
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 been undertaking a task and finish group to consider speed management in the Borough. The group considered 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** – The main on site work has commenced and is due to be completed by 30th November 2012.
4. **Bus Stop Improvements** – Raised bus platforms continue to be constructed in several locations on the Service 11 route in Redhall with a further three proposed for McMullen Road and one proposed for Yarm Road.
5. An audit of the Service 2 route (Branksome) and Service 10 route (Whinfield) has been undertaken.
6. **Yarm Road/Geneva Road Traffic Signal Controlled Junction** – This junction has been refurbished. The existing equipment has been completely replaced to improve reliability and efficiency. The scheme includes resurfacing of the carriageway which will be carried out during February half-term.
7. **Reid Street School Safer Route to School** – Following the consultation on the introduction of a 20mph zone on roads in the vicinity of the school we are currently advertising the proposed road humps and 20mph speed limit. It is anticipated that the scheme will be implemented mid February 2012, provided no objections are received.
8. **Heathfield School Safer Route to School** – Local residents were consulted on a scheme to introduce a 20mph zone in The Broadway. We are currently advertising the proposed road humps and 20mph limit. It is anticipated that the scheme will be implemented in February, 2012 provided no objections are received.

Bridge Maintenance Schemes

9. **Chesnut Street Bridge** – Tenders were returned on 21 December, 2011 and have been evaluated.
10. **Hutton Avenue Footbridge** - Tenders are due to be returned on the 23 December 2011 and have been evaluated.

Highway Maintenance Schemes

11. Recently Completed Schemes:

- (a) C181 Geneva Road – Carriageway, footway and verge refurbishment.
- (b) Beaumont Street Car park – Refurbishment (resurfacing etc).
- (c) Carriageway 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) Lawson Street and Crosby Street Back Lane – Resurfacing.
- (j) Friars Pardon, Hurworth – Footway refurbishment.

12. Ongoing 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.

13. Schemes Due to Commence:

- (a) Faverdale Industrial Estate – Footway refurbishment outside of John Glen Computers.
- (b) Claremont Road Phase 2 – Footway refurbishment.

14. Street Lighting – 40 year old column replacement programme - The first phase of replacement work of columns over 40 years old is in progress with approximately 100 of the programmes 157 columns now erected and awaiting connection to their supplies and

topping out with lanterns. Due to the use of modern technology the 174 new lanterns will reduce annual electricity costs from £18,000 to £8,000 and make savings of approximately 53 tonnes of carbon per year.

Tees Valley Bus Network Improvement

15. As part of this project a Public Transport Marketing Officer has been appointed to manage the Marketing and Information work stream. The post is hosted in Darlington and will use Darlington's extensive experience and expertise in implementing the Local Motion programme including individualised travel marketing.

Public Transport

16. Changes to supported bus services came into effect on 2 January 2012 following the withdrawal of contracts for evening and Sunday services and those which have a high passenger cost per journey. Up to date timetable information was provided at every bus stop in the Borough on 2 January 2012, as well as via Traveline and paper copies of the timetables are still available in Crown Street library, Dolphin Centre and Evolution.
17. A number of changes have also been introduced by Arriva, including the provision of a Sunday service to Middleton St George, the registration of service 19 on a commercial basis and the introduction of some commercial evening and Sunday journeys where supported bus services have been withdrawn.
18. North East has registered a new express bus service to operate between Crook and Darlington, limited stop, via Bishop Auckland, Tindale Crescent, West Auckland and St Helen Auckland. This started on 22 January 2012 and operates every 30 minutes, Monday-Saturday, as service OK1.
19. Arriva has registered a new express bus service between Crook and Darlington, limited stop, via Bishop Auckland and Tindale Crescent. This will start on 12 February 2012 and will operate every 30 minutes, Monday-Saturday, as service X1.

Third Local Transport Plan (LTP)

20. Over 160 new cycle and 160 scooter parking spaces have been installed in Darlington schools in December. This takes the total number of cycle parking spaces for young people in the town to over 1,800. Nine schools in total have received the new 'Minipods' which each store eight bikes and eight scooters. Those schools are Borough Road Nursery, George Dent Nursery, Firthmoor Primary, St John's CE Aided Primary, Harrowgate Hill Primary, Heathfield Primary, Hurworth Primary, St Bede's RC VA Primary and Polam Hall School. In 2005 only 0.9% of pupils cycled to school in Darlington and only 19 of our schools had secure cycle parking. Since then cycling levels have risen to 7.4% and every school in the town has secure cycle parking facilities.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund

21. The Local Motion Cycling officer has organised 80 activities in schools during the Autumn school term. This has included Beauty and the Bike at Hummersknott Academy and Carmel College, involving girls in both schools working with the Body Shop and Darlington College. This project has been recognised in the Darlington Retail Awards 2011, with the Body Shop winning the Green Business of the Year Award, in part for this outreach work.
22. Four bikes have been purchased to enable young people to take part in level 3 Bikeability cycle training when they do not have a bike of their own available. The need has arisen due to some young people being unable to bring their own bike to school (.g travel to school by bus), an unsuitable bike (eg BMX bikes) and poorly maintained bikes.
23. Prizes were awarded to ten pupil's as part of the MEGA Motion '60 active minutes' competition. The competition invited pupils across the Borough to write or draw their own story about leading a healthier lifestyle. The ten winning entries will now be made into a story book which will be used as part of the Team Local Motion 2012 campaign MEGA Motion: Move Everybody Get Active. Thousands of pupils entered the competition explaining how they and their families get active and achieve their '60 active minutes' every day.
24. The first stage of feasibility work - Network Rail's Guide to Railway Investment Projects 1 (GRIP1) has started at North Road Station. This will investigate whether it is possible to develop an accessible station on this site, once the land to the north of the Bishop Line is opened up following the completion of the North Road bus priority scheme at the North Road/Albert Road junction.
25. Work is underway to update the Local Motion brand and make it more relevant to the new projects which formed the LSTF bid. This includes making it work across the whole Borough, not just the town, and to work in County Durham as part of the joint working with Durham County Council.
26. A feasibility study is underway to develop options for an accessible taxi pilot project to improve the availability of accessible transport for local people.
27. A safety audit and consultation have been completed on the North Road cycle route.
28. The extension to Arriva's Bus Service 1 from Crook/Bishop Auckland to Darlington to serve Darlington College and Lingfield Point started operation on 2 January 2012. A hybrid bus is operating on the service as a trial and if it proves successful a further 7 hybrid vehicles will be brought into service. Lowering carbon emissions is a key element of the LSTF project.
29. AECOM have been appointed to work alongside the Sustainable Transport team to conduct a travel behaviour research project. This research is similar to that undertaken in Darlington by Social Data in 2004 and 2008 and will give an accurate picture of travel in Darlington. Survey forms were sent out in November and December and will be collated in January 2012. A smaller number of surveys were sent out to households in South Durham to provide baseline data of travel in the area before work begins to promote cross boundary

trips by sustainable modes. During January a sample of people that took part in the household survey will be selected to take part in an in depth survey. The survey will give an insight into the travel habits of Darlington residents and also their attitudes and opinions to various modes. The survey will be repeated again in 2014 towards the end of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund project.

Councillor David Lyonette
Transport Portfolio