
OVERVIEW OF PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Place Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

Tees Valley Combined Authority Transport Strategy

2. We received a presentation from the Head of Transport, Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA), on the Tees Valley Strategic Transport Plan (STP), which is currently being developed to support the delivery of the Strategic Economic Plan for the Tees Valley.
3. The transport vision for the Tees Valley is provide a high quality, quick, affordable, reliable and safe transport network for people and freight to move within, to and from the Tees Valley and the presentation set out the way in which it aimed to do this by improving local railways, maintaining and improving roads, providing better bus services, providing safe walking and cycling routes and making it easier and safer to transport freight by road, rail, sea and air, together with details of how this will be achieved and the priorities under each heading.
4. The STP will be considered at a meeting of the TVCA Cabinet scheduled to be held on 31 January 2019 and a formal consultation exercise will then be undertaken, closing in May 2019.

Tees Valley Draft Waste Strategy

5. We also received a presentation on the Tees Valley Joint Waste Management Strategy (JWMS), which is currently being developed by the five Tees Valley Local Authorities and outlines options for the future waste treatment/disposal post 2025 when the existing contractual arrangements come to an end.
6. The strategy sets out the joint approach to the sustainable management of waste within the Tees Valley and prioritising actions for the next 15 years. It provides the framework for how each of the Council's will work towards reducing the amount of waste produced, to recycle as much as possible and find the most sustainable solution to deal with any waste that remains.
7. Consultation on the JWMS began on 1 October 2018 for an eight-week period and the documentation will be available on the Council's website where comments can be posted. There will also be stakeholder sessions organised for interested organisations within the waste industry. Feedback from across the Tees Valley will inform the final strategy.

Rail Heritage and 2025 Update

8. Another presentation we received was from the Assistant Director Railway Heritage and 2025 which outlined the work being undertaken to deliver the railway heritage offer as one of the themes within the Experience Darlington Strategy.
9. The presentation covered the priorities for action under the Railway Town Theme, which will enable Darlington to improve its visitor offer for 2026 and beyond and create significant economic benefits that will support local businesses increase productivity and create jobs, together with the achievements to date and the next steps.
10. In terms of progress against the priority actions, particular reference was made to the establishment, with other partners, of a Rail Heritage Board; its governance arrangements and its high level programme, which consisted of 43 projects. The Board achieved Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) status for the Stockton and Darlington railway in May 2018 which will bring advantages in terms of national recognition and credibility from Historic England.

Work Programme 2018/19

11. As part of our on-going work programme, we have requested reports to our meeting in December 2018 in relation to the library and road safety. We also aim to receive an update report on the legacy of the Healthy New Towns project in February/March 2019

Councillor Bob Carson
Chair of Place Scrutiny Committee