
NATIONAL STATION TRAVEL PLAN PILOT PROGRAMME

**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor David Lyonette, Transport Portfolio
Responsible Director – Richard Alty, Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration)**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek the Cabinet approval for Council Officers to work with the Association of Train Operating Companies on developing a travel plan for Darlington's Bank Top Station as part of a national station travel plan pilot programme.

Summary

2. In March 2008, officers were made aware of an opportunity to bid for Darlington Station to be part of a National Station Travel Plan programme. Following discussion with the Cabinet Member for Transport, the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit was asked to take the lead on submitting a bid by the 7 April deadline.
3. Darlington Bank Top Station is one of 31 Stations to have been selected for the National Station Travel Plan Pilot programme.
4. The objectives of the Station Travel Plan programme are to:
 - (a) Reduce the mode share of car trips for travel to/from the stations in the pilot programme.
 - (b) Increase the number of rail passengers using the stations.
 - (c) Reduce the environmental impact of rail passengers travelling to/from the stations.
 - (d) Improve customer satisfaction ratings at the stations.
5. The plan could look at issues such as passenger information, through ticketing, cycle storage facilities, better interchange with bus services and management of station car parking.
6. The development and implementation of a travel plan for Bank Top Station will help to support the achievement of Darlington's Sustainable Community Strategy objectives. The Bank Top Station plays a key role in the local economy, and travel to the station by all modes is important to businesses. This work will take that context into account.

Recommendation

7. It is recommended that:
 - (a) Members agree to the Council's participation in the National Station Travel Plan Pilot Programme.
 - (b) Measures identified through the development of the Travel Plan for Bank Top Station are the subject of a future report to Cabinet.

Reason

8. The recommendation is supported as participation in the National Pilot Programme will:
 - (a) Raise the national profile of Darlington Bank Top Station, focusing the attention of the rail operator on improving access and the physical environment within the Station.
 - (b) Bring in some additional funding and expertise to complete a study of how passengers currently access the Station. It is proposed that the survey takes place in October or November 2008.
 - (c) Help to identify areas where the Council, the train operators and other key stakeholders, for example bus operators and businesses, could work together on improving access to/from the Station, including securing funding from external partners.

Richard Alty
Assistant Chief Executive (Regeneration)

Background Papers

- (i) One Darlington: Perfectly Placed
- (ii) Local Transport Plan 2006-2011

Owen Wilson : Extension 2444
cc

S17 Crime and Disorder	It is considered that a “Bank Top Station Travel Plan” could contribute to the reduction of crime and disorder.
Health and Well Being	Work to improve access to Bank Top Station will help contribute to the health and well being of residents, through promoting travel by non-car modes.
Sustainability	A “Travel Plan” will help support the Council’s objectives to encourage sustainable travel.
Diversity	Actions identified in the ‘Travel Plan’ would potentially improve access to the station for less advantaged members of the community.
Wards Affected	Initial work on the Travel Plan would have limited or no impact on Bank Top, Central and Park East wards. Implementation of measures identified in the travel plan would potentially impact upon residents from all wards.
Groups Affected	Potentially all users of the Station and residents/business located on approaches to the station
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend a change to the Council budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This report does not require an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The development and implementation of a travel plan for Bank Top Station would contribute to: Prosperous Darlington, through improving access to Darlington. Greener Darlington by encouraging sustainable travel. Safer Darlington by improving access to/from Bank Top Station.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

9. In December 2007 National Express took over the franchise for the operation of services on the East Coast Main Line, this includes responsibility for the operation of Darlington Bank Top Station. Officers met with staff from National Express in February, to discuss their commitment to fund improvements to Darlington Bank Top Station.
10. In April the Tees Valley JSU submitted an expression of interest to the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) for a number of Tees Valley Stations to be selected for a national pilot programme on the development of Station Travel Plans.
11. Darlington Bank Top Station is one of 31 Stations to have been chosen for the programme, Middlesbrough and Thornaby have also been selected. A full list of the Stations is attached as **Annex 1**.
12. Strong support from the train operators was essential to the selection of stations for the national pilot programme.
13. It is proposed that for each Station in the National Pilot programme a travel plan is completed by March 2009. Subject to funding and agreement from the appropriate partners work on implementing measures identified within the travel plans will start to take place over the period April 2009–March 2011.
14. At this stage the Council's financial and other commitments are limited to funding any additional research required for the Travel Plan. As much of the necessary data is already available to the Council any additional costs will be relatively low and can be funded within existing budgets, for example as part of the data collection for the Local Motion project and for developing work place travel plans. See point 18 for further information on what is expected from local authorities participating in the national pilot programme.
15. Recommended actions arising from the development of the Travel Plan for Bank Top Station are likely to range from low cost initiatives such as better signing and information to higher cost physical measures such as environmental improvements within and on route to the Station. On completion of the Travel Plan, Officers will be able to submit a further report to Cabinet setting out proposals for how the actions could be delivered.

Links with One Darlington – Perfectly Placed

16. The development and implementation of a travel plan for Bank Top Station will help to support the achievement of Darlington's Sustainable Community Strategy objectives, in particular through:
 - (a) Improving access to Darlington
 - (b) Contributing to the economic development of Darlington. Improving access to the station by all modes is important to Darlington businesses.

- (c) Encouraging greater use of sustainable travel modes, thereby helping to reduce carbon emissions.
- (d) Improving Darlington's image, particularly for business people and visitors travelling to Darlington by rail.

Links with Existing or Proposed Projects

17. The development of a Station Travel Plan has potential links with the:

- (a) Economic regeneration work: Darlington's accessibility by train is a key asset.
- (b) Town Centre Urban fringe study.
- (c) Local Motion Smarter Choices programme.
- (d) Work place travel plan initiatives, including the Council's Travel Plan.
- (e) The Interreg project supporting the delivery of measures improving access and encouraging sustainable travel.
- (f) Tees Valley Connect – improvements to the bus network including better integration with rail.
- (g) Tees Valley Metro.
- (h) Proposed access improvements between Bank Top Station and the Central Park Development.

18. The Council will be required to:

- (a) Nominate a named individual who will provide project management services for the pilot initiative in Darlington. This will be a member of the Transport Policy team, the estimated time commitment is in the region of 20 days per year.
- (b) Coordinate a local Steering Group, membership to include the principal train operator using the station (and ideally other train operators using it), Network Rail and the Council. Relevant stakeholder groups would also be invited to participate in developing the Station Travel Plan including rail user groups, business representatives, environmental organisations and local bus and taxi companies.
- (c) Collect any additional data during the research phase of the project. Note that the cost of the 'core' data collection will be funded centrally (not by Darlington Borough Council). This will consist of passenger surveys at the Station, collecting information on the origin and destination of trips, purpose of the journeys made and travel mode used to access the station.

- (d) Additional data already available to the Council includes information collected from household surveys as part of the Local Motion project, census data and information on public transport routes. A relatively small amount of additional work will be required to analyse this data. It may also be appropriate to conduct some further qualitative research, using focus groups
- (e) Indicate support for funding the delivery of measures identified within the travel plan over the period 2009/10–2010/11. The measures identified by the plan are likely to consist of a mixture of short term relatively low cost initiatives and longer term higher cost measures. Proposals within the draft Travel Plan will be the subject of a future cabinet report in 2009.

Outcome of Consultation

- 19. Consultation with rail passengers, local residents, special interest groups and community organisations will be an integral element of the work on developing the travel plan.
- 20. A local steering group involving relevant stakeholders will help to steer the development and implementation of the travel plan.

ANNEX 1 : STATION TRAVEL PLAN PILOTS

Successful Pilots		
Pilot Name		Station(s)
1	Derby	Derby
2	Loughborough	Loughborough
3	Colchester North	Colchester North
4	Leighton Buzzard	Leighton Buzzard
5	Southend Stations	Southend Victoria
		Southend Central
6	St Albans & Hatfield	St Albans City
		St Albans Abbey
		Hatfield
7	Middlesbrough & Thornaby	Middlesbrough
		Thornaby
8	Darlington	Darlington
9	Durham	Durham
10	Accrington	Accrington
11	Hazel Grove	Hazel Grove
12	Ashford	Ashford
13	Milton Keynes Central	Milton Keynes Central
14	Three Rivers CRP	Eastleigh
		Chandlers Ford
		Romsey
		St Denys
15	Bristol Parkway	Bristol Parkway
16	Truro	Truro
17	Digby & Sowton	Digby & Sowton
18	Shotton	Shotton
19	Stoke on Trent	Stoke on Trent
20	Leamington Spa	Leamington Spa
21	King's Norton	King's Norton
22	Chapletown	Chapletown
23	Hebden Bridge	Hebden Bridge

Successful Pilots		
	Pilot Name	Station(s)
24	Leeds	Leeds