



## Minutes

**Tees Valley Combined Authority Transport Committee**  
Teesside Airport Business Suite, Teesside International Airport, Darlington DL2  
1NJ  
2pm Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024

### Attendees

#### **Members**

Councillor Stephen Harker - Chair (Leader of Darlington Borough Council)  
Councillor Libby McCollom (Darlington Borough Council)  
Councillor Theo Furness (Middlesbrough Council)  
Councillor Carl Quartermain (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council)  
Councillor Nigel Cooke (Stockton Borough Council)

#### **Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Sue Little (Hartlepool Borough Council)  
Councillor Clare Gamble (Stockton Borough Council) – Substitute Sent

#### **Officers**

Tom Bryant - TVCA  
Alan Weston – TVCA  
Emily Campbell – TVCA  
Connor Malone – TVCA  
Dave Winstanley - Darlington Borough Council  
Craig Cowley – Middlesbrough Council  
Ross Asadi – Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council  
Jonathan Kibble – Stockton Borough Council

	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked members and officers for their attendance.</p> <p>Apologies for absence noted above, Councillor Cooke substituted for Councillor Gamble.</p>
	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>None noted.</p>
TC16/2023	<p><b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING &amp; MATTERS ARISING</b></p> <p>The minutes of the Transport Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED THAT:-</b> The minutes of the Transport Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.</p>
TC17/2023	<p><b>TEES VALLEY BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN (BSIP)</b></p> <p>Members received an update on the Tees Valley Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). A report was provided to members in advance of the session, which detailed the structure of the BSIP and the process.</p> <p>Members raised questions relating to the bus corridor work and the relationship of Transport Committee in the consideration of the schemes. They were informed that the programme will be subject to public consultation, which would be reported back to Transport Committee.</p> <p>Queries were raised in relation to the improved fare offer, and daily cap limits. Members were informed that operators have separate systems in place for the delivery of fare capping and equally have separate daily caps. Fully integrated multi-modal ticketing is being pursued by government, which TVCA is engaged in. All operators will be required to sign-up to a national back-office system.</p> <p>Discussion was held in relation to the roll-out of electric buses and the quantity expected to be delivered. Members were informed that 62 buses in total would be delivered with 40 for Stagecoach, and 22 for Arriva. They were advised that the bid for the funding was facilitated by TVCA, with the operators making a significant commercial investment alongside the government funding.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED THAT:-</b> Transport Committee noted the update.</p>

TC18/2023	<p><b>TEES VALLEY TIMETABLE UPDATES, BUS SHELTER UPGRADES AND REAL TIME INFORMATION.</b></p> <p>The Transport Committee received a report which provided an update on:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tees Valley Timetable Updates</li> <li>- Tees Valley Bus Shelter Upgrades</li> <li>- Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI)</li> </ul> <p>A member raised a comment around local authority resourcing and delivery in relation to bus shelter information, wanting to further understand the contract and practicality of delivery. Members were informed that contractors would have additional spares in order to make fixes when replacing timetables and that a condition survey is intended to gather the full scale of the requirements for the bus shelter assets across the Tees Valley region. However, it was emphasised that TVCA does not have a funding stream to support local authorities with the maintenance of their shelters.</p> <p>In relation to timetabling, members wanted to understand accessibility for users with suggestion to include feedback options in the footers to allow service users to feedback. Officers noted this and informed members that accessible timetables can be provided by operators on request.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED THAT:-</b> Transport Committee noted the content of the report.</p>
TC19/2023	<p><b>TEES VALLEY LOCAL BUS SERVICE PERFORMANCE</b></p> <p>The Committee were provided an update on the Tees Valley Local Bus Service Improvements.</p> <p>Queries were raised in relation to the Tees Flex Service and the future beyond the current contract. Members were informed that providing bus services in areas of low demand is expensive, with the 18-month contract for Tees Flex costing TVCA circa £1.8 million at £100k per month. The authority does not receive any revenue for the service with the cost exclusively being to pay for the service to operate. Tees Flex has an approval rating of 4.9 out of 5, with users supporting the service.</p> <p>Members were informed that across the authority area, subsidy per journey is high. A member stressed that the value for money consideration should factor in the distance travelled.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED THAT:-</b> Transport Committee noted the update.</p>
TC20/2023	<p><b>INTEGRATED TRANSPORT PROGRAMME UPDATE</b></p>

	<p>The Committee were provided an overview of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) Programme.</li> <li>• First Round City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS1) Programme.</li> <li>• Second Round City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS2) Programme.</li> <li>• Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) scheme.</li> <li>• Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding.</li> <li>• Additional Competitively Secured Funding.</li> </ul> <p>Members raised questions in relation to the scale of the works and the reasoning for the selection of schemes. The Tees Valley Care and Health Innovation Zone package was noted within questions. Officers informed members that the area is one of the largest brownfield sites within the region, and there was a funding allocation to effectively unlock the development.</p> <p>Questions regarding project costing were raised, both in relation to the proposed budget and existing schemes that have had expenditure over identified costings, particularly in relation to Middlesbrough Station. Members were provided with an explanation and provided insight into the challenges faced with the delivery of the project. Officers noted that the original publicly provided budget was before the establishment of the full business case, meaning it was subject to change.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED THAT</b> the Transport Committer noted the content of the report.</p>
TC21/2023	<p><b>TEES VALLEY U21 BUS FARE OFFER</b></p> <p>Committee members were provided with an update on the roll out of the under 21 bus fare offer. Officers noted that the improved fare offer would be similar to the one provided in the North East. The offer would be introduced initially for a year, with operators being provided subsidy on a no better or no worse basis.</p> <p>Cross boundary routes were covered within discussion, noting that journeys starting outside of the region that end in the region would not receive the fare cap.</p> <p>Members welcomed the introduction of the offer and see it as a positive opportunity. They wanted to understand the potential expansion of the service past the year point, with officers informing them that they would</p>

	<p>monitor the scheme to establish viability. Any extension would also be dependent on securing funding beyond 2024/25.</p> <p>Some members of the committee raised concern that they felt the committee had not received advanced communication of the scheme. The Director of Infrastructure highlighted that this was a long standing commitment, with a specific funding ask of government, set out in the Bus Service Improvement Plan since 2022. He highlighted that the under 21 fare offer was a Mayoral press release and not a TVCA release, and that he emailed Transport Committee members when he became aware that the release was being issued.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED THAT:-</b> The Committee noted the content of the report.</p>
TC22/2023	<p><b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BUSES SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT</b></p> <p>Members were provided a brief background into the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Buses Sub-Committee. The paper informed members of the outcomes of the review and the subsequent endorsement of the paper by Cabinet.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED THAT:-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Committee noted the content of the report.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The forward plan for Transport Committee will be established at AGM.</p>