COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 27 FEBRUARY 2025

DARLINGTON TRANSPORT PLAN – DELIVERY REPORT 2025

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report provides Members with an annual update on delivery of the Darlington Transport Plan. It outlines delivery, performance and public satisfaction in 2024/25 and seeks approval for the 2025/26 programme, including the release of funding.

Summary

- 2. In 2022/23 the Darlington Transport Strategy for the borough, a Town Centre Transport Plan and Parking Strategy were adopted by Council, and work continues in implementing the associated action plans. A progress report on the schemes delivered in 2024/25 and the proposed programme of schemes for 2025/26 is detailed in **Appendix A**, with indicative funding allocations for schemes at **Appendix C**. In the Autumn Budget 2024 additional highways maintenance funding was announced for 2025/26 with £4.873M allocated to the Tees Valley, 25% is being held back currently based on unknown criteria that will follow.
- 3. The Tees Valley region has secured significant funding from Government, including the £310M City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) programme and £6.851 Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). The Tees Valley region has notionally been allocated funding of £978M for the second round of the CRSTS which covers the period 2027/28 to 2031/32. There has been good progress on the development and delivery of the transport capital programme including working in partnership with Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) to deliver elements of the strategic transport plan. An update on schemes delivered in partnership with TVCA is included as Appendix B
- 4. The Council continues to monitor transport patterns, highway condition, road safety and public satisfaction to inform investment decisions. Details of the Performance Indicators and public satisfaction are included at **Appendix D**.

Recommendations

- 5. It is recommended that:
 - (a) Members note the progress in delivery of the Darlington Transport Plan and agree to release £3, 067,984 as outlined in **Appendix C** to deliver the 2025/26 proposed projects identified in **Appendix A**.
 - (b) Members delegate authority to the Executive Director of Environment, Highways and Community Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Local Services, to

- agree and release funding for a programme of additional highway maintenance schemes funded from the new allocation of highway maintenance funding that has yet to be confirmed.
- (c) Members delegate authority to the Executive Director of Environment, Highways and Community Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Local Services, to explore opportunities to reprofile highway maintenance funding from future years to make most efficient use of resources and vary the delivery programme in year if required.
- (d) Members delegate authority to the Executive Director of Environment, Highways and Community Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to agree bidding if required on external funding opportunities, and release funding from successful bids or Government grants. This includes:
 - (i) The Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).
 - (ii) Schemes as detailed in the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) Delivery Plan.
 - (iii) Active Travel Fund (ATF) active travel capital.
 - (iv) Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding.
 - (v) Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant (TSOG).
 - (vi) Any other relevant funding which is made available in 25/26.
- (e) Members note the performance data relating to transport services, detailed in Appendix D.

Reasons

- 6. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:
 - (a) To continue to deliver Darlington's Transport Strategy as set out in the Darlington Transport Plan, Town Centre Transport Plan and Parking Strategy 2022 2030, which support the Tees Valley Strategic Transport Plan 2016 2030 (STP).
 - (b) To maximise the opportunities to maintain highways assets for the benefit of all road users.
 - (c) To assist TVCA in the delivery of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement, Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, and Bus Service Improvement Plan programmes and associated action plans, in line with Government guidance.

Dave Winstanley
Executive Director of Environment, Highways and Community Services

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Joanne Roberts: Extension 3187

Joanne Roberts: Extension 3187	T-1 - 1- 1- 1- 1- 1- 1- 1- 1- 1- 1- 1- 1-
Council Plan	The Transport Programme supports delivery of the outcomes identified in the Council Plan.
Addressing inequalities	An Equalities and Disability Impact Assessment was undertaken in the preparation of the Darlington Transport Plan.
	The Plan seeks to achieve a fairer society by enabling people to access jobs, education, training, health, food and green spaces; and to achieve a better quality of life for all by improving the journey experience and minimising the negative impacts of transport such as noise, air pollution and accidents on the natural environment, heritage, landscape and people.
	As highway schemes have an impact on the built environment, disability groups are consulted to ensure the needs of disabled people are considered.
Tackling Climate Change	Carbon emissions and their impact have been considered in the preparation of the Darlington Transport Plan and its implementation.
	The transport programme seeks to reduce carbon emissions from transport through a shift towards electric and hydrogen vehicles from petrol and diesel. The programme also seeks to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport and mass public transport, as well as seeking ways to reduce the need to travel or travel shorter distances.
	Specific consideration of Carbon impact and Climate change are reflected in highway design, construction and asset management all seek to minimise the impact of transport through flood risk management, Sustainable Urban Drainage, recycling highway materials, low energy lighting (LED), low energy processes and electric fleet vehicles.
Efficient and effective use of resources	The Darlington Transport Plan seeks to implement schemes that demonstrate value for money and/or deliver the greatest outcomes at a local level.
	Schemes are identified and prioritised to meet the objectives in the Transport Strategy. 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.
Health and Wellbeing	Health and wellbeing implications have been considered in the preparation of the Darlington Transport Plan and its implementation.

	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. The development and delivery of specific transport schemes will
S17 Crime and Disorder	support these outcomes.
S17 Crime and Disorder	Crime and disorder implications were considered in the preparation of the Darlington Transport Plan and will be considered in the development and delivery of specific
	transport schemes or measures.
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	There are no proposals that impact on specific groups.
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework. The Tees Valley Strategic Transport Plan was adopted by TVCA Cabinet on 31/01/2020 as the Local Transport Plan for the Tees Valley including the constituent local authorities. The Darlington Transport Plan sets out local priorities and
	provides an overarching policy framework for other subsidiary documents such as the Asset Management Plan and Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
Key Decision	This is a Key Decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an Urgent Decision
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no direct impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

National Context

- 7. Government published figures show domestic transport providing the largest share of the UK's carbon emissions (29%), the DfT is focusing on the switch to zero emission cars/vans, which will be the single biggest carbon saving measure in the UK's journey to Net Zero. In December 2023, Government announced the Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) mandate, which requires 80% of new cars and 70% of new vans sold in the UK to be zero emission by 2035.
- 8. Charging options for drivers continue to grow at pace, with the most recent statistics on zap map as of September 2024 show 70,434 public charge points have been installed across the country¹, a 41% increase compared to September 2023 when 49,882 public charge points were available. The Government's aim being 300,000 by 2030.
- 9. In addition, the Government is providing Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding, which supports combined authorities and local authorities to plan and deliver charging infrastructure for residents without off-street parking.
- 10. Nationally, people's travel behaviour and choices have changed, because of the pandemic, a period of rising cost of living, and by attitudes to climate change and sustainable travel. DfT commissioned research into public attitudes, travel needs and behaviours², which was published in April 2023. Respondents were asked what would encourage them to use public transport more, with financial incentives commonly mentioned, along with more frequent and punctual services. A third of people found it difficult to choose the most suitable ticket when travelling by public transport. The introduction of the £2 single fare cap in January 2023, will have helped alleviate this issue, however this cap has now been raised to £3 which does bring uncertainty to the passenger about what is the best available fare. This cap is in place until the end of 2025 with the Government confirming they are looking at reform.
- 11. New government guidance on Local Transport Plans (LTPs) has been delayed, however it is anticipated to have an emphasis on decarbonisation. It is expected that the guidance will include a requirement for an EV charging strategy to be published as a detailed supporting document to the LTP itself and for the incorporation of decarbonisation into the planning process.
- 12. In October 2023, the previous Government launched Network North, a £36bn plan to improve the country's transport, with £19.8bn of funds redirected to the North from the

 $[\]frac{1}{\text{https://www.zap-map.com/news/uk-hits-70000-public-electric-vehicle-charge-points-milestone#:} \\ \frac{1}{\text{milestone}} \\ \frac{1}{\text{mi$

² Our changing travel – how people's travel choices are changing (publishing.service.gov.uk)

- cancellation of the northern leg of HS2. This has been announced as CRSTS2 with TVCA's indicative allocation £978M for 2027/28 to 2031/32. This was announced by the previous Government and to date this has not been amended by the current Government.
- 13. On local 'A' roads for the year ending December 2023³, the national average delay to vehicle traffic is 47.9 seconds per vehicle per mile compared to free flow. This is up from 45.5 seconds on the previous calendar year.

Regional and Local Context

- 14. TVCA is the Local Transport Authority (LTA) for the Tees Valley. TVCA set the Strategic Transport Plan for the region for the period 2019 2029 with the vision to "provide a high quality, quick, affordable, reliable, low carbon and safe transport network for people and freight to move within, to and from Tees Valley".
- 15. In November 2022, the Council adopted the Darlington Transport Plan, Darlington Town Centre Transport Plan and Parking Strategy 2022 2030, following a consultation process. The Darlington Transport Plan sets out how the priorities set out in the Tees Valley Strategic Transport Plan (STP) will be delivered in Darlington and provides the strategic framework to support growth, through improved transport infrastructure and the promotion of sustainable and active transport initiatives.
- 16. TVCA currently provide the Tees Flex on-demand bus service. The current service is funded until the end of March 2025. It is currently being evaluated and future operation will be subject to the decision on what the 2025/26 BSIP funding allocation will prioritise. This decision is awaited.
- 17. Darlington has a crucial role to play at a local level in enabling the transition to EVs, in proactively supporting the delivery of the rollout of electric vehicle charging infrastructure (EVCI) and helping to ensure that the transition is integrated into wider local transport and community needs. A project for the roll out of charging points in Council owned car parks is complete, with 58 charge points installed. The Tees Valley wide strategy for on street charging is being led by TVCA and a localised Darlington strategy has been developed.
- 18. The Council receives additional specific funding allocations to deliver specific schemes within the Borough that contribute toward our transport strategies and the Tees Valley Strategic Transport Plan. This involves working in partnership with TVCA on developing transport initiatives that benefit Darlington residents. We will continue to work in partnership on TVCA funded projects and programmes, the details are in **Appendix B**.
- 19. Major development work at Darlington Station is continuing. The project is being delivered by TVCA in partnership with Network Rail, LNER and Darlington Borough Council with work due to be completed by late 2025.

<u>report#:~:text=The%20average%20delay%20on%20local,from%2048.2%20spvpm%20in%20201</u> 9.

³ https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/travel-time-measures-for-the-strategic-road-network-and-local-a-roads-january-to-december-2023/travel-time-measures-for-local-a-roads-january-to-december-2023/travel-time-measures-for-local-a-roads-january-to-december-2023-

20. TVCA have allocated £250m from the CRSTS2 programme to deliver the Darlington Northern Link Road to provide a new strategic link, better connecting the A66 to the A1(M) to the north of Darlington enabling growth along the A66 corridor. A review of route option assessments is underway by TVCA, the results of which will help inform proposals.

Progress on Delivery in 2024/25

21. Over the last 12 months there has been significant capital and revenue investment in transport in Darlington. Details of schemes and programmes that have been delivered are outlined in **Appendix A**.

Proposed Delivery in 2025/26

- 22. The Council receives a specific Local Highway Authority Funding allocation from TVCA each year through CRSTS (formerly Local Transport Plan funding) to deliver local improvement schemes and highway maintenance priorities. The Integrated Transport Block programme (Darlington Transport Plan delivery) will be delivered to manage and improve the highway network. **Appendix A** outlines the schemes proposed to be developed and/or delivered during 2025/26 with the funding plan for the programme outlined at **Appendix C**. This is developed and aligned to the objectives of the Darlington Transport Plan, which are to:
 - (a) Reduce transport's impact on the environment and support health and wellbeing;
 - (b) Improve safety for all road users;
 - (c) Connect people to job and training opportunities and link communities;
 - (d) Support a revitalised and transformed Darlington town centre and;
 - (e) Maintain and effectively manage a resilient transport system.

Performance and Public Satisfaction

- 23. During the year, monitoring information is provided by bus operators that is commercially sensitive to demonstrate how well the transport system is operating. In addition to this, each year Darlington takes part in the National Highways and Transport Network Public Satisfaction Survey. This survey collects public perspectives on, and satisfaction with, highway and transport services in Local Authority areas. The summary is included in **Appendix D**.
- 24. Overall, Darlington performs well when compared to other participating local authorities, within the Tees Valley (five local authorities), North East (twelve local authorities) and the National Average. The key indicators show improvement in 2024 over 2023 in most areas, as can be seen in the overall summary below. The overall key indicators are shown at **Appendix D**.

		Actua	l Scores	A	verage Scor	es	Ra	nk
	Theme	2024	2023	TVCA	North East	National Average	TVCA Rank	NE Rank
$\overline{1}$	Overall	48	47 👚	48 ↔	47 👚	46 👚	2	3
	Public Transport	48	44 👚	50 🖶	50 🖶	51 🖶	3	5
%	Walking/Cycling	53	52 👚	50 👚	49 👚	50 👚	1	1
哥	Tackling Congestion	44	44 ↔	45 棏	44 ↔	42 👚	3	5
₹.	Road Safety	55	54 👚	53 👚	52 👚	50 👚	1	1
8	Highway Maintenance	44	45 🖶	43 👚	42 👚	41 👚	2	2
3	Accessibility	72	72 ↔	68 👚	67 👚	67 👚	1	1
	Communications	49	48 👚	47 👚	46 👚	46 👚	1	1

- **Key** ★2024 score greater than ₹2024 score less than \$\display 2024 score equal to
- 25. It should be noted that, in terms of satisfaction with local bus services, the vast majority of which are provided by bus operators on a commercial basis, there has been a small improvement in satisfaction from 44% in 2023, to 48% in 2024. This is below the national average of 51% and may be because a number of Arriva services were withdrawn in 2023. Most of these services were replaced by TVCA contract and public confidence in the reliability of services could be returning.
- 26. In terms of lowest scoring areas, public perception of the condition of the highway, is shown to have declined by 1% this year compared to last year. We have prioritised maintaining the highway for a number of years and will continue to do so including allocating additional funding announced last Autumn when criteria is published.

Financial Implications

- 27. In April 2022, the Secretary of State for Transport confirmed that TVCA was to receive the full allocation of £310M of City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) funding to invest in local transport networks
- 28. TVCA, as LTA, are responsible for allocating regional funding for transport programmes and projects to Tees Valley Authorities. Grant Funding Agreements between TVCA and DBC will be agreed through Asset Management Group with sign off by our S151 Officer.
- 29. CRSTS funding enables Local Highways Authorities to carry out their responsibilities under section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the highway network. This multi-year settlement has introduced an ability for funding to be reprofiled within the CRSTS period to suit maintenance needs of the individual Highway Authorities, which is currently being explored.
- 30. TVCA has allocated £3.068M to Darlington Borough Council in 2025/26 from CRSTS funding for local funding, formerly Local Transport Plan funding. The funding plan for proposed schemes is outline at **Appendix C**

Legal Implications

31. The statutory duty for the Local Transport Plan moved to TVCA in 2016, as part of the

- devolution deal. TVCA produced a Tees Valley Strategic Transport Plan to fulfil this duty, which was approved by TVCA Cabinet on 31 January 2020.
- 32. The five constituent local authorities were asked to produce a Local Implementation Plan (Darlington Transport Plan). This demonstrates how Darlington Council, as the highway authority, will support the delivery of the Strategic Transport Plan at a local level and sets out local priorities, policies and actions. Adopted as part of the Councils policy framework in November 2022, the Transport Plan draws together other local policies on parking, asset management, traffic management, Rights of Way Improvement Plan, and links to other corporate plans, including the Council Plan.

Consultation

33. No consultation has been undertaken for this report. However, the programmes proposed in the report are aligned with the Darlington Transport Plan that were subject to public consultation. Public consultation and stakeholder engagement is undertaken on an individual basis at appropriate stages of scheme and strategy development.

Outcome of Consultation

- 34. Responses to individual consultations are used to propose final scheme designs.
- 35. The Darlington Transport Plan Delivery Plan was presented at the Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee on 27 February 2025.

Delivery of Darlington Transport Capital Programme schemes in 2024/25 and proposed delivery in 2025/26

Scheme Type	Manage/ Improve	Progress on delivery in 2024/25	Proposed delivery 2025/26
Highways Maint	enance - fundin	g to maintain the highway network including structures and	d street lighting (CRSTS Local Highway Authority Funding)
Schemes	Manage	A programme of highway maintenance schemes were delivered, as below: A68	The following maintenance schemes have been identified as the current priority based on the condition data surveys. This is a rolling programme and subject to tender returns: A67 Sadberge Road roundabout Stockton Rd/Whinfield Rd Roundabout Stockton Rd/Whinfield Rd Roundabout C38 Carmel Road North C38 Neasham Road, Neasham C88 Whessoe Road

		Unclassified Roads	Swaledale Road (Phase 2) Barmpton Lane West Auckland Road West Back Lane (Q4)	Unclassified Roads	Allington Way Barnes Road (Phase 3) Crown Street/East Street/Quebec Street Darynton Close Green Tree Yard Mary Court Welbeck Avenue
		were carrie continues th are predomi	micro asphalt and patching programmes ed out across the borough, which e investment in unclassified roads, which nantly residential streets. Street Lighting, ctures and other highway assets were ned.	willinclud	Bates Avenue n, the micro asphalt and patching programmes de roads across the borough. Street Lighting, structures and other highway assets will also nined.
		ort Block - fundi	ng to manage and improve the highway netwo	ork (CRSTS Lo	ocal Highway Authority Funding)
Network Manageme		Traffic and ac	tive travel related monitoring surveys and con	don counts a	re carried out across Darlington
Traffic monitoring	Improve	Traffic and ac	tive travel related monitoring surveys and cor	don counts a	re carried out across Darlington.

Traffic counter replacement Programme		Traffic counter sites across Darlington are maintained and replaced when necessary and operate via solar power where possible.			
Active and sustainab	le transport				
Improvements to bus passenger and cycling facilities (town centre)	Improve	Bus stop audits have continued across the Borough to ensure repair and replacement is undertaken where necessary.		TVCA have procured an advertising shelter contract that will be used when considering future suitable sites for bus shelters with advertising.	
Dropped kerbs		A programme of drop throughout the year,	ped kerbs has been carried out as below:	Requests for dropped kerbs will be assessed against the available budget.	
		Location	Description of Work		
		West Auckland Rd/Smithy Lane	3 no. drop crossings		
		Waterside	1 no. drop kerb		
		Sutton Close	1 no. dropped crossing		
		Henry St	6 no. dropped crossings		
		Judith St	2 no. dropped crossings		
		Elton Parade	4 no. dropped crossings and 2 no. dropped kerbs		
		Widdowfield St	4 no. dropped crossings		
		Brunswick St	3 no. dropped kerbs		
Public Rights of Way			vas improved and maintained as	The PROW network will be improved and maintained	
(PROW)			acement/posts/stiles/duck boards installation in Summerhouses.	including the replacement of signs/posts/stiles/duck boards. In addition it is proposed to remove access control points to ensure the PROW network is accessible as far as possible and the Rights of Way Improvement Plan is to be updated.	

Walking and cycling	Stockton & Darlington Railway – Walking & Cycling Route	Delivery - ID21 – S&DR Mill Lane roundabout to Airport
routes	As part of the Heritage Action Zone and the culture	Roundabout A67
	strategy for rail heritage there is an ambition to develop a	The scheme will be costed and constructed if within budget.
	26-mile walking and cycling route as near to the original	
	alignment of the Stockton & Darlington Railway (S&DR) as	
	possible. Whilst it is recognised that this is a challenge in	
	terms of deliverability, the aim is to get as much of it in	Delivery - ID2 – S&DR Connection to Durham boundary at
	place as possible by September 2025, to celebrate the	Coatham Mundeville
	bicentenary of the railway. The following two sections	The scheme will be fully designed, costed and constructed if
	(ID21 & ID2) have been identified as a priority for	within budget.
	implementation:	
	Feasibility - ID21 – S&DR Mill Lane roundabout to Airport	Delivery - Redmire Close Cycle Path
	roundabout A67	Following completion of design work, the scheme will be
	The scheme continues to be developed so that a preferred	costed, and if within budget will move to construction.
	achievable scheme can be delivered.	
	Feasibility - ID2 – S&DR Connection to Durham boundary	
	at Coatham Mundeville	
	The preferred route between the boundary with Durham	
	County Council (DCC) has been identified and is likely to	
	follow a parallel route to the A1 and tie into existing	
	routes.	
Car Club	The need for a car club in the Town Centre was	If a successful scheme is agreed, funding will be prioritised
	identified as part of the Parking Strategy and the Town	in a future financial year.
	Centre Transport Plan. It is envisaged that it will	
	support the Town Centre Strategy particularly in terms	
	of encouraging more people to live in the Town Centre.	
	Feasibility work is ongoing and will be presented to the	
	Cabinet Member for next steps decision.	

A68 Corridor Improvements (Cockerton Roundabouts)		Consultation on Cockerton Roundabout improvements commenced in January 2022. As a result of consultation, a number of changes were made to the scheme, including provision of a new crossing pedestrian crossing point outside Cockerton Library, verge parking on West Auckland Road and the size of the roundabout islands to maintain as much green space as possible and working with local residents and businesses to inform how this will look in the future.	The schemes have been developed and have been subject to the review process of Active Travel England. Work continues to get all aspects to detailed design, fully costed and suitable for delivery.
		A well-developed scheme has been subject to consultation with Active Travel England (ATE) on the active travel elements, that has been an evolving process.	
		The scheme is subject to a Business Case that is being developed by TVCA to justify the CRSTS funded element that will be subject of a Grant Funding Agreement	
		267 Carmel Road North is now unoccupied, and demolition will be undertaken following the appropriate consents being received.	
Speed Managemen	t and Road Safe	ety programmes	
School speed management and safety schemes	Manage	Safer Routes to Schools (SRTS) Following consultation on a proposal for a 20mph scheme for St. Augustine's RC Primary School, the scheme design has been updated and further	Safer Routes to Schools (SRTS) St Augustine's Primary School SRTS construction will be undertaken during Summer holidays 2025.
		consultation undertaken. Hurworth School safe route to school was implemented during the Summer of 2024 with final works to be	Abbey Schools scheme implementation proposed for Easter and Summer holidays 2025.
	i	planned once drainage designs are completed.	A scheme design will be progressed for St. Bede's RC

This document was classified as: OFFICIAL

A scheme has also been designed for the Federation of Abbey Schools (schemes on Abbey Road and Cleveland Terrace) and consultation took place in January 2024. TROs are currently being drafted.

Longfield School SRTS scheme developed and consultation to be undertaken Q4 2024/25

The feasibility has been carried out for a scheme for Mowden Junior/Infants (Fulthorpe/Barnes Road/Conyers Ave). Consultation to be undertaken during Q4 of 2024/25.

Controlled crossing point on Stanhope Road North has been developed and will be consulted on, includes link through park that will require planning permission

Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)

A Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) policy was developed to set out the rationale and mechanism for prioritising sites where VAS may be installed. Primary School (Thompson Street East) and consultation will take place with the school and local residents.

Longfield School SRTS – work does not need to be completed during school holidays so will be programmed during 2025/26

Mowden school will be revised if required following consultation and if budget and programme permits will be delivered in 2025/26.

Education Village – Potential improvements to be developed for Salters Lane South/Kielder Drive

Controlled crossing point on Stanhope Road will be implemented subject to consultation, planning consent, programme and if budget in the financial year permits.

Improvements to St Aidan's School – School Crossing Patrol site

Improvements to St George's School - School Crossing Patrol site

Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)

Signs will be installed as part of Tranche 2, with sites as part of SRTS Schemes installed during scheme delivery. It is proposed to fund those VAS through the scheme budget.

	Tranche 1 of the VAS programme has been completed, and we have installed equipment in eight locations. As part of Tranche 2 we have identified a number of locations, several of which are to be located within the vicinity of Safer Routes to School (SRTS) schemes.	A further six to eight sites will be identified as part of Tranche 3, applying the VAS policy, funded within existing budget allocation.
Area wide 20mph zones	Surveys have been undertaken to establish existing traffic calming features in Eastbourne/Firthmoor, to confirm which streets meets the criteria for establishing a 20mph zone, a scheme is under development.	Additional budget has been identified to deliver the Eastbourne/Firthmoor scheme in 2025/26. We will liaise with the police to identify whether any additional traffic calming features are required and implement the zones, subject to legal orders (TROs).
Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (Active Neighbourhoods) and other solutions	The Darlington Transport Plan 2022-2030 identified Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) as a potential intervention as part of our Safer Roads objective. They were not identified as a specific action in the associated action plan, but we are minded to consider a trial area within the plan period.	Undertake further research and feasibility of schemes, identifying potential benefits and consequences of LTNs and produce process to identify suitable locations.
	We will look at the feasibility for an LTN in a trial area in Darlington. In deciding the trial location, issues such as public support, impact on emergency response times and displacement of traffic onto other roads will be important factors to consider. We will also need to consider the impact of the LTN on parking as some on street spaces will be lost to accommodate the features and allow vehicles to turn around at the point closure.	
	The former Government published a review into LTN's, that is helping to inform a process that is under development.	

Projects and Programmes Delivered in Partnership with TVCA (TVCA funded)

Mode	Funding	Progress Update				
CRSTS – City	I Regional Sus	tainable Transport Settlements				
1	BSIP – Bus Service Improvement Plan					
	ZEBRA - Zero Emission Bus Regional Area					
ATF – Active	Travel Fund					
LEVI – Local I	Electric Vehic	le Infrastructure Fund				
Checking if a	ny other fund	<u>ling streams</u>				
All	CRSTS	<u>Tees Valley Digital Delivery Plan</u>				
		Funding through the CRSTS programme will deliver the Tees Valley				
		Digital Delivery Plan from 2022 to 2026. The plan identifies a				
<i>*</i>		number of digital and transport needs of the residents, businesses				
₩ % # %		and key stakeholders in the region. This user-centric approach				
掛		ensures that digital solutions will be developed that meet these needs and solve real issues and challenges. This plan supports the				
2		wider Tees Valley Digital Strategy, which sets an ambitious target of				
O.		becoming the UK's first Smart Region by 2032, covering the three				
		foundations of digital infrastructure, innovation and inclusions and				
		skills. This digital programme of investment will benefit all road				
		users.				
	CRSTS	Transforming Town Centre Accessibility				
		A project to improve the Victoria Road entrance to Darlington				
		Station including refurbishment of the portico, public realm area				
		and bus stops is in development.				
Bus	BSIP	Bus Service Improvements — supported bus services				
		TVCA received £1.5m of BSIP+ funding for 2023/24 and a further				
		£1.5m for 2024/25, to support bus service improvements. In				
		addition, in October 2023, TVCA received a further allocation of				
		£3.851M of BSIP funding for 2024/25.				
		In 2023, the bus network in Tees Valley was subject to commercial				
		service cuts from July 2023 and subsequently TVCA and the Local				
		Authorities carried out an extensive review of all changes and it was				
		collectively agreed that 2023/24 BSIP+ funding would be used to				
		mitigate the impact of these cuts. This funding has been used to				
		secure the following services until March 2025:				
		Service 6/6A, Darlington & Stockton (Stagecoach) previously				
		service 12 (Darlington), and part of service 17 (Stockton).				
		Services 17 & 18, Darlington (Arriva) previously part of services 3				
		& 3A.				
		Evening and Sunday services 3 & 4, Darlington (Arriva).				
		Funding for 2025/26 has been announced with £7.278M allocated to				
		TVCA. This sees an increase in provision. The Government has also				
		retained a bus fare cap, increased to £3 from £2 until the end of				

December 2025, whilst the Government considers further bus reform in the coming year.

The funding for the young person's fare offer, £1 per journey for under 22s is funded until June 2025.

In addition, the current DBC contract for the operation of service 16 was retendered in August 2024, and the service is funded to the end of March 2025 in line with other supported bus service contracts funded through BSIP.

TVCA are currently looking into the existing incentives and supported bus services and whether they should be procured beyond the current end dates indicated, along with other potential initiatives using the allocated BSIP funding, an announcement is expected shortly.

CRSTS

Advertising bus shelter contract

TVCA tendered for the replacement of the existing individually led Local Authority contracts with Clear Channel UK (CCUK), for a Tees Valley wide contract. CCUK were awarded the contract to provide and maintain advertising shelters in Tees Valley and offered the choice of two options for renewing the current stock of shelters and advertising revenue share. TVCA have opted to adopt their refurbishment option, which will involve CCUK installing several new digital advertising screens, and replacing shelters when they reach end of life. There is also a commitment to replace all shelters in major hubs such as the town centre.

CRSTS

The CRSTS business case identified a high-level list of bus priority schemes to be delivered across the Tees Valley. Since confirmation of funding, work has been progressing on finalising the list of schemes.

Darlington Western Connectivity – Town Centre to Faverdale

- Bondgate roundabout/Greenbank Road/Bondgate traffic signal improvements
- Cockerton roundabout and Carmel Road/Woodland Road dual roundabouts

<u>Darlington Eastern Connectivity – Town Centre to Morton Park</u> <u>onward to Teesside Airport</u>

• Tornado Way/McMullen Road (Yarm Road to B6279) bus priority

Darlington Northern Connectivity - Town Centre to Harrowgate Hill

- Burtree Lane Junction
- A1150/Thompson Street East roundabout.

Design work on the schemes is underway and at varying stages. Grant funding agreements in some cases need to be finalised.

	ZEBRA2	Tees Valley Zero Emission Bus Regional Area 2 (ZEBRA 2)
		Zero emission buses are being invested in and will be arriving in the
		Tees Valley from February 2025 with a number proposed for
		operation in Darlington. We are awaiting confirmation from the DfT
		on the exact details.
Active	ATE	The Active Travel Hub programme operates in Darlington and across
Travel	funding	the Tees Valley, with further emphasis on local community
5		engagement and public consultation, to support the delivery of
0.0		Darlington's and TVCA's ambitious vision for the LCWIP, with
		capital funding from Active Travel England (ATE).
		TVCA is reviewing the existing delivery model and an update is
		expected shortly as the current contract expires at the end of
		March 2025.
		nd Cycling Route Investment
		travel elements of the ATF, CRSTS, LUF2, ATF funded corridors
	detailed b	elow are part of the Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	hich is a long-term strategy to deliver a connected network of
	walking ar	nd cycling routes across the Tees Valley.
		
	ATF	Woodland Road - Phase 2 (ATF3) & (CRSTS)
		Woodland Road (Hollyhurst Road junction) – Denes (Tennis
		Court) – Deneside Road.
		Consultation on a proposed design has been carried out, and
		following feedback from ATE, DBC have received final sign off in
		December 2024. It is expected to be on site early in the new financial
		year 2025/26.
		<u>Darlington Station, Victoria Road entrance (ATF4E) & (Town's Deal)</u>
		In November 2023, TVCA submitted a bid to ATE, for active travel
		improvements to the Victoria Road entrance to Darlington rail
		station, which form part of wider improvements to the public
		realm.
	CRSTS	West Auckland Road - Phase 3 (CRSTS)
		A68 Deneside Road - Brinkburn Road.
		A design for walking/cycling route has been separated from the
		overall DBC roundabout improvement works, for consideration by
		TVCA. The scheme design has been reviewed by ATE who provided
		feedback on various elements.
		Varm Boad
		Yarm Road Varm Road to Toosside Airport
		Yarm Road to Teesside Airport
		WCD are carning out feasibility work an various ravite entires for
		WSP are carrying out feasibility work on various route options for a
	11.50	walking and cycling route linking Yarm Road to Teesside Airport.
	LUF2	Connecting Northgate to the Town Centre

		WSP have undertaken a feasibility study to improve the connection between Northgate and the Town Centre, this proposal is currently out to consultation and will be delivered in the financial year 2025/26 to meet funding requirements.
Motorists	LEVI	Electric Vehicle Infrastructure
₹		TVCA, in collaboration with the five Local Authorities, is delivering EV Charging Infrastructure, to achieve the EV related outcomes and actions set out in the STP. The project will set out the anticipated public EV Charging Infrastructure requirements across the Tees Valley and how local charging needs will be met over time to service the forecasted growth in EVs in the region.
		Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund The government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund aims to deliver a step-change in the scale of deployment of local, primarily low power, on-street EV charging infrastructure across England, and accelerate the commercialisation of, and investment in, the local charging infrastructure sector. Residents without off street parking are the primary focus of the LEVI fund.
	TSOG	Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant (TSOG) In December 2023, TVCA submitted a bid to DfT to replace unreliable and obsolete equipment in the traffic signals system. DBC have identified a priority list for signals that require replacement. The programme is managed by TVCA and Middlesbrough Council Traffic Signals and work will be complete by March 2026.
		TVCA are delivering a project to introduce advanced technology for traffic signals. The bid for funding was successful and the first phase has been implemented in Stockton which is currently being monitored. It is expected to roll out phase 2 in 2025/26 with Darlington sites being included in this phase.
	CRSTS	Improvements to the Urban Traffic Management Control System (UTMC) which will enable better management of the highway network and improve the efficient movement of buses will continue to be delivered by TVCA. The first phase of the delivery programme includes:
		 (a) The upgrade of the UTMC system; (b) Expansion of traffic signal connectivity to enable further development of a Smart Region approach to traffic management; the Fusion system is being developed. (c) The repair, service and reinstatement of traffic counters to enable strategies for traffic management to be implemented; (d) Additional CCTV cameras linked back to control rooms; (e) Dynamic journey time routes, providing real-time and accurate travel time information of transit vehicles to assist passengers in planning their trips to minimise waiting times;
		(f) ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) cameras to provide journey time data;

		 (g) Diversion routes for unplanned events and; (h) VMS signs to support major events, roadworks, incidents, and road safety campaigns around the Tees Valley.
Rail	CRSTS	Station Enhancements Access improvement work is proposed for stations across the Tees Valley including North Road Station. Feasibility is progressing with key stakeholders including Network Rail and the train operator Northern. The aim is to integrate the station more effectively with local transport and ultimately improving the passenger experience.

Local Highway Authority Funding - Darlington Transport Capital Programme 2025/26

The annual allocation split is identified in TVCA's Constitution and the breakdown, received in 2021/22 (although there's no requirement to maintain the same spending profile):

	Integrated Transport Block (Darlington Transport Plan delivery)	TOTAL
£2,174,998	£892,986	£3,067,984

Highways Maintenance – funding to maintain the highway network including structures and street lighting.

Allocation 25/26	£
Highways Maintenance	2,174,998
Less Fees (10%)	-217,450
Total	1,957,458

Integrated Transport Block - funding to manage and improve the highway network⁴

Darlington Transport	Scheme	2024/25	2025/26
Plan Objectives		(£k)	(£k)
Network Management			
Maintain and effectively	Traffic monitoring	20	20
manage a resilient	Traffic counter	10	10
transport system.	replacement		
	programme		
Active and sustainable tra	nsport		
Reduce transport's	Improvements to bus	50 – bus	10 – cycling
impact on the	passenger and cycling	20 - cycling	50 – PIP
environment and	facilities (town centre)		(Punctuality Improvement
support health and			Partnership)
wellbeing.	Dropped kerbs	50	50
Connect people to job			
and training	Public Rights of Way	15	60 (Stockton &Darlington
opportunities and link			Railway cycle links and
communities.			Rights of Way Improvement
			Plan)
Support a revitalised and	Walking and cycling	225	130
transformed Darlington	routes		

⁴ The integrated transport block represents a programme of transport improvements. Funding may be moved between elements as detailed design is completed.

town centre. Maintain and effectively manage a resilient transport system.	Car Club A68 Corridor Improvements	200	0
Speed Management and I	Road Safety programmes		
Improve safety for all road users	School speed management and safety schemes	140	330
	Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and other solutions	30	0
	Resident Parking Zone	0	50
	Area wide 20mph zones	0	50
	Subtotal	760	760
	Fees (15%)	133	133
	Total	893	893

Appendix D

Performance and monitoring information – 2023/24

1. Monitoring data for Public Transport, Traffic and Road Safety

Public	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Transport						
NHT Survey	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	42%	38%	41%
(reference						
PTB104)						
views of						
buses arriving						
on time						
Concessionary	2,167,240	628,055	1,094,852	1,262,825	1,373,451	Final data
Fares						awaited
Patronage						
Rail	2,507,812	575,088	2,147,338	2,336,372	2,472,920	Final data
Patronage						awaited
(all stations						
combined)						

Road User	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
Counts							
Peak period	19,023	14,753	18,460	19,417	18,836	18,322*	
traffic counts							
24 hour	125,017	94,007	117,811	120,815	121,286	122,601*	
traffic count							
(average)							
No of cycling	1,614	1,637	1,581	1,494	1767	1788*	
trips							
No of walking	111,042	48,958	83,124	Data not	104,539	103, 798*	
trips in the				available			

tours contro			
l town centre			

Notes for road user counts:

Peak period and 24 hour traffic counts are AM & PM combined flows

Cycle count data taken from 19 sites around the Borough.

Walking data taken from quarterly surveys from 12 sites around the ring road leading to the town centre.

Road Safety

Road Safety - Casualties (calendar year)		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of Fatal or							
Seriously injured road user casualties (KSI)			27	26	42	20	40
	Adult	44	27	36	43	38	43
	Child	5	2	5	4	0	2
	Total	49	29	41	47	38	45
Number of slightly injured	Adult	151	97	105	72	81	95
road user casualties	Child	15	14	8	17	12	16
	Total	166	111	113	89	93	111

^{*2024/25} data estimated based on counts throughout the year.

Road Safety - School Pedestrian Training (school year)	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
% of children taking part in pedestrian training from participating schools	52%	10%	47%	62%	49%	Available August 2025

Road Safety - School Cycling Training (financial year)	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
% of children taking part in cycle training (Year 5) from participating schools	25%	13%	29%	32%	34%	Available April 2025

2 - National Highways and Transport - Public Satisfaction Survey - 2024

Overall Summary

		Actua	l Scores	A	verage Scor	Ra	Rank	
	Theme		2023	TVCA	North East	National Average	TVCA Rank	NE Rank
$\overline{\sqrt{1}}$	Overall	48	47 👚	48 ↔	47 👚	46 👚	2	3
	Public Transport	48	44 👚	50 🖶	50 🖶	51 🖶	3	5
%	Walking/Cycling	53	52 👚	50 🛨	49 👚	50 👚	1	1
器	Tackling Congestion	44	44 ↔	45 🖶	44 ↔	42 👚	3	5
₹.	Road Safety	55	54 👚	53 👚	52 👚	50 👚	1	1
	Highway Maintenance	44	45 棏	43 👚	42 👚	41 👚	2	2
3	Accessibility	72	72 ↔	68 🛨	67 👚	67 🛨	1	1
	Communications	49	48 👚	47 👚	46 👚	46 👚	1	1



Key ★2024 score greater than ★2024 score less than ⇔2024 score equal to



- HMQI13 Provision of street-lights
- © PTQI08 Provision of bus Stops
- WCQI30 Provision of Pavements and pedestrian areas
- 10 out of 12 Accessibility indicators in the top 20
- © PTBI 05 How easy buses are to get on/off
- © PTBI 12 Raised kerbs at bus stops
- © PTBI 10 Personal safety on the bus
- **©** KBI 25 Street lighting
- © PTBI 09 Helpfulness of drivers
- © RSQI09 Provision of speed controls

- HMQI11 Number of potholes
- 84 BHMBI 30 Speed of repair to damaged roads
- 84 🖰 HMBI 01 Condition of road surfaces
- Average 75 CMQI07 Informed about local air quality
 - 70 😕 HMBI 13 Deals with Potholes and damaged roads
 - 69 8 HMBI 31 Quality of repair to damaged roads
 - 67 (KBI 23 Condition of highways
 - 66 CMQI06 Informed about action to repair local roads
 - 66 CMQI20 Informed about council actions on climate change
 - 66 HMQI12 Action to repair local roads

Indicator Performance

Total Indicators: 157

22

23

24

25

25

25

29

30

30

Above A	Average	Getting Better					
124	79%	109	69%				

Below A	Average	Getting Worse					
33	21%	50	31%				

	Actua	Actual Scores		Average Scores			Actua	l Scores	Average Scores		
	2024	2023	TVCA	North East	National Average		2024	2023	TVCA	North East	Nation Averag
Overall	$\overline{\sqrt{1}}$					Public Transport					
01. Overall (Theme Score)	48	47 👚	48 ↔	47 1	46 👚	Overall Public Transport	48	44 👚	50 🖶	50 🖶	51
(BI 00 - Overall Satisfaction	43	44 🖊	43 ↔	42 1	42 👚	KBI 06 - Local bus services (overall)	53	45 👚	53 ↔	53 ↔	55
KBI 01 - Importance vs Satisfaction (local)	51	49 👚	50 👚	49 1	49 👚	KBI 07 - Local bus services (aspects)	42	36 👚	48 🖶	49 棏	49
(BI 02 - Importance vs Satisfaction (national)	51	49 👚	50 👚	49 1	49 👚	KBI 08 - Public transport information	32	25 👚	30 👚	31 🛊	35
						KBI 09 - Taxi/mini cab services	56	51 👚	60 棏	60 棏	61
Walking/Cycling	್ ಂ					KBI 10 - Community Transport	57	54 👚	56 👚	55 👚	54
Overall Walking/Cycling	53	52 👚	50 👚	49 1	50 👚	KQI 03 - Responsive transport	52	51 👚	53 棏	51 👚	52
(BI 11 - Pavements & Footpaths (overall)	51	51 ↔	46 👚	47 1	49 👚	KQI 05 - Public transport information (aspects)	47	45 👚	47 ↔	48 棏	50
KBI 12 - Pavements & Footpaths (aspects)	51	52 棏	48 👚	48 1	48 👚						
(BI 13 - Cycle routes and facilities (overall)	54	52 👚	51 👚	50 1	50 👚	Tackling Congestion #					
(BI 14 - Cycle routes and facilities (aspects)	55	53 👚	50 👚	49 1	49 👚	Overall Tackling Congestion	44	44 ↔	45 棏	44 ↔	42
(BI 15 - Rights of way (overall)	57	54 👚	54 👚	53 1	53 👚	KBI 17 - Traffic levels & congestion	45	43 👚	46 棏	45 ↔	40
KBI 16 - Rights of way (aspects)	51	50 👚	48 👚	48 1	48 👚	KBI 18 - Management of roadworks	47	44 👚	47 ↔	45 👚	43
						KBI 19 - Traffic management	36	39 棏	36 ↔	39 棏	38
Road Safety	A					KQI 04 - Traffic pollution	49	48 👚	49 ↔	49 ↔	45
Overall Road Safety	55	54 👚	53 👚	52 1	50 👚						
KBI 20 - Road safety locally	57	53 👚	54 👚	53 1	50 👚	Highway Maintenance	3				
KBI 21 - Road safety environment	56	56 ↔	55 👚	53 1	52 👚	Overall Highways Maintenance	44	45 棏	43 👚	42 👚	41
KBI 22 - Road safety education	53	54 棏	49 👚	48 1	46 👚	KBI 23 - Condition of highways	25	28 棏	25 ↔	24 👚	24
						KBI 24 - Highway maintenance	45	46 棏	42 👚	42 👚	41
Accessibility						KBI 25 - Street lighting	66	62 👚	64 👚	62 👚	60
Overall Accessibility	72	72 ↔	68 👚	67 1	67 👚	KBI 26 - Highway enforcement/obstructions	40	43 棏	39 👚	38 👚	38
(BI 03 - Ease of Access (all)	76	75 👚	74 👚	72 1	71 👚						
(BI 04 - Ease of Access (disabilities)	66	69 🖶	63 👚	61 1	62 👚	Communications					
(BI 05 - Ease of Access (no car)	74	72 👚	68 👚	68 1	67 👚	Overall Communications	49	48 棏	47 👚	46 👚	46
ACQI25 - EV charging points	41	30 👚	41 ↔	38 🛊	38 🛊	KQI 02 - Communication (aspects)	49	48 棏	47 👚	46 👚	46