
OVERVIEW OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work that have been undertaken under the Highways and Transport Portfolio :-
 - (a) **Darlington: A Town on the Move** – Following this Council’s successful bid to be a Sustainable Travel Demonstration Town, approval was given by Cabinet to the expenditure required to deliver the proposals. The Council was one of only three towns and cities that had been selected to be a demonstration town and it was allocated £3.24 million by the Department of Transport in revenue funding to support the initiatives contained in its bid. Following a competitive tendering process Sustrans / Social Data have been appointed to undertake baseline travel behaviour research, during the period September – December 2004.
 - (b) **Hurworth to Neasham Footpath** – Approval was given to the construction of a new footpath between Hurworth and Neasham, in order to allow residents and visitors to walk more safely between the places. A contribution of £25,000 had been agreed with Castlebeck Care through a Section 106 Agreement, as a contribution towards the cost of the design, construction and finishing of the footpath.
 - (c) **School Travel Plans**
The Council has its first dedicated School Travel Plan Officer, who started work on 31st August. She is currently working with Gurney Pease, St Augustine’s, and Middleton St George Primary Schools, Dodmire Infants and the two Abbey Schools. The post is being funded through a DFES bursary and the ‘A Town on the Move’ project.
 - (d) **Links to Schools, Sustrans grant**
The Council has been successful in securing £105,000 from Sustrans towards the cost of constructing three new sections of cycle / pedestrian path linking the school to the cycle network and to nearby communities. Schemes which have been awarded this grant are Baydale Road to Cleveland Terrace (including a Toucan crossing on Carmel Road), Red Hall to the river Skerne cycle / pedestrian path and the Hurworth to Neasham path.
 - (e) **Local Transport Plan 2**
The council has advertised for consultants to undertake a detailed programme of internal and public consultation to inform the second Local Transport Plan. An appointment will be made by the 1st October.

- (f) **Concessionary Fares (and multi-operator ticketing)**
The council has advertised for consultants to undertake a review of the existing concessionary fares scheme and make recommendations for improving the scheme.
- (g) **Licence Conditions for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles – Revisions Relating to Vehicle Glass** – Cabinet agreed to the proposed revision to the current standards and test procedures for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles in relation to windows. The revision was proposed due to problems that arisen as a consequence of interpretation of the current licence condition.
- (h) **Driving Standards Agency Taxi Driver Test – Appeal Against Decision of the Magistrates’ Court** – Following a recent decision of the Magistrates’ Court relating to the Driving Standards Agency, Cabinet agreed to an amendment to the current policy.
- (i) **North Road Corridor of Certainty -**

Traffic Orders being progressed for Fitzwilliam Drive Traffic Calming.

(j) **Other Schemes -**

- (i) West Park Toucan completed.
- (ii) West Park junction signals ongoing.
- (iii) Victoria Road Puffin installed.

Highway Maintenance Works - Various schemes are due to commence/have commenced/been carried out since the last report:

The following schemes have been commenced/are due to commence:

- C180 Geneva Road Phase 1 - carriageway surfacing - ongoing.
- C46 Great Burdon to Great Stainton - drainage works - ongoing.
- B6280 Carmel Road South - footpath works - ongoing.
- Unc Spring Court - footpath works - ongoing.
- Unc The Rise - footpath works - ongoing.
- Unc Victoria Road - footpath works - ongoing.
- A167 North Road - Raby Street to Peabody Street - footpath works - ongoing.
- A167 Grange Road Phase 3 - kerbing/footpaths/carriageway strengthening - ongoing.
- Unc Kielder Drive/Meldon Close - footpath works - ongoing.
- Swan House roundabout - carriageway resurfacing - ongoing.
- A68 West Auckland Road/Spring Court South -kerbing/footpaths/carriageway

resurfacing.

- A1150 Salters Lane North Phase 1 - kerbing/carriageway strengthening and resurfacing.
- Pierremont Road - carriageway reconstruction and resurfacing.
- Junction Roundhill Road and West End, Hurworth - carriageway resurfacing.
- C38 Hurworth to Neasham - design complete, awaiting land acquisition.
- A67 Piercebridge Junction - carriageway resurfacing.

The following schemes have been completed:

- Unc Belgrave Terrace - carriageway works.
- Unc Ridgeway Phase 5 - footpath works.
- Unc Gladstone Street - footpath works.
- Unc Kingsway - footpath works.
- Various surface dressing carriageway works.

Traffic Management & Road Safety Schemes:

- (i) Works are ongoing in providing dropped crossings for disabled persons at various locations in the town centre.
- (ii) West Park Cycleway/footway link is ongoing.
- (iii) The Darlington Football Club Section 106 highway works at Neasham Road are partially complete but work has been suspended whilst Network Rail carry out their bridge works.
- (iv) Road safety improvements at C38a Neasham Road/Unc 53.3 Roundhill Lane are due to commence.

Road Safety Education, Training and Publicity Initiatives - A number of initiatives have been instigated including the following:

- (i) Joint 'Wise Drive' venture carried out between Darlington Borough Council, Durham Constabulary and Durham County Council Road Safety, which looks at driving and speeding for Year 11 schoolchildren and youth offenders.
- (ii) On road cycle training has been carried out with the new Cycle Training Instructors and they are currently shadowing existing Instructors.
- (iii) Box Clever Theatre Company performed 'Driving Miss Daisy' for 3 schools in the town.
- (iv) Seat belt testing has been carried out at the Asda store at Whinfield.

Bridgework Schemes:

- (i) Unc Bates Avenue Bridge - Stage 1 bridgeworks completed on schedule and road reopened to traffic.
- (ii) U55/9 White House Bridge - completed on schedule
- (iii) Bishopton Bridge and A167 Oxneyfield Bridge - design in progress with works programmed to commence in November 2004 and January 2005 respectively.
- (iv) Polam Lane Bridge - width restriction in place. Funding sought for temporary strengthening.

Councillor Nick Wallis
Cabinet Member with Highways and Transport Portfolio