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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.

### Accessible Community Transport

2. We have approved the award of £43,500 grant funding to eVOLution to implement 'the Pink' community bus service in the West End of Darlington, and the Director of Place has been given delegated authority to agree the detailed arrangements with eVOLution.
3. We also granted the award of £87,900 grant funding to Darlington Association on Disability (DAD) for the provision of an accessible taxi service, development of a code of practice for taxi operators to improve taxi services for disabled people and development of a brokerage service to assist local people to find accessible transport services/vehicles, and the Director of Place be given delegated authority to agree the detailed arrangements with DAD.
4. However, we agreed not to award a grant to the schemes from DART and Hurworth Parish Council in their current form and the Director of Place has been directed to explore further options with those organisations, utilising the Community Transport Association, and other models that might resolve local community transport needs.

### Network Management Schemes

5. **North Road Bus Priority Scheme** - The North Road Bus Priority scheme is a major scheme within the overall Tees Valley Bus Network Initiative project. Construction of this scheme has been underway since the start of 2012 and was completed 16 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. Lining works commenced in October half term week avoiding the morning and evening peak hours to minimise traffic delay.
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 include narrowing the existing three car rank to ensure that it is used correctly, providing a new five car feeder rank to provide additional capacity, additional loading facilities and a new level access route across East Row.

7. **Redhall Bus Stop Improvements** – These works are funded from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF). They include the construction of raised bus platforms and associated footway works on Coombe Drive and the construction of a footpath link across the green space between Coombe Drive and the Darlington Eastern Transport Corridor. In addition, four new bus shelters are to be erected to replace existing shelters that have been the subject of vandalism in the past. The new shelters are designed to be less susceptible to damage.
8. **Haughton Road Cycleway/Footway Link** –The existing footway linking Haughton Road with the new Hutton Avenue footbridge is programmed to be widened and resurfaced in November/December 2012.
9. **Central Park Cycleway/Footway** – A planning application has been submitted for the construction of a new 3m wide path from Teesside University, within Central Park to Peel Street off Yarm Road. The path will provide an improved access between the University, Darlington College, Darlington Station and the Town Centre.

### **Bridge Maintenance Schemes**

10. **Hutton Avenue Footbridge** - Site work commenced on 6 August but has been delayed by some extreme weather events however works were completed on 16 November 2012.
11. **Brafferton Bridge** – The Bridge was re-opened following emergency repairs to the damaged structure.

### **Highway Maintenance Schemes**

#### 12. Recently Completed Schemes:

- (a) Longfield Road – Crosby Street to Thompson Street West – carriageway and footway refurbishment.
- (b) C181 Geneva Road Phase 5 – highway refurbishment.
- (c) C34a Lime Lane Phase 1 – carriageway deep patching.
- (d) Whinbush Way – carriageway resurfacing.
- (e) Langdale Road – footpath refurbishment.
- (f) Cotherstone Moor Drive to Kildale Moor Place – link footpath refurbishment.

#### 13. Ongoing Schemes:

- (a) A167 Burtree Lane to Coatham Mundeville Phase 6 – Ketton Farm to 12 Durham Road – carriageway and footway refurbishment.

- (b) B6280 Yarm Road – carriageway resurfacing.
- (c) Annual Carriageway Slurry Sealing Programme.

14. Schemes Due to Commence:

- (a) Coombe Drive/Goodison Way Junction – resurfacing.
- (b) Feethams – carriageway deep patching.
- (c) C39 Walworth Gate – carriageway deep patching.
- (d) Low Moor Road – carriageway reconstruction.
- (e) Friars Pardon, Hurworth – footway refurbishment.
- (f) Claremont Road – footway refurbishment.

### **School Travel Plans**

- 15. The Local Motion Schools Action Day held in October was attended by fifteen Darlington schools and The Worshipful The Mayor Councillor Paul Baldwin was in attendance to present the 2011/12 Modeshift STARS awards to schools that have achieved over the last 12 months. This event saw the launch of the new online Modeshift STARS scheme in Darlington after the authority had been selected to trial the system over the summer. 50 per cent of Darlington schools have now achieved at least the Bronze level of Modeshift STARS.
- 16. At the national launch of Modeshift STARS at the Modeshift National School Travel Convention, Sarah Roberts from West Park Academy presented on her experience of using the new online system after being the first school in the country to successfully achieve accreditation using the system.
- 17. The new MEGA Motion campaign launched at the start of the November half term. MEGA Motion aims to encourage young people and families to achieve their 'Sixty Active Minutes' whilst on the journey to school. It is all about leaving the car behind for the school run for just one day a week – MEGA Fridays. Pupils and their families may choose to walk, cycle, scoot or use public transport. Every time a pupil takes part in a MEGA Friday, they will earn MEGA Minutes which will go towards earning their Bronze, Silver and Gold MEGA rewards. More information can be found at [www.megamotion.co.uk](http://www.megamotion.co.uk)
- 18. The MEGA Motion Official Media Launch took place on 14 November at the Locomotion Museum in Shildon. Pupils from Darlington and Durham schools were invited to attend to hear all about MEGA Fridays and the MEGA Events that will be taking place over the next year. At least one MEGA Friday Walk will take place each month from November 2012 to July 2013 in Darlington schools.

19. The Secondary Schools' Watt Bike Competition took place at St Aidan's Church of England Academy with six of the seven Darlington secondary schools.

### **Workplace Travel Plans**

20. The Lotion Motion Travel Rangers have provided further site specific travel advice at Lingfield Point. Staff from AMEC have recently moved into premises at Lingfield House and as part of our partnership with Lingfield Point, Team Local Motion attended during the transitional period to provide specific advice on travel options at the site.

### **Public Transport**

21. 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.
22. The 'Santa Stop Here!' campaign is a promotional campaign that will cover Darlington, the Tees Valley and County Durham. It is targeted primarily at the Christmas Shopping market and aims to encourage more occasional use of bus services in the run up to Christmas. The campaign is designed to promote the benefits bus travel offers this market (e.g no need to stress about parking). The campaign is scheduled to run until 24 December and comprises a Radio based campaign. The campaign includes a mix of pre-recorded promotions for bus travel and live reads worked into the general programming of the station (Real and Smooth FM). Between approximately 19 November and 10 December, Santa will be out and about on buses in the Darlington, the Tees Valley and County Durham, greeting passengers and handing out 400 Stockings containing novelty items and 'golden tickets' that offer lucky recipients the chance to win £1,000. The idea being that to have a chance of winning, you need to use the bus. The campaign is being funded from a number of funding pots; the TVBNI Marketing and Information budget, Darlington Local Motion LSTF funding, Durham Local Motion LSTF funding, Arriva, Go North East and Stagecoach.

### **Local Sustainable Transport Fund**

23. The team of six Local Motion Travel Advisors have successfully contacted 12,000 households in the following wards: Faverdale, Cockerton West, Cockerton East, Mowden, Pierremont, Northgate and Heighington & Coniscliffe. The Travel Advisors will resume their household contact next year and will be focussing on houses in the north west of the borough. Over 4000 residents engaged in a conversation with the Travel Advisors between 6 June and 31 October and over 10,000 resources were handed out and delivered to Darlington residents. Two Travel Advisors will be running a market stall at both the Monday and Saturday markets over the winter and will be giving out travel information to people who visit their stall.

## **Parking Strategy**

24. Completion of the full parking strategy has been postponed until May 2013 to allow it to complement the town centre regeneration project. Core principles will be developed in December against which options will be tested. It is proposed that there will be continued engagement with Town Centre businesses, users and residents to inform a preferred option to be considered in May 2013.

## **Sustainable Travel to Education & Training Strategy (5-25 years)**

25. This project is to develop a strategy (until 2026) that meets the Council's statutory duty to prepare and publish such a strategy that facilitates and promotes active travel to improve the health of staff, parents/guardians and pupils; that ensures that the Council's financial commitment is sustainable within the long term and that mitigates travel congestion generated by education land uses.
26. A project Steering Group has been established to lead the development of the strategy (deadline for completion July 2013). Currently a pupil/student and parent/guardian consultation survey is being developed which will be rolled out in November/December.

## **Town Hall Cycle Shelter**

27. The Town Hall cycle shelter, funded by Cycling England is now in place. The cycle shelter is for use by both the general public and staff and will provide secure cycle storage through a smart card locking system.

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