
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.

Speed Management

2. Place Scrutiny Committee has started a task and finish group to consider speed management in the Borough. The group will consider current practice, evidence, outcomes and ongoing campaigns on speed management that are being promoted by other groups within the Borough.

Network Management Schemes

3. **North Road Bus Priority** – A decision to award the contract has been taken to the November 2011 Cabinet meeting. Some advance tree clearance work has been carried out on site.
4. **Bus Stop Improvements** - Raised bus platforms have been constructed in seven locations on the Service 11 route in Redhall with a further three proposed for McMullen Road and one proposed for Yarm Road.
5. Feasibility and design work is underway to convert the existing hail and ride services on Clifton Road and SkernePark (Service 14), and in the Springfield area (Service 9) to have set bus stops. This is to assist residents with mobility issues, to provide roadside timetable information and to reduce journey times.
6. An audit of the Service 10 route (Whinfield) is currently underway.
7. Consideration is being given to the location of new and replacement bus shelters.
8. The above improvements are provided as part of the Tees Valley Bus Network Improvement (TVBNI) project.
9. **Whinfield Road/Whinbush Way Traffic Signal Controlled Junction** – There was an intermittent problem with the lights. The contractor for the traffic signals has now repaired and sealed the controller unit for the traffic signals which should resolve the intermittent failure issue experienced.

10. **Yarm Road/Geneva Road Traffic Signal Controlled Junction** – This junction is currently planned to be refurbished towards the end of November. The existing equipment will be completely replaced to improve reliability and efficiency. Work on the footways and ducting has commenced and this section of Yarm Road will be resurfaced in the New Year after the busy Christmas period.
11. **Reid Street School Safer Route to School** – Local residents were consulted on a scheme to introduce a 20mph zone in roads in the vicinity of Reid Street School. As the result of the consultation West Terrace and Elms Road were omitted from the scheme as there was significant opposition to the proposals in those streets. We are currently proceeding with the legal process required to construct the road humps and introduce the 20mph limit. It is anticipated that the scheme will be implemented in the New Year.

Bridge Maintenance Schemes

12. **Middleton One Row Retaining Wall Reinstatement** – Tree planting and additional grass seeding to be carried out at the end of October 2011.
13. **Chesnut Street Bridge** – The tendering exercise will commence week beginning 24 October 2011.
14. **Hutton Avenue Footbridge** – The tender package for the scheme is now finalised and will be issued shortly. Northern Gas Networks are now intending to replace the existing gas main away from the new bridge structure under the River Skerne.

Highway Maintenance Schemes

15. Recently Completed Schemes:-
 - (a) Yarm Road Phase 2 (Nos. 169-191) – carriageway resurfacing and footway renewal.
 - (b) C39 Walworth Gate – carriageway deep patching.
 - (c) Nightingale Avenue – footway refurbishment.
 - (d) Carriageway Surface Dressing – seven rural locations within the Borough.
16. Ongoing Schemes:-
 - (a) C181 Geneva Road – carriageway, footway and verge refurbishment.
 - (b) Beaumont Street Car Park – Refurbishment (resurfacing etc.)
17. Schemes Due to Commence:
 - (a) Firthmoor Crescent and Ingleby Moor Crescent – carriageway reconstruction via recycling. (Update: Recycling deemed not suitable by Contactors. Now awaiting our

own Laboratory results to confirm course of action).

- (b) Carriageway Slurry Sealing Programme – various locations within the Borough.
- (c) Footway Slurry Sealing Programme – various locations within the Borough
- (d) Tees Grange Avenue – carriageway resurfacing from Edinburgh Drive to West View.
- (e) Winston Street – Carriageway Resurfacing
- (f) Barnard Street - Carriageway Resurfacing [part of scheme (e) above]
- (g) Salt Yard - Carriageway Resurfacing [part of scheme (e) above]
- (h) Whinbush Way Phase 1 - Barmpton Lane to Shetland Drive – Carriageway Reconstruction.
- (i) Lowson St and Crosby St Back Lane – Resurfacing.
- (j) Friars Pardon, Hurworth – Footway refurbishment.

Road Safety Education, Training and Publicity Initiatives

18. Pedestrian training is offered to all primary schools in the Borough and uptake is at almost 100% of pupils in the targeted age groups. Continued funding for this service has been secured until 2015 through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. Pedestrian training for 5 -8 year olds was completed at the following schools in the half term up until the end of October 2011:

- (a) St John's (93 pupils).
- (b) Whinfield (266 pupils).
- (c) Mowden Juniors (63 pupils).
- (d) Abbey Juniors (31 pupils).
- (e) Heighington (109 pupils).

19. A successful bid for Level 2 Bikeability (cycle) funding was made through the School Sports Partnership which will secure funding for the service until the end of March 2012. A further bid will be made in the New Year for funding for future years. Training for 10-12 year olds was completed at the following schools in the half term up until the end of October 2011:

- (a) St Teresa's (21 pupils).

- (b) Red hall (11 pupils).
 - (c) St Augustine's (28 pupils).
 - (d) Northwood (18 pupils).
 - (e) WestParkAcademy (9 pupils).
 - (f) Holy Family (22 pupils).
 - (g) St John's (18 pupils).
 - (h) Hummersknott (6 pupils).
20. Level 3 Bikeability (cycle) training for 12-14 year olds was completed at Hummersknott school for 28 pupils in the half term up until the end of October 2011. As above, continued funding for this service has been secured until 2015 through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund.

School Travel Plans

21. Darlington schools took part in a Local Motion Action Day on 5 October. The event included the presentation of this years STAR (Sustainable Travel Accredited and Recognised) and Bike It School Mark awards. Harrowgate Hill Primary, Carmel RC College, DodmireSchool, WestParkAcademy, High Coniscliffe CE Primary, the Federation of Abbey Schools and NorthwoodPrimary School have all achieved the Sustainable level of STAR. St Aidan's Church of England Academy have achieved Higher Standards. Carmel RC College, St John's CE Aided Primary, Heighington CE Primary and MowdenJuniorSchool have achieved the bronze award of the Bike It School Mark.
22. The Sustrans Bike It programme has continued in schools with Dr Bike sessions, classroom sessions, after school cycle maintenance, Beauty and the Bike, BTEC Sports delivery, after school bike rides and school cycling club set up and assistance.
23. Mass participation organised walks have taken place at Heathfield Primary (Halloween Walking Ghost Train) and St George's CE Aided Primary (Be Bright Be Seen – Fireworks). Work is being undertaken to set up walking trains at Heathfield and Heighington schools.
24. The '60 Active Minutes' MEGA Motion story writing competition was introduced to all primary schools in preparation for the new MEGA Motion campaign. The new campaign will focus on sustainable and active travel to school as part of leading a healthy lifestyle and achieving '60 Active Minutes' a day. Winners will be announced in December and a number of the entries received will be put on display in the Dolphin Centre. The top ten entries from the town will be developed into a storybook for families about how to achieve '60 Active Minutes' in Darlington.
25. The results of the 2011 travel to school hands-up survey show an overall increase in car use of 2.9 percentage points from 25% to 27.9%. Until 2010 there had been a general reduction

in car use (with an overall increase in the use of non-car modes from 69.7% in 2005 to 71.1% in 2010). Further analysis shows that this increase in car use has come in primary schools where Local Motion activity has been radically reduced over the last 12-18 months. Secondary schools are still showing the use of non-car modes increasing. Cycling to school levels remain exceptionally high at 7.4% increasing from a baseline figure of 0.9% in 2005. The LSTF funding will enable a new programme to be launched in schools in 2011/12 focussing on travel to school as well as the travel choice associated with transition to secondary school.

Public Transport

26. Supported bus contracts – all supported evening and Sunday journeys, and those which have a high passenger cost per journey, will cease to operate with effect from 1 January 2012. These changes were registered with the Traffic Commissioner on 4 November. This decision was made by Cabinet on 13 September 2011 as part of in year budget cuts in 2010/11 following an extensive equalities impact assessment process. Arriva will continue to operate 90% of journeys in Darlington with no involvement from the Council, including commercially operated evening and Sunday journeys. For more information on the journeys affected please refer to Cabinet report 13 September 2011
27. Smart Ticketing – as part of the North East Smart Ticketing Initiative (NESTI), Arriva installed smart card readers on their buses earlier this year. They began testing this system in Darlington on Sunday 9 October before it goes live across the region in December. All concessionary bus passes in Darlington are now smart cards and Arriva are randomly testing them on the buses' card readers ahead of the live launch. This means, when boarding the bus, passengers may be asked to hold their concessionary bus pass on top of the card reader to check that it works. If a concessionary bus pass cannot be read properly, Arriva will ask the passenger to call the Council's Contact Centre to order a new one. Customers should retain their old pass until they receive a new one and then send the faulty pass back to the Contact Centre (in a self-addressed envelope which they will receive in the post). There will be no costs to residents if a replacement is required as the costs of the faulty cards will be met by Fujitsu, the card manufacturer.

Third Local Transport Plan (LTP)

28. Highway maintenance schemes are on schedule to be delivered as per the programme with current spend £850,000
29. Street lighting replacement – a programme has now been prepared and the replacement programme commenced in November 2011.
30. A new bridleway bridge has been installed over Baydale Beck, providing a new route to the west of Darlington, linking Staindrop Road to Coniscliffe Road. At the most recent meeting of the Darlington Cycling Campaign the recent secure cycle provision at Bank Top station and the on-going work involving the Baydale Beck cycle route including the bridge, came in for praise. The membership passed on their congratulations to the Council for a job well done.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund

31. Quarter 2 claim submitted to the DfT and forecast made to year end includes bringing forward a cycle route from North Road to the Borough boundary.
32. Service 1, 1b Extension – Council approved waiving contract procedure rules for the provision of the extension of Arriva service 1, 1b. This service currently operates from Crook/Bishop Auckland/Shildon/Heighington to Darlington Town Centre and will extend to Lingfield Point via Haughton Road for the College/University with effect from 1 January 2012.
33. The Cycle: in Darlington programme of guided cycle rides led by the Council's Sports Development Team began in October. The programme will be developed over the winter in preparation for a full roll out in the Spring. The Sports Development Team now have a pool of mountain bikes and a trailer for transporting the bikes to deliver this programme.
34. The Council has procured the iTRACE system for the development and monitoring of Business and School Travel Plans in the Borough. The system will monitor the performance of sustainable travel and Smarter Choices initiatives with a range of administrative tools to help with management, surveying, reporting, customer relationship management and mapping of travel plan sites.
35. Between 17 October and 12 November all households in the Middleton St George ward were contacted by the Local Motion Travel Advisors. During that time the advisors gave out information on local travel options and also took comments that have been fed back to the relevant teams within Darlington Borough Council.
36. As part of the Middleton St George project two community events were held. The events were an opportunity for local residents to find out more information on travel and transport in their area and also to take part in guided cycle rides, guided walks, have their bikes checked for mechanical issues and also find out about bike security. DBC's Sports Development team, the Fire Service and Durham Constabulary were also in attendance.

Tees Valley Metro

37. Funding has been allocated in the Tees Valley Metro project to upgrade Dinsdale Station. The Middleton St George community events were utilised to discuss options for the station with residents. The improvements include new shelters, seating, CCTV, signs and information and resurfacing the footpaths. Future consultation will take place before the work is carried out in October 2012.

BAPTS Closing Conference

38. On 29 September I attended the Boosting Advanced Public Transport Systems(BAPTS) closing conference in Darmstadt, Germany, accompanied by Louise Neale, Sustainable Transport Officer and Timothy Crawshaw, Principal Officer - Urban Design, Environment and Sustainability. The final BAPTS conference was an opportunity for partners to share

best practice and listen to speakers involved in leading innovative projects from a European and global perspective. Many of the projects and themes explored by the speakers were relevant to transport in Darlington, and it was a key opportunity to share the success of projects such as the Local Motion. The following day was spent in Offenbach looking at their work on smart ticketing and electric bicycle hire. BAPTS is a project funded by the European Regional Development Fund(ERDF) that has brought over 0.5M pounds for transport projects in Darlington over the last three years. The project funded the total costs for the visit and conference.

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Transport Portfolio