

## RELATIVE ACCESSIBILITY

### 1. Context

- 1.1 An exercise has been conducted to assess the relative transport accessibility of a District Council office at Huntingdon, St. Ives and St. Neots. This is clearly important for residents of the District, employees and business visitors.
- 1.2 In general terms it is desirable to locate where journey lengths will be minimised and to give as wider choice of mode of travel, both in the interests of good sustainable practice.
- 1.3 The three towns have been tested in terms of the following:
- car: population within 15 minute drive time;
  - rail: main line station;
  - bus: population in the District served by a direct bus route;
  - cycling: population within 5km;
  - walking: population within 2km;


### 2. Results

- 2.1 Summarised in table 1 below

	Huntingdon	St. Ives	St. Neots	Comment
car	77,620	65,670	52,880	
rail	✓	x	✓	Huntingdon closer to town centre
bus	143,280	75,470	94,580	
cycling	35,717	27,070	32,560	
walking	20,475	17,262	25,195	

### 3. Comment

- 3.1 Although St. Neots is the largest town within the District and therefore its town centre most accessible in terms of walking, in all other respects Huntingdon is the most accessible location. In many ways this is obvious because of its centrality and the focus of bus routes on the town. Its accessibility to car borne travellers (despite not being as large in itself as St. Neots) is also higher because of the proximity to St. Ives and larger villages such as Brampton.
- 3.2 A study undertaken in July 2003 (IMD) also highlighted that 43% of Pathfinder/Castle Hill House employees live within 5 miles of Pathfinder House at Huntingdon.
- 3.3 Huntingdon overall has better accessibility than either St. Ives or St. Neots.

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