



Tees Valley Combined Authority Transport Committee
Agenda

www.teesvalley-ca.gov.uk

Date: Monday 7th December, 2020 at 1pm
Meeting to take place using Microsoft Teams

Membership:

Cllr Heather Scott - Chair (Leader of Darlington Borough Council)
Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher (Hartlepool Borough Council)
Councillor Andy Keir (Darlington Borough Council)
Councillor Ashley Waters (Middlesbrough Council)
Councillor Mike Smith (Stockton Borough Council)
Councillor Wayne Davies (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council)
Jerry Hopkinson (LEP Board Member)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Attached

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 27th July for approval.

5. Appointment of Vice Chair

6. Strategic Transport Plan Update

Presentation

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting: TBC

Tees Valley Combined Authority Declaration of Interests Procedures

1. The purpose of this note is to provide advice and guidance to all members (the Mayor, elected and co-opted members, substitute members and associate members) of the Combined Authority Cabinet, Sub-Committees and Local Enterprise Partnership Board, on the procedure for declaring interests. The procedure is set out in full in the [Combined Authority's Constitution](#) under the "Code of Conduct for Members" (Appendix 8).

Personal Interests

2. The Code of Conduct sets out in full, the principles on the general conduct of members in their capacity at the Combined Authority. As a general principle, members should act impartially and should not use their position at the Combined Authority to further their personal or private interests.
3. There are two types of personal interests covered by the constitution:
 - a. "disclosable pecuniary interests". In general, a disclosable pecuniary interest will involve any financial interests, such as paid employment or membership of a body, interests in contracts, or ownership of land or shares. Members have a pecuniary interest in a matter where there is a reasonable likelihood or expectation that the business to be considered will affect your well-being or financial position, or the well-being or financial position of the following persons:
 - i. a member of your family;
 - ii. any person with whom you have a close association;
 - iii. in relation to a) and b) above, their employer, any firm in which they are a partner, or a company of which they are a director;
 - iv. any person or body in whom persons described in a) and b) above have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or
 - v. any body as described in paragraph 3 b) i) and ii) below.
 - b. Any other personal interests. You have a personal interest in any business of the Combined Authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:
 - i. any body of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management) and to which you are appointed or nominated by the Combined Authority;
 - ii. any body which:
 - exercises functions of a public nature;
 - is directed to charitable purposes;
 - one of whose principle purposes includes influencing public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management).

Declarations of interest relating to the Councils' commercial role

4. The constituent councils of the Combined Authority are closely integrated with its governance and financial arrangements, and financial relationships between the Combined Authority and Councils do not in themselves create a conflict of interest for Council Leaders who are also Combined Authority Cabinet members. Nor is it a conflict

of interest if the Combined Authority supports activities within a particular council boundary. Nevertheless, there are specific circumstances where the Cabinet is considering entering into direct contractual arrangements with a council, for example in relation to a particular commercial investment project, or in which that council is a co-funder. In these circumstances a non-pecuniary declaration of interest should be made by the Council Leader or their substitute.

Procedures for Declaring Interests

5. In line with the Code of Conduct, members are required to adhere to the following procedures for declaring interests:

Register of Interests

6. Each member is required to complete a register of interests form with their personal interests, within 28 days of their appointment to the Combined Authority. Details of any personal interests registered will be published on the Combined Authority's website, with the full register available at the Combined Authority's offices for public inspection. The form will be updated on an annual basis but it is the responsibility of each member to notify the Monitoring Officer of any changes to the register throughout the year. Notification of a change must be made to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of becoming aware of that change.

Declaration of Interests at Meetings

7. The Combined Authority will include a standing item at the start of each meeting for declaration of interests. Where members are aware that any of their personal interests are relevant to an item of business being considered at a meeting they are attending, they must declare that interest either during the standing item on the agenda, at the start of the consideration of the item of business, or when the interest becomes apparent, if later.
8. Where members consider that their interest could be considered by the public as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the members' judgement then they may not participate in any discussion and voting on the matter at the meeting, but may attend the meeting to make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to the business, before it is discussed and voted upon.
9. If the interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest (as summarised in paragraph 3a) then the member must leave the meeting room during discussion and voting on the item of business, but may make representations, give evidence and answer questions before leaving the meeting room. Failure to comply with the requirements in relation to disclosable pecuniary interests is a criminal offence.

Sensitive Information

10. Members can seek the advice of the monitoring officer if they consider that the disclosure of their personal interests contains sensitive information.

**Tees Valley Transport Committee
Meeting took place using Teams
27th 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 18TH DECEMBER 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th 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.