrier is planned to control the use of the main car park. There are 53 spaces in the main car park and cycle parking has been improved. There is a secondary smaller car park with 13 spaces planned to include some short stay spaces to enable staff to drop into the Centre to collect resources and visitor parking spaces.