

---

**DARLINGTON'S SECOND LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN BUDGET 2006/07**

---

**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) - Councillor Nick Wallis,  
Highways and Transport Portfolio**

**Responsible Director(s) - John Buxton, Director of Development and Environment**

---

**Purpose of Report**

1. To approve the release of the 2006/07 budget for Darlington's Second Local Transport Plan.

**Information and Analysis**

2. Members approved the final Second Local Transport Plan at a meeting of Council on 23 March 2006.
3. The Council is in the unique position nationally of being host to both a sustainable town and a Cycling England initiative. On current plans, these programmes will add £3.304m of funding over the Plan period, in addition to the funding covered in this report, and will do much to help the Council achieve its corporate objectives to improve local peoples' quality of life.

**2006/07 Proposed Budget**

4. The total settlement from Government for Local Transport Plan purposes for 2006/07 was for the sum of £2.769 million; £78,000 of this being extra funding due to the good performance of the Council in relation to the delivery of the first Local Transport Plan. The integrated transport and maintenance block funding will be allocated as non-ringfenced Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue). The Government expects that the Council will spend this money in line with the objectives of its Second Local Transport Plan. The total award was split into two categories:
  - (a) Integrated transport £1.644m - covering planned investment in tackling traffic congestion, improving access to facilities and encouraging sustainable travel.
  - (b) Maintenance £1.125m - covering planned investment in the upkeep of the physical condition of the Council's transport network.
5. As in previous years, it is proposed that the allocations between integrated block and maintenance chosen by Government are followed by the Council. **Appendix 1** to this report outlines the proposals for next year's spend, based on the policies and proposals of the Council as contained in the Second Local Transport Plan. The programme set out in the Plan is informed by an analysis procedure called multi-criteria analysis (MCA). MCA is a computer software programme, that compares the predicted impact of each intervention, with the requirements of the Transport Strategy and feasibility of delivery. The technique

uses a standardized scoring system for each measure, with relative weightings for the six objectives and a deliverability factor. The system weightings are based on a range of best practice guidance and research. In addition, the programme is informed by data derived from accident statistics and other sources such as bus passenger numbers, to arrive at the recommended mix of schemes.

6. The Government will expect that our work will achieve the overall outcomes and outputs set by us and will allocate future funding accordingly. Thus, failure to deliver these outcomes would result in a loss of financial support.
7. Members will be aware of the Council's ongoing support for complementary revenue funded programmes such as the concessionary fare travel schemes, which help maximise the benefits obtained from physical improvements to the transport network made through the Local Transport Plan. The Council's status as both a Sustainable Travel Demonstration and Cycling Demonstration Town makes additional capital and revenue monies available to improve transport for local people.
8. The programme identifies the sum of £1.125 million for maintenance, of which £0.267m is for bridge maintenance and £0.858m for highway maintenance as detailed in the Appendix. The highway capital funds will be used to support revenue funding to deliver a range of works including reconstruction, resurfacing, overlay treatment, patching and haunch strengthening at road edge. The priorities for this work are informed by the Annual Condition Survey, which measures current condition against nationally set parameters.

### **Outcome of Consultation**

9. As outlined in previous reports, there has been extensive consultation on the principles, ethos and detail of the Second Local Transport Plan. Further work has been undertaken since, especially with the Darlington Transport Forum and the Highways Agency. A report of DfT's comments on the Provisional Plan was also considered by the Transport Forum at their meeting on 6 February 2006. Comment from all parties has informed the selection of measures contained in this budget proposal.

### **Legal Implications**

10. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

### **Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

11. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. Personal safety issues have been taken into account in determining the Local Transport Plan policy which generates the proposed programme of schemes.

## **Council Policy Framework**

12. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework.

## **Decision Deadline**

13. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter.

## **Key Decisions**

14. The programme is a key decision since it affects several wards in the Borough.

## **Recommendation**

15. It is recommended that Cabinet release Local Transport Plan funding of £2.769 million in 2006/7 for the purposes set out in this report.

## **Reasons**

16. The recommendation is made to permit work to start on delivering the transport improvements contained within the final Second Local Transport Plan.

**John Buxton**  
**Director of Development and Environment**

## **Background Papers**

Darlington Borough Council, Darlington's Second Local Transport Plan 2006 to 2011, March 2006.

Simon Houldsworth : Extension 2701  
lb

**Appendix 1**  
**Second Local Transport Plan Capital Programme 2006/07**

<b>Intervention</b>	<b>Proposed Budget £000s</b>	<b>Transport Strategy Objective</b>
<b>Corridor of Certainty</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Houghton Road Phase 1</li> <li>▪ Houghton Road Residents' Parking Zone</li> <li>▪ Managing car parking at kerbside, Yarm Road</li> <li>▪ Bus priority works on North Road</li> <li>▪ Cycling - Advanced Stop Lines</li> <li>▪ Wensleydale Road/North Road junction</li> <li>▪ Toucan crossing upgrade Victoria Road</li> <li>▪ Houghton Road Pedestrian &amp; Cycle Bridge (contribution)</li> </ul>	<b>412.5</b>  20 25 100 75 2.5 50 40 100	A B C D E
<b>Public transport schemes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 13 new bus stops, including for service 21</li> <li>▪ Other improvements to existing bus stops, including 20 raised kerbs, real time information, shelter provision</li> <li>▪ Punctuality Improvement Plan</li> <li>▪ North Road Station</li> </ul>	<b>158</b>  65 64 9 20	B C D E F
<b>Car Parking</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Decriminalised Parking Enforcement Implementation</li> <li>▪ Residents' Parking Zones</li> <li>▪ Improvements to car parks, especially for vulnerable users</li> <li>▪ Park &amp; Ride</li> </ul>	<b>205</b>  100 75 10 20	A C E
<b>Cycling and Walking</b> (additional schemes funded via Cycling England) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Toucan crossing Whessoe Road</li> <li>▪ Other unsignalised crossing points</li> <li>▪ Additional dropped kerbs for wheelchair accessible routes</li> <li>▪ Improving direction signs in East Darlington</li> <li>▪ 3 cycle tracks</li> <li>▪ 3 cycle lanes</li> <li>▪ 2 secure cycle parking</li> </ul>	<b>260.5</b>  60 30 18 25 90 22.5 15	A B C D E F

Continued ....

<b>Intervention</b>	<b>Proposed Budget £000s</b>	<b>Transport Strategy Objective</b>
<b>Demand responsive transport</b>	<b>78</b>	B E
▪ Ring a Ride	78	
<b>Travel Safety schemes</b>	<b>410</b>	A D E F
▪ Urban 20mph zone (evidenced by survey data)	150	
▪ Town Centre 20 mph zone	20	
▪ School 20mph zones (mass action for all schools)	70	
▪ Safer routes to health (to Health Centres & Hospital)	35	
▪ CCTV at East Street	25	
▪ Street lighting	10	
Local Safety Schemes (priority based on Accident records)	100	
<b>Travel Plans</b>	<b>80</b>	B C D E
▪ Supporting School Travel Plans	40	
▪ Supporting College Travel Plans	20	
▪ Supporting Employer Travel Plans	20	
<b>Monitoring</b>	<b>40</b>	A
▪ Traffic monitoring equipment and other aids to measurement	40	
<b>Sub-total integrated block</b>	<b>1644</b>	
<b>Highways Maintenance</b>	<b>858</b>	A D
▪ 8 footway maintenance schemes from list	200	
▪ 12 carriageway maintenance from list	446	
▪ Noise reducing surfaces (A167 & B6280)	112	
▪ Retaining wall, A167 Northgate	100	
<b>Bridge Maintenance</b>	<b>267</b>	A D
▪ Barmpton Bridge strengthening	136	
▪ 2 maintenance schemes in priority order	131	
<b>Sub-total maintenance block</b>	<b>1125</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2769</b>	

### **Second Local Transport Plan objectives**

- A. To provide the framework for sustainable development of new and existing businesses, housing and services in Darlington
- B. To improve access to employment and education, particularly for those without access to a private car, those with a disability and those that have greatest need.
- C. To tackle traffic congestion on key corridors and its potential impact on the economy and environment by making the most effective use of the transport network
- D. To improve travel safety and security for all by addressing the real and perceived risks.
- E. To provide and promote travel choices to all, in particular to reduce the proportion of car driver trips
- F. To improve the health of the community through increasing levels of sustainable travel and improving access to health, leisure and fresh food.