
OVERVIEW OF TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO

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.

Bridge Maintenance Schemes

2. **Middleton One Row Retaining Wall Reinstatement** – The retaining wall structure is now substantially complete and associated carriageway resurfacing is now being undertaken. The carriageway works were completed 17th June 2011.
3. **Polam Lane Footbridge** – The works to the bridge are now complete and the bridge has been re-opened. Some remedial work to the bridge approaches is currently being carried out on Polam Lane and Victoria Embankment, which was completed 17th June 2011.
4. **Chesnut Street Bridge** – The listed building consent consideration period finished on 15th June 2011. Following on it will be submitted to Government Office for final approval, which could take up to a further eight weeks. Once the consent has been obtained the tenders will be able to be issued.

Highway Maintenance Schemes

5. Recently Completed Schemes:
 - (a) Whinbush Way Phase 2 – Kilmarnock Road to Shetland Road – footway enhancement.
 - (b) Whinfield Road (Salters Lane North playing field to Whinbush Way) – footway refurbishment.
 - (c) Morpeth Avenue – Tees Valley Bus Network Improvement Scheme – verge hardening.
 - (d) Hutton Avenue - Tees Valley Bus Network Improvement Scheme – verge hardening.
 - (e) McMullen Road/Allington Way junction improvement (for cyclists) and resurfacing works.
 - (f) Barnes Road Phase 4 – footway renewal.
6. Ongoing Schemes:
 - (a) Diamond Court – back lane refurbishment.

- (b) Wimbledon Close – footway refurbishment.
- (c) A6072 through Redworth Village – carriageway patching/reconstruction.

7. Schemes Due to Commence:

- (a) Yarm Road Phase 2 (Nos. 169-191) – carriageway resurfacing and footway renewal.
- (b) Firthmoor Crescent and Ingleby Moor Crescent – carriageway reconstruction via recycling.
- (c) Whinfield Road (Nos. 57-79) – footway renewal.
- (d) B6275 Phase 3 – B6279 to Boundary – carriageway edge reconstruction.
- (e) A167 Freemans Roundabout – resurfacing with specialist material.
- (f) A167 White Horse Junction – carriageway resurfacing with specialist material.
- (g) Tees Grange Avenue – carriageway resurfacing from Edinburgh Drive to West View.
- (h) A67 Piercebridge to High Coniscliffe Phase 3 – carriageway resurfacing.
- (i) Meynell Road – carriageway resurfacing.

Winter Damage Works

8. Patching works are ongoing and additional sites are being assessed for a programme of preventative maintenance works which will be carried out in August/September 2011.

Network Management Schemes

9. **North Road Bus Priority** –The planning application for North Road/Whessoe Road junction has been submitted and will be considered at July (August) Planning Committee. The scheme represents major investment in improving the operation of bus services on North Road, but also has benefits for general traffic, including pedestrians and cyclists.
10. **Whinfield Road Cycleway/Traffic Signal Upgrade Works** – A scheme to provide a cycle route, linking the recently constructed cycleways at Green Lane and Stockton Road, was completed in June. The scheme included the upgrading of the traffic signal junction at Whinbush Way and a new toucan crossing near to Jesmond Road to improve safety for pedestrians, in particular school age children accessing the nearby schools. The link forms part of the circular cycle route.
11. **Northwood School 20mph Zone** – A scheme to implement a 20mph zone on all the roads around the new Northwood School was completed in May. The scheme forms part of a programme of school 20mph zones.

12. **Fenby Avenue/Neasham Road Raised Bus Platforms** – A total of 8 bus stops on the service 13a/13b bus route have had raised bus platforms constructed as part of the Tees Valley Bus Network Improvement (TVBNI) project.
13. **Branksome Raised Bus Platforms** – A total of 10 bus stops on the service 2 route through Branksome have had raised bus platforms constructed as part of the Tees Valley Bus Network Improvement (TVBNI) project.

School Travel Plans

14. A number of Schools in Darlington submitted their applications for Modeshift Accreditation by 30th June. The majority of these were first time applications and the remainder were from schools applying for a higher level award. They will be assessed over the summer and awards will be presented in an award ceremony in October.
15. High Coniscliffe CE Primary School took part in the World Record Breaking Walking Bus organised by the road safety charity BRAKE. 53 people walked the two miles together starting at Baydale Beck.

Sustainable Transport

16. Officers are meeting colleagues from our European partners in the BAPTS project (Boosting Advanced PublicTransport Systems) to discuss opportunities to participate in a new trans-national Interreg project, CONNECT. The three main strands of the draft proposal seek to better connect local residents through new media to increase participation in urban development, regeneration and transport planning; connecting places for people walking and cycling; and connecting travellers - inclusive mobility solutions to help everyone travel.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund

17. **Announcement of the bidding process is due end of June – will add text**

Bishop Line

18. The new branding has been installed at stations along the Bishop Line and the website, www.bishopline.org, has gone live. Patronage has increased by 6 per cent over the last 12 months. Changes to the timetable have improved the service for commuters as two services now arrive in Darlington before 9.00 a.m. New fencing has been installed on the pedestrian access to North Road Station and Northern Rail are installing new 'onward travel' information at all the stations. A meeting has been held between the Community Rail Partnership and the Department for Transport to discuss the progress being made on the Line.

Local Motion

19. A new six week pilot programme of Individualised Travel Marketing has started in Haughton East, West and North wards. This is funded from the EU Interreg funding (BAPTS Project). The aim is to contact each household in the area and discuss travel choices with the aim of increasing travel by bus, bike and on foot. Other activities are being

arranged in the area with Sports Development, in particular a focus on short walks in the local area to encourage people to 'get active'.

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Transport Portfolio