

**Tees Valley Transport Committee
Cavendish House, Stockton-on-Tees
22nd March 2019 – 2:00pm**

Meeting was inquorate so these are informal notes of what was discussed rather than formal minutes.

Attendees

Members

Councillor Stephen Harker - Chair (Leader of Darlington Borough Council)
Councillor Lewis Young (Middlesbrough Council)

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Bob Norton (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council)
Councillor Mike Smith (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)

Officers

Alison Fellows (Investment Director, TVCA)
Richard McGuckin (Director of Economic Growth & Development, Stockton Borough Council)
Jonathan Spruce (Fore Consulting)
Sally Henry (Governance Officer, TVCA)
David Bishop (Director of Rail Projects, Systra)
Derek Gittins, Head of Heavy Rail, Nexus

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

As noted.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th January, 2019 could not be agreed as the meeting was inquorate. They will be carried forward to the next meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

DRAFT STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Alison Fellows introduced the item by explaining that the Strategic Transport Plan is a statutory document. It integrates with other strategies within the Combined Authority. The current draft of the Strategic Transport Plan Executive Summary incorporates comments made by the Tees Valley Chief Executives.

The Committee then received an update on the Strategic Transport Plan from Jonathan Spruce.

The presentation covered:-

- The Vision;
- Objectives & Outcomes;
- HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail;
- Darlington Station;
- Middlesbrough Station;
- The major Road Network;
- New Tees Crossing;
- Darlington Northern Link Road;
- Local Rail Network;
- Bus Network Delivery Options;
- Local Journeys;
- Social Equity and the Environment.

Jonathan then explained what the next steps are and the time scales involved. It is intended that the final Strategic Transport Plan will be developed by the end of 2019.

There was an opportunity for members to ask questions and comment and this can be summarised as follows:-

- How does the airport feature in the STP? It will unlock key sites and economic assets.

- Are we still looking at the twin track approach to bus service? Yes – the STP needs to lay out the aspirations of what is wanted from a bus service. Sheffield have recently a bus review and are happy to share their findings.
- Will there be a “plain English” version? Yes – it is intended to ask TVCA Comms Team to write it so it is not from a policy perspective.
- We need to state that we are influencing national decisions rather than just accepting them.
- 6 key themes - doesn't articulate what we are doing re: connecting economic assets or what we are trying to do. Our ambition is tremendous.

NORTH EAST RAIL REVIEW

David Bishop, Director of Rail Projects at SYSTRA and Derek Gittins, Head of Heavy Rail at Nexus, provided the Committee with a presentation on the North East Rail Review.

SYSTRA has been commissioned by Nexus/Tees Valley to undertake a study into the feasibility and potential benefits from further devolution of responsibility for local rail services.

Appraisal work has been undertaken and it suggests that an NER Operating Concession is the most likely governance structure to maximise delivery of benefits sought at an acceptable level of risk.

The next step is the development of an Outline Business Case to form the basis for a decision on which option should be taken forward to DfT/Williams Review. This will be completed by the end of March.

Strategic Outline Business Case to be completed by 28th June.

Members commented that local control is something we should be considering.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To Be Confirmed.