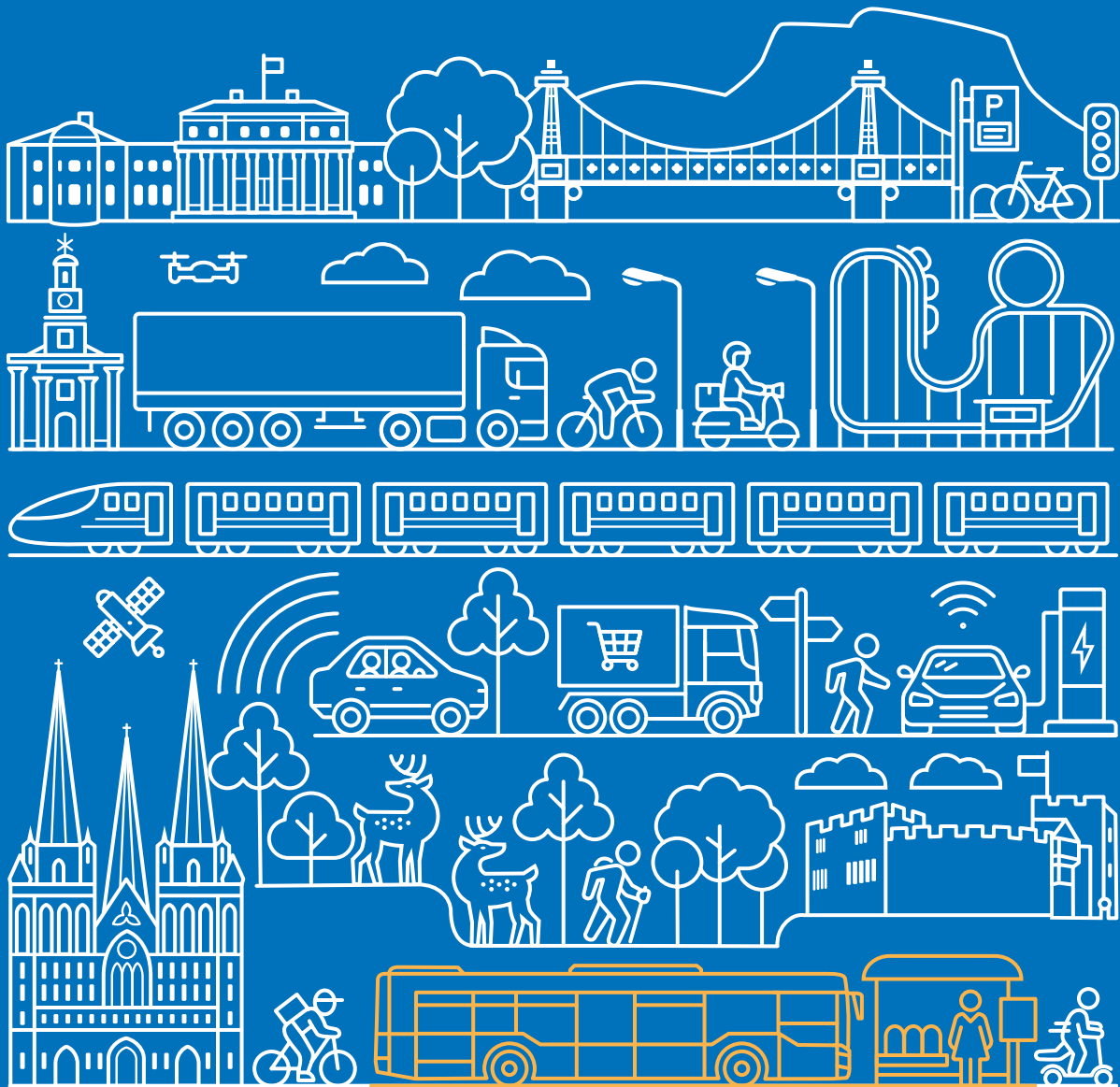# STAFFORDSHIRE
Bus Service Improvement Plan
2024 to 2050
JUNE 2024

Appendix B

Staffordshire County Council

Geographical area covered by the BSIP

In 2021, Staffordshire had a population of 876,100 people. The county is large, covering over 250,000 hectares. While the county has a relatively low overall population density, approximately 75% of its population live in its urban areas. Staffordshire has no one dominant town; its main towns are Lichfield, Stafford, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Cannock, Tamworth, and Burton-upon-Trent. Away from these main towns, Staffordshire has numerous, smaller market towns, which serve extensive rural hinterlands, such as Leek, Uttoxeter, Stone, Eccleshall, and Penkridge.

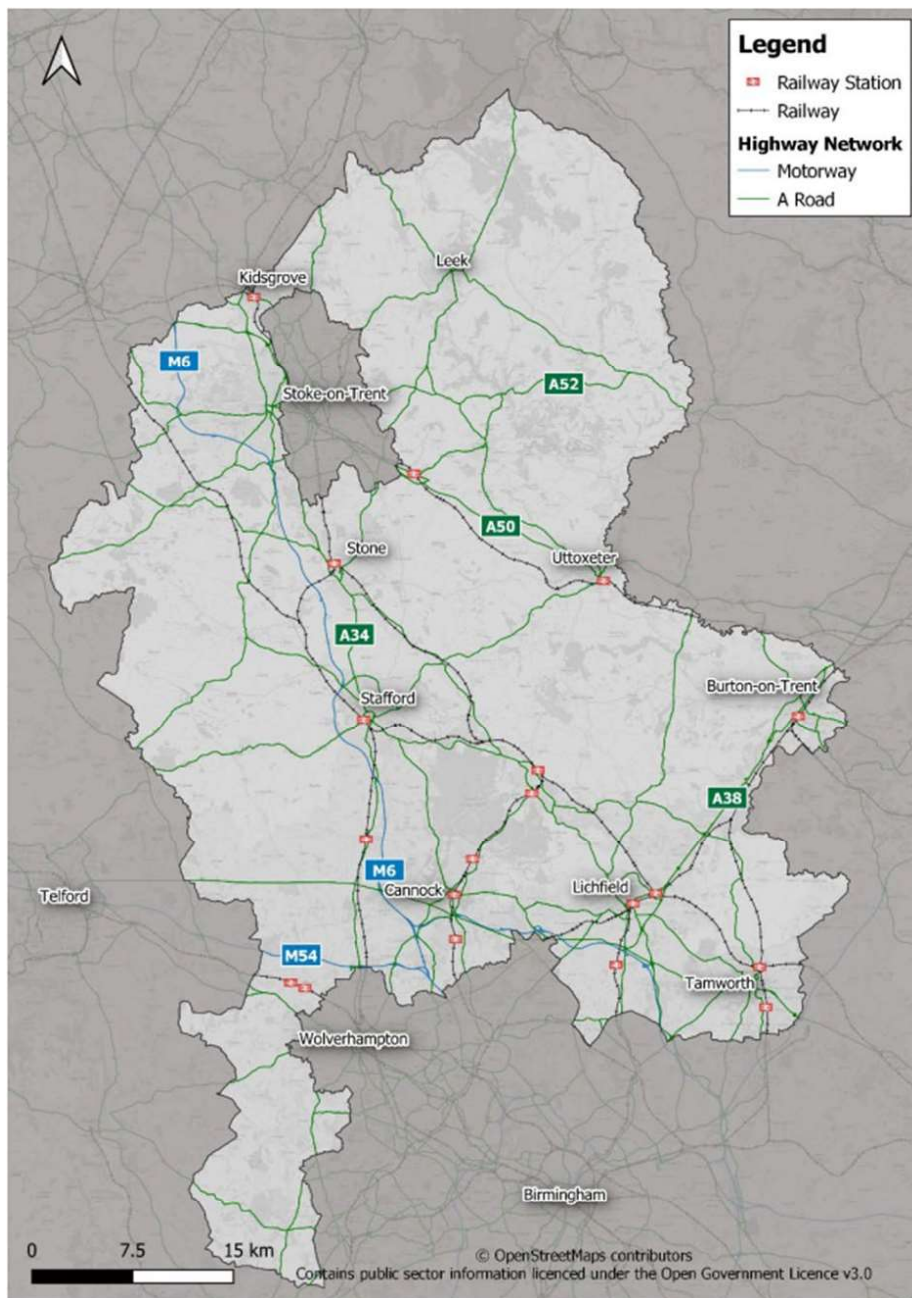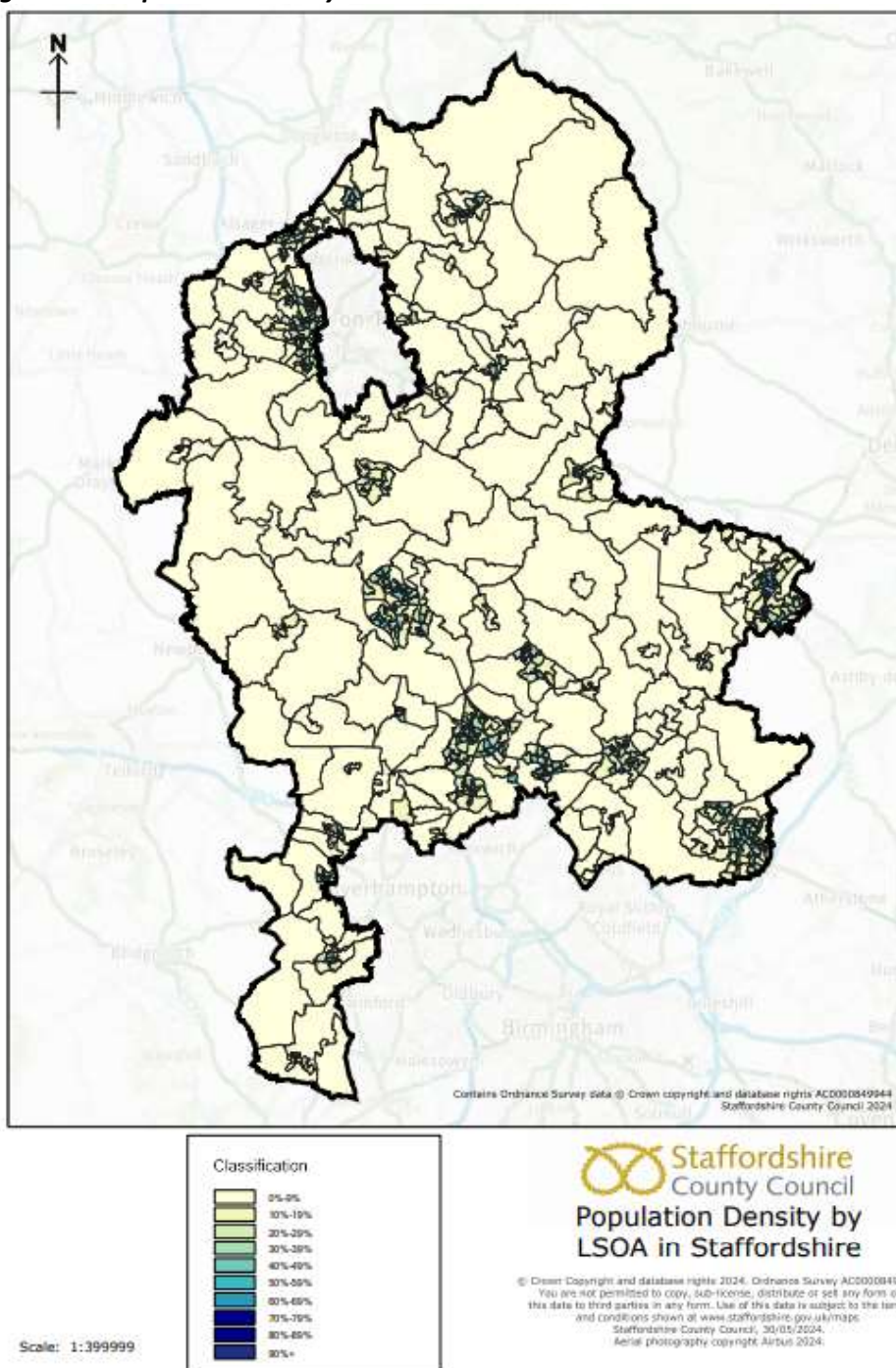*Figure B1: Staffordshire County Council's Administrative Area*

Figure B2: Population Density

Our towns and villages offer a range of leisure, cultural and historical attractions, including castles, theme parks, moor and heathlands, theatres, museums, a cathedral, a National Park, and a National Landscape Partnership. Access to these assets is supported by our bus network.

Table B1: Population of Staffordshire's District and Boroughs

Area name	Population	Hectares	Population per hectare
Staffordshire	848,489	262,028	3.2

Cannock Chase	97,462	7,888	12.4
East Staffordshire	113,583	38,696	2.9
Lichfield	100,654	33,130	3
Newcastle under Lyme	123,871	21,096	5.9
South Staffordshire	108,131	40,732	2.7
Stafford	130,869	59,817	2.2
Tamworth	76,813	3,085	24.9
Staffordshire Moorlands	97,106	57,585	1.7

The range of Staffordshire's settlement types and functions, create numerous transport challenges i.e. rural isolation in our sparsely populated areas to poor air quality on our busiest roads in parts of our towns. The bus network helps to address many of these challenges and buses make a real difference to people's everyday lives; they enable people to get to work, visit family and friends, get to the shops and essential services such as schools, colleges, libraries, GP surgeries and hospitals.

The county encircles Stoke-on-Trent City and is bordered by Cheshire to the north, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin to the west, Derbyshire and Leicestershire to the east, and Worcestershire and the West Midlands metropolitan area to the south.

Staffordshire has high levels of car ownership[i]. In 2021, 84.3% of households had access to one or more cars, and 44.6% had access to two or more. The average for the West Midlands region is 78.5%. Levels of car use are also high.

In 2023, there were 5.98[ii] billion vehicle miles travelled in the county. This represents 18.7% of the regional total, despite the county having 16.3%[iii] of the total roads (in Miles).

38[iv]% of commuting journeys in the county are less than 5 Kilometres (3.10 miles), meaning that there is scope to switch a greater proportion of these journeys to bus.

In 2021, just 15.7% of households had no cars or vans in household. The areas with the lowest access to a car are Town Ward in Newcastle Under Lyme (43.6%), Anglesey Ward in East Staffordshire (33.8%) and Burton East in East Staffordshire (33.1%).

These are all urban areas and characterised by low median pay (below UK average), and pockets of deprivation. In Staffordshire, there are 49[v] LSOAs in the 20% most deprived areas in England. Collectively, 76,576 (mid 2012 (excluding prisoners) people live in these areas.

Staffordshire has an older population; 44.5[vi]% of the population are aged over 50 and 15.5% over 70. 19% of the population are aged under 16.

[i] Car or Van Availability: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/c2021ts045
[ii] Miles Travelled: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/road-traffic-estimates-in-great-britain-2023
[iii] Road Length Statistics (RDL): https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/road-length-statistics-rdl#road-length-in-miles-rdl01

[iv] Commuting Patterns - Distance travelled to work:
https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/summary.asp?mode=construct&version=0&dataset=2075
[v] Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD): https://data.cdrc.ac.uk/dataset/index-multiple-deprivation-imd
[vi] 2021 Mid-Year Population Estimates:
https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/bulletins/annualmidyearpopulationestimates/mid2021