
OVERVIEW OF TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO

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

Accessible Community Transport

2. We have given approval for the award of grant funding for the provision of an accessible community transport service to be managed by eVOLution. This will enable it to appoint an accessible community transport service provider to operate a daytime service to Sadberge, Great Stainton, Little Stainton, Bishopton and Neasham.
3. The service will be independent of the Council and will be community led in line with the original criteria in the bidding guidance and the grant will be awarded for up to two years using all of the available funding.

Network Management Schemes

4. The following schemes are being delivered through Local Sustainable Transport funding:
 - (a) **Central Park Cycleway/Footway Link** - A scheme to provide a footway/cycleway linking Teesside University and Darlington College to Yarm Road and Darlington Station is substantially complete. Pedestrian and vehicular signage to the College and University is being reviewed as part of the scheme.
 - (b) **Skerne Park Bus Stop Improvements** - A scheme to install five new bus stops with raised platforms and provide three existing stops with raised platforms is now complete. The bus service 14 has been registered to stop at the stops. A number of dropped crossing points have also been provided to enable residents with mobility issues and parents with pushchairs to access buses via the raised platforms. A further stop in Eden Crescent is proposed as the result of requests from members of the public.
 - (c) **A67 Footway Improvement** - Work to widen and resurface the footway on the north side of A67 between the A66 and Middleton St George is complete.
 - (d) **Springfield Dropped Kerbs** – Dropped kerbs are being provided in a number of locations within the Springfield/Salters Lane area to assist residents with mobility issues and parents with push chairs to access bus services and other

important services such as local shops and schools.

- (e) **Springfield Service 9 Bus Stops** – New bus stops with raised platforms are being provided in Hutton Avenue, Wylam Avenue, Martindale Road and Salters Lane South. These will provide level access for residents with mobility issues and parents with push chairs.
- (f) **North Road Station** - Work has commenced on improvements to the waiting facilities and access into North Road Station. This is being carried out in partnership with the station manager and Network Rail and includes additional pedestrian signage to the station and Head of Steam museum from the Town Centre.

Highway Maintenance Schemes

5. Recently Completed Schemes:

- (a) C39 Walworth Gate – carriageway deep patching
- (b) Low Moor Road – carriageway reconstruction
- (c) Friars Pardon, Hurworth – footway resurfacing
- (d) Claremont Road – footway resurfacing

6. Ongoing Schemes:

- (a) Completing 2012 Annual Carriageway Micro Asphaltting Programme
- (b) Hewitson Road South – footway and verge refurbishment

7. Schemes Due to Commence:

- (a) Borough Road – back lane resurfacing
- (b) A167 Beaumont Hill – carriageway resurfacing
- (c) Langdale Road – footway resurfacing
- (d) A167 Grange Road – carriageway retexturing
- (e) A67 Carmel Road South – carriageway retexturing
- (f) Edgecombe Drive – carriageway resurfacing

Carlbury Landslip

- 8. A landslip was identified on the A67 at Low Carlbury between High Coniscliffe and Piercebridge in February 2013 and officers are continuing to manage the impacts.
- 9. Initially the road was reduced to single lane under traffic signal control, however, monitoring identified the bank was moving at a significant rate and the main concern was the potential impact on significant Northumbrian Water (NWL) mains located underneath the road. There was a risk that the road could suffer immediate and significant damage if the water mains burst, therefore, a road closure was considered necessary in the interests of public safety.

10. NWL have reduced the water flow in one of the mains in a controlled manner. This took a significant period of time to undertake in a controlled manner and to manage the risk of damage and disruption to water supplies in the region. Detailed site investigations have commenced now that the pipe is under less pressure. A geotechnical specialist has been appointed by the Council to provide guidance and advice in relation to the solutions and reviewing the on-going position of the road closure, however, given the nature of the site the road maybe closed for a significant period. The impacts on local businesses and the community are being addressed with a series of visits and meetings being organised with officers, local Ward councillors and Parish Councils and regular updates being provided.

Minibus Service to High Coniscliffe

11. A temporary minibus is in operation to alleviate the problems caused to local residents by the landslip on the A67 at Low Carlbury between High Coniscliffe and Piercebridge. The minibus will help residents who would normally rely on buses, for access to local shops and services.
12. The minibus will operate from Monday to Friday and will pick up passengers from High Coniscliffe following the route of the 75/76 to the town centre. Journeys will depart High Coniscliffe at 07:45, 08:15, 08:45, 12:00, 12:30, 17:00 and 17.30 with return journeys from the town centre stopping at Stand N on Houndgate at 08:00, 08:30, 11:45, 12:15, 16:45 and 17:15. It is anticipated that the service will be in place for around four weeks, whilst longer term options are explored.

Launch of the Gas Buses

13. Arriva have introduced 11 new gas powered buses to Darlington. A launch, hosted by TFM, of the new vehicles was held at Joseph Pease Place on 26 March 2013. To mark the event, 1000 gas filled balloons were attached to the top of one of the new gas buses and released at the end of the event.
14. The following routes are now gas powered:
 - (a) Service 2 – Darlington Town Centre – Branksome
 - (b) Service 11 – Red Hall – Darlington
 - (c) Service 12 and 12a – Hurworth – Middleton St George (12a) Trees Park Village (12)

Local Transport Plan

15. The Department for Transport has written to the Council setting out the payment terms for the Local Transport Plan in 2013/14. The value of the grant remains the same as that set out in the report considered by Cabinet on 19 February 2013. The grant is separate to the additional monies received for maintenance (£289,000 in 2013/14). Whilst it is currently intended to adhere to the overall budgets set out by Members, there is a potential need to fund major repairs at Carlbury on the A67. Funding options for this scheme are being prepared and a recommendation will be submitted to Cabinet in due course.

MEGA Festival

16. Team Local Motion held the MEGA Festival on 29 March 2013. The event took place on the Market Square and in the Dolphin Centre and was one of the best attended events ever run by the team. The aim of the event was to engage families and young people and give them an opportunity to find out about sustainable travel and try out some other sporting activities. Over 450 people took part in the various activities including:
 - (a) Team Local Motion information stand
 - (b) Bike security marking
 - (c) The new Arriva Gas Bus
 - (d) Bike try out roadshow
 - (e) Tri-golf
 - (f) Street Dance
 - (g) Nordic walking
 - (h) Trampolining
17. Over 50 bikes and scooters were security marked and bike lights and locks given out to those that brought their bikes to the event. The event was supported by STAR Radio who broadcast the event throughout the day.

Parking Strategy

18. The draft Parking Strategy has been discussed with Town Centre Board and BID Board and is now being developed to reflect some of the comments and suggestions made at each of them. It was discussed at Place Scrutiny on 18 April 2013 and will be presented to Cabinet on 4 June 2013.
19. The strategy will then be taken out to public consultation in conjunction with the Local Plan and is expected to be ready for adoption in late 2013.

**Councillor David Lyonette
Transport Portfolio**