

**Tees Valley Transport Committee  
Meeting took place using Teams  
27<sup>th</sup> July, 2020**

. These Minutes are in draft form until approved at the next Transport Committee meeting and are therefore subject to amendments.

**Attendees**

**Members**

Councillor Heather Scott - Chair (Leader of Darlington Borough Council)  
Councillor Andy Keir (Darlington Borough Council)  
Councillor Wayne Davies (Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council)  
Councillor Nigel Cooke (Stockton Borough Council)

**Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Mike Smith (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)  
Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher (Hartlepool Borough Council)  
Councillor Ashley Waters (Middlesbrough Council)

**Officers**

Tom Bryant Head of Transport, Tees Valley Combined Authority  
Dave Winstanley – Darlington Borough Council  
Tony Hanson – Hartlepool Borough Council  
Alan Weston – Tees Valley Combined Authority  
Sally Henry - Tees Valley Combined Authority

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

As noted.

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019 were agreed as a true record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

The Appointment of Vice Chair of the Transport Committee was deferred to the next meeting of the Transport Committee.

**COVID-19 TRANSPORT UPDATE**

Tom Bryant provided the Transport Committee with a presentation which highlighted the main effects COVID-19 has had on transport.

The presentation covered rail, buses, cycling and walking.

The Committee were then given an opportunity to ask questions and comment and this can be summarised as follows:-

**Rail**

Cllr Davies enquired whether trains can be used for pleasure now and was advised they can so long as passengers comply with rules around social distancing. There have been some issues with trains to the coast being very busy while the weather has been good but rail operators are aware of the issues. Cllr Scott advised it was raised at the recent Rail North meeting.

**Bus**

Cllr Keir enquired how the operators planned on dealing with an increase in passenger numbers when people start returning to work and school. He was advised that TVCA officers are working closely with operators and operators are putting on extra buses where feasible, but at this stage it is difficult to know precisely what the demand will be.

Cllr Cooke noted that he has noticed that Stagecoach have reverted to using double decker buses on some routes.

Tom Bryant agreed to provide an update in September and will keep local authority officers involved.

**Cycling & Walking**

Cllr Cooke enquired whether there had been any learning that can reassure members about the health and safety concerns surrounding E-Scooters.

Tom Bryant advised the committee that usage has been much higher than anticipated and the vast majority of users are complying with the requirements.

However, a small minority have tried to bypass the system and have broken the law. Steps have been taken to make it more difficult to abuse the scheme. There are ambassadors in Middlesbrough and geo-fencing allows you to restrict the area E-Scooters can be used. A throttle cut-off has been instigated so scooter cuts off once they go beyond the boundary. A license verification system is also being introduced. Every step has been taken, going above and beyond what DfT have recommended, to ensure the health and safety of users and residents alike. Where there is evidence an E-Scooter has been misused their account will be suspended and the police can take enforcement action.

Cllr Scott enquired whether the scheme had been supported by Durham Police for implementation in Darlington. Tom Bryant agreed to follow-up and report back.

Cllr Keir enquired about the accuracy of the geo-fencing. Tom Bryant agreed to establish how many metres it is accurate to and report back.

**RESOLVED THAT:-**

- Tom Bryant will provide an update on bus patronage in September;
- Tom Bryant will report back on whether E-Scooters have been supported by Durham Police for use in Darlington;
- Tom Bryant will establish the accuracy of geo-fencing and report back to the Committee.

**INTEGRATED TRANSPORT PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Tom Bryant and Alan Weston provided the Transport Committee with a high level summary of the Integrated Transport Programme.

The presentation covered:-

- Rail including station improvement, freight and W12 Gauge clearance;
- Road including Darlington Northern Link Road, Tees Crossing and Portrack Relief Road, A689 improvements and A19 grade separated junctions, Elwick Bypass and Hartlepool Western Link;
- Bus including Bus Corridor Infrastructure Plans, Bus Partnership and Tees Flex;
- Cycling and walking;
- Wheels to Work scheme;
- Urban Traffic Management & Control;
- Electric Vehicles and Alternative Fuels;
- STDC Transport Study
- ITP Programme

The Committee were then given an opportunity to ask questions and comment and this can be summarised as follows:-

Cllr Cook commented that it is important to raise the profile of the need for accessibility at Billingham Station.

Cllr Davies expressed concern that Tees Flex had not been promoted sufficiently to the elderly. He also commented that he would like to see it becoming more flexible in

the future as it is not currently going into some of the housing estates in East Cleveland. He also suggested it would be useful to introduce it to some new housing estates where there are no bus stops.

Cllr. Scott requested a breakdown of how Tees Flex is being utilised by district so publicity could then be focussed on the areas not currently utilising it.

Cllr Davies enquired if there had been any progress with talks over the Eastern Crossing and was advised that is being discussed as part of the interventions for the STDC site.

Cllr Davies enquired about progress with Roseberry Parkway. He was advised that a paper was being drafted and was being led by officers at Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland Councils. TVCA's position is that there is insufficient evidence at present around the strategic case for the scheme in the immediate future in order to justify investment in scheme development.

Councillor Scott thanked the officers for the extremely useful presentation and asked if the slides could be shared after the meeting.

**RESOLVED THAT:-**

- Tom Bryant agreed to set up a meeting between Cllr Davies, Officers from Redcar & Cleveland and Stagecoach to discuss Tees Flex.
- Tom Bryant agreed to circulate a breakdown of Tees Flex passenger trips.
- The presentations be circulated to members after the meeting.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed to schedule the next meeting of the Transport Committee in November 2020.

Tom Bryant advised members that Local Authority officers meet regularly so could provide updates to members if required. He also offered to provide a quarterly transport information note.