

**COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY MEETING
25 AUGUST 2022**

DARLINGTON TRANSPORT PLANS AND PARKING STRATEGY

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the draft Darlington Transport Plan, Darlington Town Centre Transport Plan and Darlington Parking Strategy and note the consultation process.

Summary

2. The Tees Valley Strategic Transport Plan (STP) 2020-2030 was developed by Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) in partnership with all Tees Valley local authorities. The strategy was published in 2020 and sets out the strategic direction for transport in the Tees Valley. The STP is supported by other strategies developed by TVCA including the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and the Tees Valley Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).
3. The Darlington Transport Strategy sets out how the priorities set out in the STP will be delivered in Darlington. It takes account of local priorities and sets a delivery framework to ensure that these priorities are delivered.
4. The Darlington Town Centre Transport Plan will support the Town Centre Strategy 2019-2030 and the Towns Fund Investment Plan. Good quality transport into and within the town centre is important to support the transformation its transformation and growth and management of movement within the town centre will help to make it a more attractive place to live, work and visit.
5. The Darlington Parking Strategy sets out a framework for the provision and control of parking within the borough in order to meet the aspirations of the Darlington Transport Strategy and the Darlington Town Centre Transport Plan.
6. Consultation on these documents is ongoing and will close on 2 September 2022. We welcome comments from members, residents and interested parties. The documents are scheduled to be considered by Cabinet and Council in November.

Recommendation

7. It is recommended that Scrutiny Members consider the draft strategy documents.

**Dave Winstanley
Group Director of Services**

Background Papers

Community and Local Services Scrutiny Committee - 25 February 2021 - Item no.7

Andy Casey: Extension 6701

S17 Crime and Disorder	The policy documents are not considered to have any material implications on crime and disorder.
Health and Wellbeing	The Transport Strategy seeks to achieve better health and longer life expectancy for everyone by reducing the risk of death, injury or illness from transport and by providing travel options to keep people active and independent.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	The Transport Strategy seeks to tackle climate change through quantified reductions in greenhouse gas emission from transport. The programme includes schemes to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport.
Diversity	As highway schemes have an impact on the built environment disability groups are consulted to ensure the needs of disabled people are considered.
Wards Affected	ALL
Groups Affected	There are no proposals that impact on specific groups.
Budget and Policy Framework	The Tees Valley Strategic Transport Plan (STP) has been adopted by TVCA Cabinet as the Local Transport Plan for the Tees Valley including the constituent local authorities. The Darlington Transport Plan and supporting strategies sets out the policies and actions to deliver Darlington's element of the STP. This will form part of the policy framework once it has been approved by Cabinet and adopted by Council.
Key Decision	This is a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
Council Plan	Darlington Transport Plan will support economic growth through the delivery of planned sustainable transport solutions to enable people to access employment and other important services in an efficient manner.
Efficiency	The Transport Plan seeks to implement schemes that demonstrate value for money and/or deliver the greatest outcomes at a local level. An evidence-based approach is used to identify schemes that have higher benefit cost ratios, reduce maintenance liabilities and/or seek to reduce revenue costs. Maintaining the highway network will reduce traffic disruption in the longer term and improve network management. Vehicle delay has a negative impact on the economy, including logistics and freight.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

8. TVCA published the Tees Valley STP in 2020, the overarching strategy document for transport within the Tees Valley. The STP vision is “To provide a high quality, quick, affordable, reliable, low carbon and safe transport network for people and freight to move within, to and from the Tees Valley”.
9. The STP was developed to deliver three broad objectives; social opportunity, economic growth and carbon reduction and environment. It has identified key transport priorities for the Tees Valley including Darlington Station Masterplan and Darlington Northern Link Road (DNLR) as well as priorities for improvements to cycling, walking and public transport routes through the development of the Tees valley LCWIP and BSIP documents.
10. Each of the five local authorities in the Tees Valley is required to develop its own Local Transport Plan to set out how it will seek to deliver both the Tees Valley strategic priorities but also local priorities. Darlington Borough Council is the highway authority and as such has statutory duties including traffic management and highway maintenance, which also need to be considered in the Plan. Cabinet on 9 March 2021 agreed a framework for the basis of consultation on the Darlington Transport Plan.
11. The Darlington Transport Plan is appended (**Appendix 1**), as is a summary document that that has been developed to assist consultation (**Appendix 2**).
12. The Darlington Town Centre Transport Plan has been developed in parallel with the main Plan. This sets out how transport can help deliver the new focus set out in the Town Centre Plan i.e. a place to shop, live, visit, be proud of and do business in, as the town centre changes from being predominantly retail. A copy of the plan is appended (**Appendix 3**), with the summary document (**Appendix 4**).
13. The Parking Strategy has also been updated to reflect both of the above documents. A copy of the new Parking Strategy is appended (**Appendix 5**) and summary document (**Appendix 6**).
14. All these Plans are intended to be considered by Cabinet on 9 November 2022 and Council on 24 November 2022, subject to the outcome of consultation.

Consultation

15. A consultation portal has been developed on the Council’s website with links to the various documents and associated questionnaires. Paper copies of the summary documents will be available from the Dolphin Centre and Cockerton Library and copies of the full documents can be sent out on request.
16. Key stakeholder groups such as the Police, public transport operators, DAD, RNIB will be consulted separately.
17. The consultation will run from 5 August 2022 until 2 September 2022.