

## **LONGHOUGHTON, BOULMER AND HOWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

### **CONSULTATION JUNE 2021**

#### **TRANSPORT AND ACCESS SUPPORT PAPER**

Access to services and facilities is essential for residents of all ages for all their needs. This includes utility services such as broadband and mobile phone which have become so important throughout the COVID crises due to people working from home or having to self-isolate. Working from home is going to continue into the future and communication services are going to be so important in levelling up the opportunities for people who live in rural areas.

Improvements in public transport arrangements will be essential. Good public transport services will hopefully eliminate some individual car journeys with an associated carbon reduction, but for some residents who do not have their own private transport, this will be a life changer and overcome the need to move home to a market town.

The development of Greenways in and around the Longhoughton community and linking to other local communities will present an opportunity for residents to use these for leisure and commuting. Cycling, walking and horse riding are all sustainable transport and with the emergence of ebikes and scooters more people may be attracted to use them. A Greenway link from Longhoughton to the railway station at Hipsburn will hopefully encourage residents to commute by train to the Tyneside or Edinburgh conurbations rather than by road. Equally, a network of safe Greenway routes will provide an outlet for people to keep fit in a sustainable and healthy manner and contribute towards the climate change target of reducing the number of journeys by car.