
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.

Tees Valley Bus Network Improvement Schemes

2. The Tees Valley Bus Network Improvement Project is a £57.6 million Department for Transport funded series of bus improvements across the Tees Valley. This package of measures seeks to enhance the bus network by improving the reliability and punctuality of bus services across the Tees Valley.
3. The North Road Bus Priority scheme is a major scheme within the overall project. Construction of this scheme has been underway since the start of 2012 and is currently on programme to be complete by the end of November 2012. The majority of the works to date have not affected traffic flow, but overnight works on North Road commenced on 20 August and were completed on 23 August 2012.
4. A briefing for all Tees Valley Members on the progress of TVBNI was held in Middlesbrough on the 14th September, where I and other Transport portfolio holders committed to continue to develop a partnership with bus operators to improve services.
5. **North Road Objections to Traffic Regulation Order** – Cabinet considered the objections that were received in response to proposed changes to traffic regulations orders associated with the North Road Bus Priority scheme. Cabinet decided to set the objections aside and the restrictions set out in the confirmed Traffic Regulation Order are being implemented.

Network Management Schemes

6. **East Row Taxi Rank** - 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 September/October 2012 and will be timed to avoid events in the Market Place.
7. **Fewer Road Casualties** – Analysis of the road traffic casualties that occurred during calendar year 2011 has shown that it was the lowest number ever recorded for Darlington. The excellent news was that there were no fatalities as a result of road traffic collisions on Darlington's roads. However, there were a total 334 casualties, 298 of which resulted in slight injury and 36 that resulted in serious injury. We continue to work with partners to drive down these figures and make Darlington's roads safer.

Bridge Maintenance Schemes

8. **Chesnut Street Bridge** – The main bridge works are now complete and the road has been re-opened. The remaining work (painting of the bridge parapets) was completed by 24 August 2012.
9. **Hutton Avenue Footbridge** – Site work commenced on 6 August and is expected to be complete by the end of October 2012.

Highway Maintenance Schemes

10. Recently Completed Schemes:

- (a) Annual Surface Dressing Programme.
- (b) Glebe Road – Carriageway reconstruction and resurfacing.
- (c) A68 Duals Phase 1 – A1M to Swanhouse (A7072) – Resurfacing to opposite Burtree Lane.
- (d) North Road – Fitzwilliam Drive to Albert Road – Surface retexturing for increased skid resistance.
- (e) Woodland Road/Staindrop Road Roundabout to Bondgate Roundabout – Surface retexturing for increased skid resistance.
- (f) B6275 – A67 to Royal Oak to A68 Phase 4 – Carriageway reconstruction.
- (g) Alnwick Place – Morpeth Avenue to Hutton Avenue – Carriageway resurfacing.
- (h) A167 Croft Road Phase 1 – ‘S’ bends between Croft Meadows and Oxney Cottage – Carriageway resurfacing.
- (i) A1150 Stockton Road – Dual Carriageway – Resurfacing.
- (j) A68 West Auckland Road – deep patching.

11. Ongoing Schemes:

- (a) Longfield Road – Crosby Street to Thompson Street West – Carriageway and footway refurbishment.
- (b) A167 Burtree Lane to Coatham Mundeville Phase 6 – Ketton Farm to 12 Durham Road – Carriageway and footway refurbishment.

12. Schemes Due to Commence:

- (a) Coombe Drive/Goodison Way Junction – Resurfacing.

- (b) Langdale Road – Footpath refurbishment.
- (c) Annual Carriageway Slurry Sealing Programme.
- (d) C181 Geneva Road Phase 5 – Highway refurbishment.
- (e) Cotherstone Moor Drive to Kildale Moor Place – link footpath refurbishment.
- (f) C34a Lime Lane Phase 1 – Carriageway deep patching.
- (g) Whinbush Way – Carriageway resurfacing.
- (h) B6280 Yarm Road – Carriageway resurfacing.
- (i) Feethams – Carriageway deep patching.
- (j) C39 Walworth Gate – Carriageway deep patching.

School Travel Plans

13. Our new SAM (Sixty Active Minutes) book has been written by Darlington children and illustrated by local artist Liz Million. It follows our new schools character, SAM, as she finds out how children get their exercise every day, including on their journey to school. Presentations have been made to a number of schools as part of the prize for those children whose story features in the book. Initial feedback from the schools that have seen it has been very positive. The official book launch took place in September and following that, the book has been distributed with one copy for every primary school class in the Borough. September's Darlington Together magazine also features the book in an article on how children should get 60 active minutes every day in order to stay healthy.

Workplace Travel Plans

14. An organisation has been selected to deliver the MEGA Motion initiative in partnership with Team Local Motion from October 2012 to March 2015. The campaign will aim to encourage young people and their families to adopt active and sustainable travel habits as part of leading a healthy lifestyle and achieving '60 active minutes'. MEGA Motion will focus on establishing Fridays as a day to leave the car behind for the journey to school in favour of walking, cycling or using public transport. The campaign is being delivered in partnership with Durham County Council via funding from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund and will be launched on Friday 5 October 2012.
15. The Local Motion Travel Rangers have been continuing to roll out the Transition programme in secondary schools by providing one to one advice and support to parents whose children will be making the transition to secondary school in September 2013. The Travel Rangers attended open evenings at Carmel College, Longfield Academy, Darlington School of Mathematics and Science, St Aidan's Church of England Academy and Hummersknott Academy.
16. The Travel Rangers also provided information and advice to students moving to Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College as they attended the enrolment days on the 24 and 28 August

2012. The Rangers provided advice on public transport and the Arriva Teen Card amongst other things.

Public Transport

17. Cummins have begun to engage in the Local Motion Workplace programme. Over the coming months a package of measures will be developed for employees at Cummins to encourage and promote sustainable transport to the site. This will begin with a survey of all staff towards the end of the year.
18. The Darlington Borough Council Workplace Travel Plan is being refreshed and a whole staff survey took place in August and September. The results will be analysed in the Autumn and will feed into the wider Travel Plan for the organisation.
19. The 'Get the bus!' campaign is a promotional campaign funded by the Tees Valley Bus Network Improvement scheme as part of the Marketing and Information work stream. It is targeted at young people in the 16 to 20 age bracket and aims to influence the travel decision of young people in the run up to the new academic year. The campaign is designed to promote the benefits bus travel offers this age group (independence and 'me time' whilst travelling on the bus). The campaign is scheduled to run until mid September and comprises a mix of outdoor advertising (bus shelters and bus backs), radio (TFM and Capital) and direct marketing (rollerbladers handing out flyers in main Tees Valley centres and giving out basic information to young people about bus travel). The campaign is being monitored through a mixture of a text based prize draw (which will provide an indication of which media is generating a response from the target market) and through monitoring visits to the Connect Tees Valley website, which is also being promoted throughout the campaign as an impartial 'all operator' journey planning tool. The campaign is being supported by all three major bus operators who have provided details and materials related to the products aimed at the target market.
20. Sports Development will be offering discounted leisure activities to young people who have a valid Arriva Teen Card. In the Autumn, team Local Motion will also be offering the Teen Card for free (usually £5 application fee) and promoting the offer in schools and colleges to further encourage bus travel amongst young people.
21. There was a 'Your Bus Matters' event on 10 September, organised by Bus Users UK. Local people attended at Joseph Pease square where an Arriva bus was be parked up. Representatives from Arriva, Go North East and DBC Sustainable Transport Officers were on hand to deal with any comments or questions that people had regarding their local bus services.
22. A pilot project is to take place in Red Hall with a new style of bus shelter. An order has been placed for four new shelters which will be installed at the same time as raised kerbs at the bus stops. The shelters will be monitored for a period of six months and will include an evaluation of feedback from local people. If the project is successful then this design of shelter will be rolled out to key locations, following a tendering process. In addition a new footpath link will be created from Coombe Drive to the new operational bus stop on the DETC so that local residents can access bus service 1 which will provide an alternative service to Darlington town centre via Darlington College, as well as an onward service to Bishop Auckland/Crook/Tow Law.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund

23. The Local Motion cycling officer had a busy summer term with a full programme of events in schools. He delivered 76 activities to 2,177 pupils, 152 staff and 38 parents. These were delivered across 17 schools in Darlington and included a cycling session at the cycling circuit in Middlesbrough with the Dodmire/St John Cycling Club, mountain bike riding in Hamsterley Forest with St Aiden's students and watching a stunt display team as a prize for recording the most cycling trips as part of the Sustrans Big Pedal for students from St Johns and Hummersknott. Planning is well under way for activities in the new Autumn Term including a four week course of bike maintenance sessions at Darlington School of Maths and Science and a Beauty and the Bike project at Carmel School for year 7 girls.
24. Funding from the project is being used to improve walking and cycling access to Teesside University (and Darlington College). Following discussions with the University and the Central Park developers to agree the best route, a planning application will now be submitted.
25. The cycle route alongside the A167 from the Burtree Lane junction to the A1(M) junction 59 has been completed. This provides a 3.5km (2.2m) off road link to the existing cycle network in Newton Aycliffe.
26. A number of workshops have taken place with community groups interested in developing community transport services. A consultant from the Community Transport Association has provided technical expertise on emerging business cases. Final bids were submitted by 24 August 2012 and evaluation is taking place. A final decision on the award of funding will be taken by Cabinet in October.

Tees Valley Metro

27. The planned improvement works at Dinsdale Station as part of the Tees Valley Metro project have been delayed. Northumbrian Water is undertaking a feasibility study to confirm the costs and timetable for diverting a sewer which is required as part of the gauge enhancement project for rail freight traffic. This will report at the end of October 2012. A meeting will then be held with all parties to agree a new timetable for the works, which will include the planned improvement work to the station environment for passengers and local residents.

Durham Tees Valley Airport

28. I attended the DTVA Board on 18th September on behalf of the Leader.

Councillor David Lyonette
Transport Portfolio