

**Tees Valley Transport Committee
Cavendish House, Stockton-on-Tees
18th December 2019**

. 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 Christopher Akers-Belcher (Hartlepool Borough Council)
Councillor Wayne Davies (Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council)
Councillor Ashley Waters (Middlesbrough Council)

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Mike Smith (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)
Councillor Paul Howell (Darlington Borough Council)

Officers

Tom Bryant Head of Transport, Tees Valley Combined Authority
Tony Hanson – Hartlepool Borough Council
Andrew Corcoran – Stockton Borough Council
Dave Carter – Middlesbrough Council
Simon Houldsworth – Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Sally Henry - Tees Valley Combined Authority

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

As noted.

Cllr Howell (Darlington) has recently been elected as a Member of Parliament so will no longer represent Darlington on the Tees Valley Transport Committee. Cllr Scott advised that a new member representing Darlington will be appointed in the New Year.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5TH JULY 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th July were agreed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Akers Belcher queried whether an additional Eastern Crossing over the River Tees would have an impact on the levels of traffic currently using the A19 Tees Fly-Over.

Tom Bryant advised that modelling work has been completed to show that an Eastern Crossing would have minimal impact on the capacity issues on the A19 and agreed to share the assessment.

RESOLVED:-

- Tees Crossing Options Appraisal work to be shared with members of the Transport Committee.

There were no other matters arising.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER & SUBSTITUTE MEMBER TO TRANSPORT FOR THE NORTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee were advised that Transport for the North has requested a Tees Valley member sit on their Scrutiny Committee. The TfN Committee meets 4 times a year and the venue varies throughout the North.

It was agreed that Cllr Ashley Waters will represent the Tees Valley on the Transport for the North Scrutiny Committee.

Cllr Scott advised that once Paul Howell has been replaced she will recommend the new Darlington Councillor who will act as substitute member.

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PLAN CONSULTATION

Tom Bryant provided the Transport Committee with a presentation which covered an overview of the Strategic Transport Plan (STP) consultation.

Presentation included:-

- Process;
- Responses;
- Location of Responses;
- Vision & Objectives;
- Outcomes;
- Priorities;
- Potential to change travel behaviour;
- Proposed amends to the Strategic Transport Plan;
- Next Steps.

The presentation will be circulated to members after the meeting. Members were advised that a detailed consultation report is available on request.

A discussion followed and various queries raised which can be summarised as follows:-

- An Equality Impact Assessment will be included as an appendix to the Transport Plan Cabinet report in January;
- There was a request that consideration be given to an infographic showing how different modes of transport account for the total percentage of trips within the Tees Valley. It was felt that this would help to demonstrate how the impact of investment in one mode of transport would have a greater impact than another.
- It was noted that the response rate for the consultation was disappointing, however it was highlighted that there was a free text field which ensured that the respondents could be open and honest about their priorities;
- A potential Eastern Crossing was discussed and it was requested that if there is no appetite from within TVCA to progress this, then the Local Authorities with an interest could meet to discuss options. It was agreed that a meeting be arranged prior to January Cabinet, if feasible, with TVCA, Hartlepool, Redcar & Cleveland and Middlesbrough to discuss further.

Tom Bryant advised that there will be an annual report on progress that will be presented to the Committee. Progress will also be closely monitored through the Officer Groups.

RESOLVED THAT:-

- The presentation be circulated after the meeting;
- A meeting be arranged between TVCA, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland to discuss the Eastern Crossing.

GENERAL UPDATE

Tom Bryant provided a presentation which provided the Transport Committee with a general update on transport work currently on-going.

Presentation included:-

- New A19 Tees Crossing;

- Demand Responsive Transport – members were advised that this will launch early in 2020;
- Williams Rail Review;
- Northern Franchise;
- TransPennine Express;
- Wheels To Work.

It was requested that the presentation be circulated to members after the meeting.

Members suggested that the Wheels to Work branding should make it clear this is a Tees Valley project. They also suggested that a video promotion would be useful and that any promotional material be circulated.

The members enquired whether it would be possible to show where the people using the scheme go to work as well as where they live. Tom Bryant agreed to investigate and report back.

There was an enquiry about extending passenger rail services into East Cleveland in light of recent Government announcements. It was highlighted that both the significant infrastructure cost and likely on-going revenue subsidy requirement is likely to make this extremely challenging.

RESOLVED THAT:-

- The presentation be circulated after the meeting;
- The contact details for the Wheels to Work Scheme be circulated;

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Due to Purdah and Local Elections, the next Transport Committee will be scheduled for June 2020.

Cllr Scott wished all present a Merry Christmas.