**Detailed Proposals**

The town centre is the heart of any vibrant town and Daventry is no exception to this. The proposals in the masterplan seek to ensure that the town centre is able to fulfil the full range of roles set out for it in the MKSM Strategy and the expectations of local people. They build upon the existing Town Centre Vision 2021 developed by the Council and Civic Trust in a wide-ranging public consultation process leading to the adoption of the Vision in 2004. The masterplan, however, gives the site development proposals a higher degree of detail and takes into account development since 2004. In particular, the proposed Learning Quarter (Site 6) and the Waterspace (Site 3) are significant developments since the Vision was finalised.

**Site 1** remains a ‘town centre’ retail scheme, delivering a major improvement in the quality of shopping in the town centre. It takes the form of a new (pedestrian) street running parallel to High Street and also includes surface and undercroft car parking and a replacement Daventry Library. When the Site 1 shops are open it is expected that there will be a significant increase in ‘foot fall’ in the area, including the High Street itself. This should improve the quality of shops in the High Street and may in time make it appropriate to consider pedestrianising the street during shopping hours.

**Site 2** remains the rejuvenation of Bowen Square and its links to the High Street, including a major visual improvement, the replacement of the small car park with new shops and, in time, the replacement of the current police building with further shops and flats or offices above.

There are now detailed proposals for **Site 3**, which envisage a series of high quality public spaces around water spaces and buildings providing the ‘enclosure’ needed to create the feeling of being in a welcoming and interesting public square. Most of the buildings would be residential, although a number of leisure facilities would be provided for, including informal leisure such as cafés and organised activities such as bowling or a cinema. Houses on the southern side of Eastern Way would help heal the ‘gash’ created in the town when the road was originally constructed – they will present a pleasant ‘front face’ of the town centre to visitors and local residents.

The area includes a large level space – around four times the size of Market Square – for public events such as fairs. The water basins would be used for mooring canal boats, both long and short stay moorings, but before the canal is completed (or alongside canal moorings) use by smaller boats may be appropriate. In conjunction with the Learning Quarter (Site 6) this would be a similar – although smaller – arrangement to the University of Nottingham, were the university buildings overlook a series of boating lakes.

**Site 4** remains a cluster of mainly shopping developments on the eastern side of the town centre. The largest of these, Site 4a, would be a major extension to the town centre for the purpose of sale of bulky goods such as DIY, furniture and carpets and large electric items. Small shop units along Abbey Street (Sites 4b and 4e) would link this towards the High Street. The Site also includes a decked car park on the current Lodge Road car park (also Site 4a), flats, a new police station on Lodge Road (Site 4f) next to the Civic Offices and office development or innovation centre next to the Waterspace (Site 4g). Retail use of some parts of the current Leisure Centre is also envisaged (Site 4d) and the last area of development (Site 4c) is the planned relocation of the Post Office sorting centre on Vicar Lane and its replacement with a further bulky goods shop. This last item may well not occur until around 2020.

**Site 5** is the sweep of land on the western edge of the town centre. It remains a focus for further shopping, largely bulky goods and leisure provision. It includes both surface car parking and a decked undercroft car park (placed in the side of the rising hillside, so as to make it largely ‘disappear’ from view). Although the detailed arrangements shown may be subject to change, the intention is that roads and paths are rearranged so that people on foot have priority and feel comfortable moving around; most or all of the subways will be removed. The design has close links to Site 3.
town centre
general layout
Site 6, the Learning Quarter, is a project jointly promoted by Northampton and Moulton Colleges, William Parker and Danetre Secondary Schools, the District and County Councils and the Learning & Skills Council (LSC) Northamptonshire. Since its establishment, WNDC has also become involved in the project, and further partners, both academic and other, are welcomed. The Learning Quarter is intended to be a purpose-built 21st contrary learning environment, which raises local educational aspiration and achievement, and which also includes renewed community facilities for both young people and the wider community. The design ethos is that of a parkland campus, with the existing mature trees forming the framework for the site. The design has close links with Sites 3 and 5.

Throughout, the intention is that buildings will be of high quality, measured both in appearance and in environmental sustainability. The decked car parks will, wherever possible, be cloaked by other buildings, and the shops for bulky goods will not be traditional retail park ‘sheds’ but constructed of better quality materials and designed to suit the centre of a historic market town – although without becoming simply poor copies of older types of building.
Existing Buildings Behind

- Site for Innovation Centre
- New car park and apartments with council offices behind
- Holy Cross
- Cinema, bar, restaurant and leisure complex
- Town houses
- Line of existing buildings behind
- Retail and Leisure Site 5
town centre
parking

Surface Parking
Undercroft Parking
New Multistory Car Parks