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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:
2. **John Street Cycle Route** – We have commenced progress of land acquisition, including the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order to acquire land to develop John Street Cycle Scheme. The cycle route forms part of the Harrowgate Hill radial route and has proven difficult to deliver, primarily due to land ownership issues. The scheme involves the development of a cycle route from John Street, alongside the River Skerne, passing through the Five Pound Note Bridge, then joining the existing cycle route that links to Albert Road and requires the acquisition of a strip of land adjacent to the River Skerne. There has been a desire to create this route for a number of years and officers have made every effort both amicably and through legal avenues to try and secure a negotiated acquisition. There are number of risks associated with the Compulsory Purchase Order and we will be consulting further once the Order has been secured.
3. **Implementing the Third Local Transport Plan** – Funding for 2012/13 has been released for the Third Local Transport Plan to carry out maintenance and integrated transport works. It has also been agreed to continue to participate in the Tees Valley Bus Network Improvement Project and released the associated Department for Transport capital and revenue grant funding for year 3 of the project. We have also endorsed the bid for Bikeability cycle training funding and agreed the release of the grant and agreed to release further Local Transport Plan funding worth £114, 000 for expenditure in 2012/13. The release of this funding will allow the delivery of schemes on Year 2 of the Third Local Transport Plan; continue to deliver improvements for bus travel; and expand the delivery of level 1 and 2 cycle training to all year 5/6 pupils in the borough.
4. **Speed Management Within the Borough Review Group** – We received the findings and recommendations of the Place Scrutiny Committee’s Speed Management within the Borough Review Group and endorsed its recommendations that 20 mph is safer and preferable in residential roads, and in time, as resources allow, we will continue to implement wide area schemes across the Borough, excluding distributor or arterial roads, as cost effectively as possible.

**Network Management Schemes**

5. **North Road Bus Priority** – The main on site work has commenced and is progressing well. The works are due to be completed by 30 November 2012.

6. **Bus Stop Improvements** - Work is continuing on the installation of raised bus platforms on the Service 11 route.
7. **Yarm Road/Geneva Road Traffic Signal Controlled Junction** – This scheme is now complete with the final element, the resurfacing of the junction, completed on 17 February 2012.
8. **Heathfield and Reid Street Safer Route to School** – Plans to implement 20mph zones adjacent to these two schools are well advanced and objections to the necessary amendments to legal orders were considered by Cabinet on 6 March 2012. If the objections are set aside, it is hoped that the schemes will be implemented during the Easter school holidays.

### **Bridge Maintenance Schemes**

9. **Chesnut Street Bridge** – Due on site end of April.
10. **Hutton Avenue Footbridge** – Due on site late Summer.

### **Highway Maintenance Schemes**

11. Recently Completed Schemes:
  - (a) Firthmoor Crescent and Ingleby Moor Crescent – carriageway reconstruction.
  - (b) Footway Slurry Sealing Programme – various locations within the Borough.
  - (c) Parkside Phase 2 – verge hardening.
  - (d) Faverdale Industrial Estate – footway refurbishment outside of John Glen Computers.
  - (e) Claremont Road Phase 2 – footway refurbishment.
12. Schemes Due to Commence:
  - (a) Archdeacon Crescent – verge hardening.
  - (b) Heron Drive – footway refurbishment.
13. **Street Lighting –40 year old column replacement programme** – Approximately 130 of the programmed 157 columns have now been erected with 25 columns connected and working.
14. **Travel Behaviour Research** – AECOM have completed the travel behaviour research survey work and interim findings were available at the end of February. The final report will be completed by the end of March. The results from this survey will be used to inform the work that is carried out as part of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund over the next three years. The survey will be repeated again in 2014 towards the end of the project and will provide in-depth monitoring of travel behaviour in Darlington.

15. **Individualised Travel Marketing Project** – In April, the Local Motion project will be rolling out Individualised Travel Marketing (ITM) to some Wards within the Borough. ITM involves a team of travel advisors knocking on household doors engaging in a conversation about travel habits and identifying where any changes can be made or whether other travel options are available. The project will cover all Wards over a three-year period and will begin in the North West of the Town. The team of Travel Advisors were recruited in early March and will begin as soon as CRB checks have been completed.
16. **North Road** – Work commenced on the cycle route from Harrowgate Hill to the Borough boundary on the A167. Once completed, this link will form part of the Borough's cycle network and creates a new link between Darlington's existing walking and cycling network and the walking and cycling network in County Durham. It will also form the first part of the Great North Cycleway (GNC) which was launched in June 2011. GNC aims to link together existing cycle routes to form a continuous route of approximately 70 miles from Darlington to Blyth. The scheme will provide a safer route for those that already walk and cycle in this area and will encourage others to do so.

### **School Travel Plans**

17. The Secondary School Watt Bike competition took place on the 23 February 2012 at The Education Village with every secondary school in Darlington competing for the first time.
18. We have been working with schools on cycling initiatives and recruiting for The Big Pedal 2012 which began on 5 March. Activities included the Heighington Cycling Bus, bike breakfasts at St John's CE Aided, Holy Family RC VA, and Dodmire Schools and Bling Your Bike sessions.

### **Workplace Travel Plans**

19. The iTRACE Travel Plan Management software is now up and running and Darlington College is the first to be use it.
20. Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College are also looking at using the software and are currently drawing together an action plan of activities for working with Local Motion and promoting more sustainable travel to the College.
21. Organisations have begun to develop their Workplace Travel Plans as a condition of requested Contract Parking in Beaumont Street West car park.

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