
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.

Inner Ring Road/Stonebridge Junction Project

2. The scheme is substantially complete.

A67 Carlbury Banks Landslip

3. Phase 2 commenced on 2 June 2014. Northumbrian Water Limited's contractor has laid approx. one kilometre of new pipeline. It is currently working within the road to connect and commission the new pipeline. Whilst this element of the project is behind schedule it should not have an impact on the overall programme.
4. Phase 3 has commenced with Graham Construction, the contractor for the Design and Build of the stabilisation works, having cleared foliage and trees on the embankment to be stabilised. The main 'soil nailing' slope stabilisation works commenced in November 2014. The works are anticipated to be complete in April/May 2015.
5. We continue to provide updates through the press, on the website and through social media, along with letters to local residents, business and Councillors. Local Councillors have been proactive in communicating any changes and updates to directly affected residents.

Feethams Bus Stops

6. A planning application for proposed works to provide improved bus stop waiting facilities at Feethams, adjacent to the Town Hall, was submitted in October 2014. The works include the removal of the existing retaining wall for the Town Hall forecourt and construction of steps up to the forecourt. This is required to accommodate the additional bus stops whilst maintaining the footway link to the proposed cinema and leisure development.
7. This project is part of a wider programme of works to improve the Feethams area, which includes the construction of the Department for Education building, cinema development, multi storey car park and associated public realm and traffic management improvements.

Resident Parking Zones (RPZ)

8. A RPZ is being developed for the Bank Top area from the Local Transport Plan funding at the request of a number of residents. This area suffers from both commuter and rail related non-residential parking. Consultation will take place towards the end of the year and the scheme could potentially be implemented as early as March 2015 depending on the consultation response and subject to no objections to the legal order.

Highway Maintenance Schemes

9. Recently completed schemes:
 - (a) Fenby Avenue – Carriageway Reconstruction and Resurfacing
 - (b) Footway Micro Asphalt:
 - (i) B6280 – Carmel Road North
 - (ii) C38 – Station Road, Middleton St George
 - (iii) C54 – The Front, Hill Rise, Archer Road, The Oaklands, Middleton One Row
 - (iv) Unc – Pinewood Crescent, Heighington
 - (v) A67 - The Green, High Coniscliffe
 - (vi) C39 - School Aycliffe Lane, School Aycliffe
 - (vii) Unc – Balmoral Road, Atholl Close, Cullen Close, Glamis Road
 - (viii) C51 – Norton Road, Sadberge
 - (ix) Unc – Town Farm Close, Bishopton
 - (c) A67 Yarm Rd (A66 – Farmhouse Pub) – Carriageway Reconstruction
 - (d) Burtree Lane Phase 2 – Carriageway Resurfacing
 - (e) Hewitson Road South Phase 2 - Carriageway Reconstruction and Resurfacing
 - (f) Carriageway Micro Asphalting Contract :-
 - (i) Nelson Terrace
 - (ii) Geneva Terrace
 - (iii) George Street
 - (iv) Stonedale Crescent
 - (v) Hardwick Close
 - (vi) Nightingale Avenue.
 - (vii) Norton Crescent Sadberge
 - (viii) Cliffe Way, Gilling Crescent, Rear Eppleby Way and other areas of Estate
 - (ix) Louisa Street, Eastbourne Road to Yarm Road
 - (x) Lodge Street
 - (xi) North Cottages, School Aycliffe
 - (xii) Garthlands, Heighington cul-de-sac area
 - (xiii) Kirstall Crescent
 - (xiv) Pierremont Drive
 - (xv) Newlands Road
 - (xvi) Brinkburn Drive, Brinkburn Road to Rye Hill
 - (xvii) Mowden Street
 - (xviii) Pendleton Road - end to Wadham Grove
 - (xix) Girton Walk, to Emmanuel Close
 - (xx) Woodburn Drive

- (xxi) Stonehurst Drive
- (xxii) Stonecliffe Drive
- (xxiii) Bushel Hill Court
- (xxiv) Pine Grove
- (xxv) Lingfield Green
- (xxvi) East Close Sadberge
- (xxvii) Malim Road
- (xxviii) Rye Hill
- (xxix) Branksome Terrace
- (xxx) Kingsway Estate
- (xxxi) Low Coniscliffe
- (xxxii) Neasham Road

10. Ongoing schemes:

- (a) A67, Coniscliffe Road, Carmel Road to Salutation Road – Carriageway Resurfacing
- (b) A67, Coniscliffe Road, Merrybent to High Coniscliffe – Carriageway Resurfacing

11. Schemes due to commence:

- (a) Cleveland Terrace/Cleveland Avenue Roundabout - Carriageway Resurfacing
- (b) Coleridge Gardens – Carriageway Patching and Resurfacing
- (c) Tyne Crescent – Carriageway Patching
- (d) Coombe Drive – Carriageway Refurbishment
- (e) A1150, Whinfield Road, Springfield to Whinbush Way - Footway Refurbishment

Public Transport

12. As part of the Tees Valley Bus Network Improvement Marketing and Information programme, the annual Christmas campaign encouraging people to use buses over the festive period will run until 24 December. Adverts will stress the convenience the bus can offer in the run up to Christmas. The campaign will use TFM/Magic FM who will be running radio adverts and will be sending their street teams out across Darlington, South Durham and Teesside and handing out Christmas Cards that give recipients the opportunity to be entered into a free prize draw.
13. The radio element will be supported by outdoor and press adverts, including the inside front cover of the Christmas edition of Darlington Together, bus rear and side adverts, Billboards and washroom panels in pubs, restaurants and bars.
14. Following the success of the Next Stop Announcement technology on the Arriva Sapphire Service, Darlington and Durham Councils have worked with Arriva to provide the same technology on services 1 and 5, operating between Darlington, Bishop Auckland, Newton Aycliffe and Tow Law.
15. In December Arriva services X66 to Middlesbrough via Stockton and services X26/X27 to Richmond and Catterick will be MAXed. This includes Wifi, CCTV, e-leather seating, money back guarantee, additional customer care training and

smart new livery on the vehicles. Local Sustainable Transport Funding will be used to add Next Stop Announcement Technology to these services as well.

16. A park and ride service was launched on 18 October. This provides a service on Saturdays only until January 2015 to provide additional car parking capacity. Drivers pay £1 to park at Darlington College and then use bus services 1, 9 and 10 to travel between the College and the town centre.
17. The benefits of the TVBNI project have been promoted through a double page advert in the Northern Echo. This outlined specific improvements in Darlington by both Arriva and the Council, as well as further planned improvements. It also highlighted key improvements in passenger numbers, punctuality and customer satisfaction.
18. Bus Service Operators Grant has been awarded to eVOLution to enable Scarlet Band to continue to operate service 16 until June 2015.
19. Tees Valley Rural Community Council (TVRCC) has worked with the Council and local communities to develop its transport brokerage service in Darlington. It has identified vehicles, volunteer drivers and some requirements for transport, predominantly but not exclusively in rural areas. Some trips have already been arranged and TVRCC is working to build on this brokerage model. A pilot project has been launched in Brafferton, providing a trip each week into Darlington town centre to enable residents who do not have access to other transport to regain some independence. This regular trip has worked successfully in Sadberge and the other villages on the route of Service 20 which operates journeys in and out of Darlington town centre three days per week.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund

20. In order to improve travel choices for disabled people the Local Motion project included funding for an accessible taxi service. This funding was awarded to Darlington Association on Disability and following extensive research a vehicle was selected and purchased. Working with a taxi operator DAD hope that the service will provide an accessible vehicle at peak times when other accessible vehicles are used to carry out home to school transport work.
21. The new MegaMotion campaign was launched on 19 September. The overall winner of last year's campaign was Red Hall Primary School, which had the highest level of participation across the 30 weeks of the campaign. To celebrate last year's winners and launch the new campaign – which coincided with international 'Talk like a Pirate Day' – 49 children from Red Hall and Cockerton primary (who won the Durham competition). Schools visited the Dolphin Centre in nautical-themed fancy dress to enjoy a morning of fun activities. In keeping with the sustainable travel theme, children from the two schools travelled to the event by bus, with Arriva providing free travel for the children on the day of the launch. For the 2014/15 academic year the first walks have been won by St Augustine's RC Primary with MEGA monsters, Outings with outlaws at The Rydal Academy, and Jingle all the way to school at Skerne Park Academy.

22. On 22 October a Modeshift Action Day was held with schools from across Darlington. The event included the presentation of awards as part of the Modeshift STARS accreditation scheme which recognises schools that promote sustainable travel to their pupils, staff and parents and achieve a reduction in car travel on the home to school journey. Schools being presented with the Bronze award were Carmel College, St. John's, Heighington, St. Bede's, High Coniscliffe and Cockerton. Picking up Silver were Rydal Academy, St. Augustine's and St. George's. The Federation of Abbey Schools, which achieved Gold Level STARS has been put forward for the Modeshift Outstanding School of the Year Award where they will face competition from schools across the country.
23. Following a successful Learn to Ride event in the summer another event was arranged in the Dolphin Centre in half term. The event enables children to move from balance bikes and stabilisers to independent pedalling. Following a successful social media campaign the event was fully booked (50 places) within a day and a second event was organised for early December, which was also oversubscribed. Further events will be arranged next year.
24. A new marketing campaign was launched to coincide with the clocks changing in October to promote 'be safe, be seen' aimed at pedestrians and cyclists. A series of safety messages have been developed as part of the campaign to highlight safety issues for everyone, however you choose to travel.

Parking Contingency

25. On 1 October the Council introduced a lower tariff of 50p per hour in four of the Council's less busy car parks (East Street, Garden Street, Upper Archer Street and Chesnut Street), so that motorists have the option of switching to these car parks and paying less to park.
26. As a further incentive to drivers to stay in the Town Centre for longer, on 14 November an hours free parking was introduced in all of the Councils off- street car parks for drivers paying for two or more hours. So for example motorists purchasing two hours parking get a third hour free.
27. From 18 October a temporary Saturday only park and ride came into operation for parking during the run up to Christmas. This uses the Darlington College car park, adjacent to Haughton Road, with free bus travel to/from the town centre. The Park and Ride will run until 10 January 2015 as detailed in para 16.
28. The parking promotions and Park and Ride have been advertised in the Northern Echo, Darlington Together, through social media and using posters and a flier.

Councillor David Lyonette
Transport Portfolio