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## OVERVIEW OF TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO

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### Purpose of Report

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work that have been undertaken under the Transport Portfolio.

### Supported Bus Services 2011 – 2014

2. We gave consideration to and agreed a method of achieving the required reduction in the supported bus service budget and the evidence collected about potential impacts. With effect from Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2012 a number of contracts will be terminated and notice given to Durham County Council concerning payment towards contracts issued by them. Also an upper limit to subsidy per passenger equal to double the current average subsidy per passenger will be implemented and subsequently adjusted for inflation. This action will best meet user demand in a way that minimises disruption and takes into account Equalities issues.

### Bridge Maintenance Schemes

3. **Middleton One Row Retaining Wall Reinstatement** – Site work is now complete apart from minor tree planting work, which was held back to be completed in the planting season, this will be completed shortly.
4. **Polam Lane Footbridge** – Site work is now complete.
5. **Chesnut Street Bridge** – The listed building consent was approved on 18 July 2011. The next stage for the scheme will be the tendering exercise which will commence late September 2011.
6. **Hutton Avenue Footbridge** – A pre-qualification exercise has been carried out for interested contractors. 12 No submissions were received, which are currently being reviewed by the project team. The tender package for the scheme is being finalised. Liaison is ongoing with Northern Gas Networks in relation to the gas main located under the existing bridge.

### Highway Maintenance Schemes

7. Recently Completed Schemes:
  - (a) Diamond Court – back lane refurbishment.
  - (b) Wimbledon Close – footway refurbishment.

- (c) A6072 Redworth Village – carriageway patching/reconstruction.
  - (d) A1150 Whinfield Road (Nos 57-79) – footway renewal.
  - (e) B6275 Phase 3 – B6279 to Boundary – carriageway edge reconstruction.
  - (f) A167 Freeman’s roundabout – resurfacing with specialist material.
  - (g) A167 White Horse Junction – carriageway resurfacing with specialist material.
  - (h) A67 Piercebridge to High Coniscliffe Phase 3 – carriageway resurfacing.
  - (i) Meynell Road – carriageway resurfacing.
  - (j) Dodsworth Street – carriageway resurfacing.
  - (k) A167 Ring Road – carriageway crack sealing.
  - (l) Eldon Street – footway refurbishment.
8. Ongoing Schemes:
- (a) Yarm Road Phase 2 (Nos 169-191) – carriageway resurfacing and footway renewal.
  - (b) C181 Geneva Road – carriageway, footway and verge refurbishment.
9. Schemes Due to Commence:
- (a) Firthmoor Crescent and Ingleby Moor Crescent – carriageway reconstruction via recycling.
  - (b) Tees Grange Avenue – carriageway resurfacing from Edinburgh Drive to West View.
  - (c) C39 Walworth Gate – carriageway deep patching.
  - (d) Nightingale Avenue – footway refurbishment.
  - (e) Carriageway Surface Dressing – seven rural locations within the Borough.

### **Network Management Schemes**

10. **North Road Bus Priority** – The planning application for North Road/Whessoe Road junction was considered and approved at the August 2011 Planning Committee. The decision is currently with the Department for Communities and Local Government for final approval. The scheme is currently at tender stage, which will complete on 16 September 2011.

11. **Bus Stop Improvements** - Raised bus platforms have been constructed in 7 locations on the Service 11 route in Redhall. Feasibility and design work is underway on further improvements to stops on the service 9 (Springfield), service 10 (Whinfield) and service 14 (Skerne Park) routes. These improvements are provided as part of the Tees Valley Bus Network Improvement (TVBNI) project.

### **School Travel Plans**

12. The 9<sup>th</sup> Hands Up survey took place on 21<sup>st</sup> September across all schools in Darlington. In the survey, schools record how pupils travel to school, providing valuable data for each individual school's travel plan as well as for developing and targeting Local Motion initiatives to further promote active travel. The results will be reported in the next Overview Report.
13. Ten schools have submitted their applications for Modeshift Accreditation, the national assessment framework for school travel plans. The applications are being assessed and awards will be made in October.

### **Station Travel Plan**

14. New cycle parking has been formally opened at Bank Top Station. The facility provides 152 spaces, the majority of which are in a secure area, accessed by a key card. The cards are available from the Dolphin Centre on payment of a £5 refundable deposit. Use of the cycle parking is free. The project is a joint initiative between East Coast and Darlington Council, developed as part of the Station Travel Plan. It was funded by Local Motion as part of the European Interreg project and the aim is to further promote sustainable travel to and from the station.

### **Local Sustainable Transport Fund**

15. The six week pilot programme of Individualised Travel Marketing (ITM) was completed in the three Haughton wards. Attempts were made to contact all households and conversations were held with 1435 households (26%). Research is currently underway to assess the impact of the programme.
16. To support the ITM programme Arriva introduced 7 new buses onto services 9 and 10 that serve large parts of the 3 Haughton wards. The arrival of the new vehicles was supported by events at ASDA in Whinfield and in the market place, to enable local people to view the buses and put their questions and concerns to representatives from Arriva and Team Local Motion. All of the new buses adhere to the latest European emissions standards with Euro 5 engines making them cleaner and greener. Each bus also has easy access for wheelchairs, buggies and passengers with mobility issues.
17. In July Ministers approved Darlington's bid for funding from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. The ward of £4.076m is to be spent in line with the submitted bid over the period July 2011 – March 2015. The programme which will continue under the umbrella of Local Motion will be extended to cover all of the Borough, and a programme of Individualised Travel Marketing and other associated events is being planned for Middleton St George in October 2011, and will incorporate the consultation for Dinsdale Station (para

## **Tees Valley Metro**

18. As part of the Metro project improvements will be made to Dinsdale Station in Middleton St George. An initial site meeting has been held with Network Rail, Northern Rail and other parties to discuss technical issues associated with the work. Residents in Middleton St George will have the opportunity to learn more about the proposals and will be asked their views in October 2011. It is hoped that local people or organisations will be interested in 'adopting' the station in the same way that 5 of the 6 stations along the Bishop Line have been adopted.

**Councillor David Lyonette**  
**Transport Portfolio**