

**Tees Valley Transport Committee
Cavendish House, Stockton-on-Tees
5th July 2019 – 9:30am**

. 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)
Councillor P Howell (Darlington Borough Council)
Councillor Nigel Cooke (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Mike Smith (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)

Officers

Richard McGuckin (Director of Economic Growth & Development, Stockton Borough Council)
Tom Bryant (Head of Transport, Tees Valley Combined Authority)
Steve Payne (Strategic Transport Manager, Tees Valley Combined Authority)
Sally Henry (Governance Officer, Tees Valley Combined Authority)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

As noted.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Howells is a Councillor in Durham so declared an interest in any discussion about cross-boundary transportation.

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th January, 2019 and the notes from 22nd March were noted and agreed.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

Councillor Heather Scott nominated Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher as Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations.
The Committee unanimously agreed the nomination of Councillor Christopher Akers-Belcher as Vice-Chair.

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PLAN AND TRANSPORT PROGRAMME

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

The STP is a statutory document under the Local Transport Act 2008 and covers the authority's policies and delivery plans for transport, considers the transport needs of people and freight and is a reasonably succinct document which can be accessed and understood by a range of users.

The presentation included:-

- Challenges and opportunities;
- The Proposed Vision;
- Objectives and Outcomes;
- The structure of the plan;
- Themes within the plan;
- What the plan means for local people;
- The process which needs to be followed in order to get the STP published;
- Rail including Darlington Station, Middlesbrough Station and Teesport Rail Gauge Enhancement;
- Roads including the proposed new Tees Crossing and Darlington Northern Link Road;
- Durham Tees Valley Airport;
- Bus Network Delivery Options;
- Social equality and the environment;

- The Integrated Transport Programme.

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

- Is the change in the national political scene likely to impact on funding from DfT? This is unlikely to have an impact as government has already allocated funds for large transport schemes.
- An Eastern Tees Crossing was considered – has there been any analysis on the affect it would have on the existing Tees Crossing? From a funding perspective, is there a business case to bring this scheme forward? Initial feasibility work on the possible viability of an Eastern Crossing is due to be completed very shortly. It was emphasised that the A19 Tees Crossing scheme is very different in that it addresses congestion issues on the strategic road network.
- What are we doing to improve the quality of trains – how is rail travel going to be more affordable? Northern has been a commitment to upgrade all pacer trains by the end of the year. It will be easier to promote the network once the passenger experience has been improved. TfN are working on Smart ticketing across the bus and rail network. Making it more affordable is a real challenge and beyond the control of the Combined Authority.
- Airport - can the Transport Committee receive a more focussed session on the airport at a future meeting? Yes we can include that in the forward plan.
- Buses – can we have a more detailed discussion at a future meeting? A workshop with officers is planned and there will be an update on buses at a future meeting of the Transport Committee.

Councillor Scott thanked Tom for the presentation and asked if the dates of the Local Authority consultations could be circulated once confirmed.

It was agreed that the presentation and a copy of the draft STP be circulated to Committee members post-meeting.

The Chair suggested that it would be useful for the Committee to visit some of the sites discussed during the meeting and it was agreed that a half day bus tour be organised after the summer.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date is still to be confirmed but it was suggested that the Committee should meet again in November once the STP consultation has been completed.