

**North West Leicestershire District Council's draft Local Plan 2020-40 –
East Midlands regional branch response to Spring 2024 consultation**

Draft Policy IF6 - Leicester to Burton Rail Line
(page 126 in PROPOSED POLICIES FOR CONSULTATION)

“What has happened so far? This is the first time we have consulted on this policy as part of the New Local Plan.

Is this subject covered in the adopted Local Plan? Yes, Policy IF5 – Leicester to Burton rail line.

Which Local Plan objective(s) does this help to address? Objective 4 - Reducing the need to travel.”

“Draft Policy IF6 – Leicester to Burton Rail Line

(1) The Council will support the provision of passenger rail services on the Leicester to Burton rail line.

(2) New development will not be permitted which would prejudice the route of the Leicester to Burton rail line.

(3) The provision of stations, together with ancillary car parking and facilities such as platforms and shelters, at appropriate locations, including Coalville and Ashby de la Zouch, will be supported.”

This policy needs to be strengthened, in particular with regard to safeguarding all possible sites for stations and ancillary facilities.

The current plans being progressed by Network Rail include stations in Coalville and Ashby, so all possible sites within these towns need to be safeguarded. However, the current plans constitute a Minimum Viable Product, and it is possible that further stations will be built at a later stage. Therefore, possible stations sites in Moira, Swannington and Beveridge Lane (for the Bardon Employment Area and Ellistown) also need to be safeguarded. Here, “safeguarding” means that any development that would prejudice the provision of a station and associated pedestrian, cycle and vehicle access and parking should not be allowed.

Paragraph 9.40 of the proposed policies mentions the railway line that passes close to Castle Donington. Following the cancellation of HS2 Eastern Leg, it is important to find some other way to provide fast rail services between Birmingham and Nottingham, and this line is the obvious route for such a service. However, if it is reopened to passenger services, this would also give an opportunity to open a station at Castle Donington, which would be justified by the major housing and employment developments that have been built there in recent years and which are envisaged in this Draft Local Plan. There is therefore a need for a further Infrastructure policy to safeguard land for a station at Castle Donington.

Proposed Housing and Employment Allocations IW1 – New settlement at Isley Woodhouse
(pages 62-66 in PROPOSED HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT ALLOCATIONS FOR
CONSULTATION)

The proposed new town to the south of East Midlands Airport is very poorly situated with respect to the railway network. Although it could be served well by buses, by diverting existing services on routes connecting the airport with Nottingham, Derby, Leicester and Coalville, there is still a need for good connections to the national rail network for longer-distance travel. It should therefore be noted that there will be a need for fast and frequent bus services connecting Isley Woodhouse with East Midlands Parkway station.

Ref for IF6 in PROPOSED POLICIES FOR CONSULTATION:

https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/proposed_policies/Reg%2018%20%28Policies%29%20for%20consultation_final.pdf

Ref for IW1 in PROPOSED HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT ALLOCATIONS FOR
CONSULTATION:

https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/files/documents/proposed_housing_and_employment_allocations1/Reg%2018%20%28Site%20Allocations%29%20Consultation_final%20with%20Addendum.pdf