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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. **Supported Bus Service Implementation Options** – Cabinet has agreed to the withdrawal of contract DBC0919-23 serving the Glebe Road area from 3 June, 2012 and to the ceasing of all financial contributions towards contracts provided by neighbouring councils as soon as possible, as part of the budget decision to withdraw funding from supported bus services.
3. **Heathfield School Objection to Road Hump Notice** – Cabinet considered objections that had been received to the publication of a notice under the terms of Section 90a of the Highways Act 1980 to construct physical traffic calming in the form of road humps and speed cushions which will form an integral part of the Heathfield School Safer Route to School Scheme. Cabinet decided to set aside the objections and the proposals be implemented as advertised. Work on the scheme commenced at the start of the Easter holidays to avoid the works being on-going whilst the school was open.
4. **Reid Street School Objection to Road Hump Notice** – Cabinet considered objections that had been received to the publication of a notice under the terms of Section 90a of the Highways Act 1980 to construct speed cushions which will form an integral part of the Reid Street School Safer Route to School Scheme. Cabinet decided to set aside the objections and the proposals be implemented as advertised. Work on the scheme commenced at the start of the Easter holidays to avoid the works being on-going whilst the school was open.

**Network Management Schemes**

5. **North Road Bus Priority** – A consultation exercise was undertaken with residents on proposed changes to waiting restrictions on North Road, associated with the North Road Bus Priority scheme. Any objections to the restrictions, which include a bus lane and banned turns at the new junction, will be considered at a future Cabinet meeting. The scheme has been the subject of public consultation events in 2010 and 2011.
6. **West Auckland Road** - A new pedestrian refuge has been constructed on West Auckland Road to provide a safer access point for children attending West Park Academy.
7. **East Row Taxi Rank** - The legal order for a proposed taxi feeder rank on East Row, adjacent to the Market Square, was advertised in April 2012. The changes are being

implemented as the result of a request from the taxi trade for more rank spaces in the area. The works will include narrowing the existing rank, providing a feeder rank, additional loading facilities and a new level access route across East Row. It is anticipated that the changes will be implemented in June/July 2012, though this is dependent upon whether objections are received to the legal order.

8. **A167 Footway/Cycleway Improvement** – This scheme was the subject of public consultation in January 2012 with consultation packs being sent to 170 properties. 39 residents responded and were generally supportive of the proposals. Some suggestions were incorporated, particularly in relation to two pedestrian refuges. Work commenced on site in March 2012 and will continue until the end of May 2012.

### **Bridge Maintenance Schemes**

9. **Chesnut Street Bridge** – Contractor appointed and works due to start on 8 May 2012.
10. **Hutton Avenue Footbridge** – Due on site July 2012.

### **Highway Maintenance Schemes**

#### 11. Recently Completed Schemes:

- (a) Archdeacon Crescent – verge hardening.
- (b) Heron Drive – footway refurbishment.

#### 12. Schemes Due to Commence:

- (a) Haughton Road/Salters Lane South Roundabout – Resurfacing.
- (b) Cleveland Street Bridge/Allan Street – Carriageway resurfacing.
- (c) Glebe Road – Carriageway reconstruction and resurfacing.
- (d) A68.duals Ph1 – A1M to Swanhouse (A7072) – resurfacing to opposite Burtree Lane.
- (e) North Road: Fitzwilliam Drive to Albert Road - surface retexturing for increased skid resistance.
- (f) Woodland Road/Staindrop Road Roundabout to Bondgate Roundabout - surface retexturing for increased skid resistance.
- (g) B6275: A67 to Royal Oak to A68 Ph4 – carriageway reconstruction.
- (h) Coombe Drive – Goodison Road Junction – Resurfacing.
- (i) Alnwick Place: Morpeth Avenue to Hutton Avenue – Carriageway Resurfacing.

- (j) Langdale Road – Footpath refurbishment.

### **Individualised Travel Marketing (ITM)**

13. The team of Travel Advisors are now in place and have completed their initial training. They will begin to contact households during May. The Travel Advisors will be working in the north west area of the town before moving into Heighington and other rural areas. The programme of ITM will continue in 2013 and 2014 and will have covered all areas in the Borough by the end of the programme.

### **Community Audits**

14. Final reports have been received for three community audits carried out in Middleton St George, Red Hall and Haughton West. The reports have been written following discussions with local residents and include recommendations for small scale improvements to improve the walking experience in these areas. These recommendations will be assessed and some small improvements will be made, where feasible, in the three areas.

### **Education**

15. The Big Pedal 2012 ended on the 23 March with a total of 38,520 journeys made to and from school by bike or scooter. Of these, over 10 per cent were made by parents and teachers. Last year, total journeys for the competition came to 14,830. In the primary school category, St John's CE Aided Primary finished first in Darlington and nineteenth nationally. In the secondary school category, Hummersknott Academy won the competition and finished fourteenth nationally.
16. Cycling activities are continuing with Darlington schools including the following sessions: Dr Bike, Learn to ride, bike ride to Archers with Carmel College, and coaching sessions at Middlesbrough cycle circuit.
17. Figures from 19 Darlington schools show that cycling and scooting to school levels combined for the Spring term stood at 15.5 per cent. These figures are based on manual counts that were conducted between January and March.
18. Individual 'School Travel Reports' have been distributed to every school in the Borough. The reports include results of the latest travel to school survey, trends in annual travel patterns since 2005, pupil post code plots sorted by travel mode, potential for change towards more sustainable travel, a summary of successes and actions for the future.
19. New cycle storage facilities have been installed at Central House for young people accessing Youth Offending Team services. Streetpods have been installed providing capacity for six cycles.
20. New 'In the Zone' maps are being produced for each Darlington secondary school. These maps form part of the new transition programme that will be launched at the end of May and will provide young people and their families with information about the travel choices that are available to them when they move on to secondary school.

## **Workplaces**

21. SAFED (Safe and Fuel Efficient Driver) training has been procured with Durham County Council to run a pilot project with up to 50 members of staff from DBC. The training courses ensure that those travelling for work purposes have the necessary skills to drive in a safe and fuel efficient manner thus reducing fuel usage and carbon emissions. This training will be evaluated to assess whether driving behaviour improves and fuel consumption of fleet vehicles is reduced.
22. The Darlington Council Employee Travel Plan Steering Group has been reformed to look at the promotion of sustainable travel across the organisation.

## **Community**

23. The Cycle: in Darlington series of guided rides began on 25 March setting off from Eastbourne Sports Complex. The rides are tailored to suit all abilities from beginners to mountain bike experts, with trained staff helping riders build confidence, fitness and bike handling skills. Participants can bring their own bikes or register to use one of a fleet of 12 adult bikes and 10 bikes suitable for young people. The rides are being led by the DBC Sports Development Team.
24. The 2012 Cycle: in Darlington Pedal Power guide has been produced detailing a range of guided cycle rides, family events and tourist trails that are taking place throughout the year. Further details on events and cycling in Darlington are provided in the guide.

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