

## COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY 13 FEBRUARY 2020

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### LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

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#### SUMMARY REPORT

##### Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Members views on the outline Local Implementation Plan for Transport in Darlington in advance of public consultation in summer 2020. A policy framework has been developed on which to develop the Plan (attached in **Appendix 1**).
2. To provide an update to Members on highways and transport from a national, regional and local perspective, including delivery, performance and public satisfaction in 2019/20, and the proposed priorities for 2020/21. This is presented in a draft Cabinet Report (attached as **Appendix 2**).

##### Summary

3. In forming Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) the statutory responsibility for the Local Transport Plan now sits with the Combined Authority rather than the individual local authorities. TVCA has developed a Strategic Transport Plan to meet this duty. Following consultation, the Plan has been amended and has been considered by TVCA Cabinet on 31 January and approved.
4. There is still a requirement for a Transport Plan at a local authority level to demonstrate how the local authority will contribute to achieving the Tees Valley strategic aims, and to reflect local priorities and the highway authority's wider roles such as highway network management, asset management, parking and Rights of Way. This will be the Local Implementation Plan (LIP).
5. Darlington can now develop a Local Implementation Plan. Four ambitions have been drafted for the Plan that align with vision in the draft Council Plan, as follows:
  - (a) **Support economic growth** – by providing access to new development sites for employment and housing; access to jobs and a larger pool of labour for employers through better transport connections; and providing viable alternatives to single occupancy car use
  - (b) **Create opportunity** – by helping people (whether they have access to a car or not) to access employment or training opportunities both in the borough and across the wider region
  - (c) **To acknowledge the impact of transport on the environment and climate change** by monitoring the impact of traffic and seeking to improve air quality; reducing reliance on the car through encouraging the use of public transport, walking and cycling; and encouraging the use of lower emission vehicles

- (d) **Improve public health** by encouraging healthy, active travel; and by maintaining a good safety record through engineering, education, encouragement and enforcement
- 6. It is proposed that this will be the basis of consultation in summer 2020 and the final Plan will be approved by Cabinet and adopted by Council as part of the policy framework.
- 7. The current Transport Plan in Darlington (2011-2026) is based on a prioritised approach following extensive public consultation. This has been used to prioritise expenditure as follows:
  - (a) Maintain the highway asset – including roads, bridges, footways, street lighting and other assets such as bus shelters, car parks and traffic signals
  - (b) Manage the highway – to ensure that the Council meets its duties under the Traffic Management Act
  - (c) Improve the transport system including public transport and sustainable travel
- 8. Whether it is maintaining, managing or improving the highway network, all these activities contribute to the ambitions identified for the Local Improvement Plan. It is recommended that this approach is continued.
- 9. Progress is monitored through performance data and public satisfaction.

### **Recommendation**

- 10. It is recommended that: -
  - (a) Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee provide their views to Cabinet to inform the consultation process for the Local Implementation Plan.
  - (b) Members review the results of the consultation later this year to inform the development of the final Local Implementation Plan.
  - (c) Note the progress made on delivering the Third Local Transport Plan through an approach of Maintain, Manage and Improve.

### **Reasons**

- 11. The recommendations are supported for the following reasons: -
  - (a) To enable Cabinet to consider the views of the Communities and Local Services Committee in its recommendations on public consultation.
  - (b) To enable Members to consider the views of residents, visitors, businesses and other organisations in their recommendations to Cabinet on the final Plan.
  - (c) To use this as a benchmark to inform view on the proposed Local Implementation Plan.

**Ian Williams**  
**Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services**

## Background Papers

- (i) Darlington's Third Local Transport Plan; 2011-2026
- (ii) Tees Valley Strategic Transport Plan

Sue Dobson: Extension 6207

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	This will be considered as part of the consultation on the Local Implementation Plan.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	This will be considered as part of the consultation on the Local Implementation Plan
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address. However, the consultation may highlight issues and an Equalities Impact Assessment will be completed to inform the final Plan.
Wards Affected	All wards
Groups Affected	There are no proposals that impact on specific groups.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The report contributes to the Sustainable Community Strategy through the involvement of Members in contributing to the delivery of the five themes.
Efficiency	The update on the Local Transport Plan provides an opportunity to scrutinise and monitor service delivery and effectiveness.
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

#### Strategic Transport Plan

12. In forming Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA), the responsibility for the Local Transport Plan now sits with the Combined Authority rather than the individual local authorities. TVCA has therefore been developing a Strategic Transport Plan (its Local Transport Plan) which sets out the transport ambitions for people in the Tees Valley. These are:

- (a) You will be able to access the new jobs we are creating across Tees Valley

- (b) The quality and reliability of your daily commute will be improved, giving you confidence that you will get to where you need to be, when you need to be there
- (c) You will be able to rely on the latest technology, making travel as easy as possible
- (d) The air you breathe will be cleaner, thanks to reduced carbon emissions
- (e) Business productivity will be improved thanks to enhanced freight connectivity
- (f) More reliable, affordable public transport, walking and cycling options will be created so you can
  - (i) get to work
  - (ii) get to study at a nearby school, college or university
  - (iii) get to a hospital or a doctor's appointment
  - (iv) go shopping, visit friends and family, or enjoy one of our local attractions
- (g) Additional routes and improved access to Teesside International Airport, via public transport, will allow you to travel around the world for business or pleasure

13. The Plan then proposes how the outcomes will be achieved through actions and interventions. It is supported by implementation plans for bus, rail, road, freight and walking and cycling. Following extensive consultation, the Plan has been approved by TVCA Cabinet (31 January 2020) as the Local Transport Plan for the Tees Valley.

### **Local Implementation Plan**

14. The next stage is for each local authority to develop a Local Implementation Plan. Further clarity is still required on the relationship between the Strategic Transport Plan and the Local Implementation Plan, but it should both reflect the strategic and local priorities. A policy framework has been developed for Darlington. This will require public consultation following the Mayoral elections in May 2020.

15. The framework sets out four ambitions:

- (a) Support economic growth
- (b) Create opportunity
- (c) To acknowledge the impact of transport on the environment and climate change
- (d) Improve public health

16. The links to objectives, actions and policies can be found in **Appendix 1**.

### **Darlington Local Transport Plan**

17. Darlington's Third Local Transport Plan (2011-2026) sets out the current priorities for transport in Darlington. The Plan was developed during a period of significant budget cuts (40%) and therefore part of the consultation in 2010/11 asked people to prioritise how the available funding should be spent. This has been used to

allocate available funding and successfully seek additional external funding such as Maintenance Challenge Fund, National Productivity Investment Fund, Local Growth Fund Sustainable Access to Employment Programme and Access Fund. The priorities were set as:

- (a) Maintain the highway asset – including roads, footways, street lighting and other assets such as bus shelters, car parks and traffic signals;
  - (b) Manage the highway – to ensure that the Council meets its duties under the Traffic Management Act; and finally
  - (c) Improve the transport system including public transport and sustainable travel
18. Whether it is maintaining, managing or improving the highway network, all these activities contribute to the ambitions identified for the Local Improvement Plan. It is recommended that this approach is continued.
19. Progress is monitored through performance data and public satisfaction and the latest results can be found in the draft Cabinet report in **Appendix 2**.

### **Outcome of Consultation**

20. Tees Valley Combined Authority has developed in collaboration with the five constituent Local Authorities, a draft Strategic Transport Plan for the period up until 2029. TVCA is investing £256.7million into transport projects in the period 2019-2029 and this Plan will help to direct this investment. The Plan has a clear vision:

*“To provide a high-quality, clean, quick, affordable, reliable and safe transport network for people and freight to move within, to and from Tees Valley.”*

21. TVCA carried out a 12-week consultation on the Tees Valley Strategic Transport Plan between 28 August and 20 November 2019. There were 407 completed questionnaires providing feedback on the vision and the outcomes as well as asking respondents to prioritise what improvements to the transport system would make the biggest difference to their lives.
22. The consultation highlighted some key areas where the Plan could be strengthened:
- (a) Raising the profile of improving bus services
  - (b) More emphasis on access for vulnerable people, including people with disabilities
  - (c) Commitment to ensure that neither deprivation nor rurality should be a barrier to opportunity
  - (d) Changing the word ‘clean’ with ‘low carbon’ in the vision; and the ‘Environmental Protection and Enhancement’ objective to be amended to ‘Carbon Reduction and Environment’
  - (e) Strengthening the content around adaptation to climate change and ensuring that the network is resilient to extreme flooding events
  - (f) More emphasis on transport integration, including ticketing, to ensure a seamless customer experience
  - (g) Expanding the inter-relationship between the strategic road network managed by Highways England and the network managed by the local highway authorities

*(h) More clarity on the relationship between the Strategic Transport Plan and the Local Implementation Plans that will be the responsibility of the local authorities*

23. The revised Strategic Transport Plan has been approved by TVCA Cabinet on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020. This will then form the strategic context for the Local Implementation Plans which will be developed and approved by individual councils in 2020/21, following further guidance from TVCA.