



Minutes

Tees Valley Combined Authority Transport Committee
Teesside Airport Business Suite, Teesside International Airport, Darlington DL2
1NJ
10am Tuesday 17th October, 2023

Attendees
Members
Councillor Stephen Harker - Chair (Leader of Darlington Borough Council)
Councillor Libby McCollom (Darlington Borough Council)
Councillor Sue Little (Hartlepool Borough Council)
Councillor Peter Gavigan (Middlesbrough Council)
Councillor Carl Quartermain (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council)
Councillor Clare Gamble (Stockton Borough Council)
Apologies for Absence
Councillor Theo Furness (Middlesbrough Council)
Officers
Tom Bryant - TVCA
Alan Weston – TVCA
Sally Henry - TVCA
Guy Close – TVCA
Ant Hewitt – Darlington BC
Kieron Bostock – Hartlepool BC
Craig Cowley – Middlesbrough BC
Simon Houldsworth – Redcar & Cleveland BC
Andy Corcoran – Stockton BC

	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked members and officers for their attendance.</p> <p>Apologies for absence were noted as above.</p>
	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>Councillor Little declared an interest in her capacity as a transport manager in her husband's transport company.</p>
TC01/2023	<p>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>It was not possible to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7th February 2023 as none of the current committee members were members of the committee at the previous meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:- The minutes of the Transport Committee held on 7th February 2023 could not be approved.</p>
TC02/2023	<p>APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR</p> <p>The Chair invited nominations for the role of Vice Chair of the Transport Committee.</p> <p>Cllr McCollom nominated Cllr Quartermain for the role of Vice Chair and all other members agreed.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:- Transport Committee have nominated Cllr Quartermain as Vice Chair of the Transport Committee.</p>
TC03/2023	<p>APPOINTMENT TO THE TRANSPORT FOR THE NORTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</p> <p>The Chair invited nominations for a representative to the Transport for the North Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Cllr McCollom nominated Cllr Sue Little and this was seconded by Cllr Gavigan.</p>

	<p>RESOLVED THAT:- Transport Committee have nominated Cllr Sue Little as the representative on the Transport for the North Scrutiny Committee.</p>
TC04/2023	<p>SUMMARY OF TRANSPORT STRATEGY</p> <p>Committee members were provided a summary of Transport Strategy.</p> <p>TB advised that the Strategic Transport Plan (STP) was approved by Cabinet in January 2020. The STP defines the vision and objectives for transport and sets out the high-level actions that will be delivered. It also provides the framework for all transport investment.</p> <p>He further advised that Government is intending to publish new guidance on local transport plans and, when it does, the STP will be formally reviewed and updated.</p> <p>Committee members were invited to ask questions or comment.</p> <p>A committee member enquired when the STP will be reviewed. Committee were advised that officers did not believe that the strategic priorities have changed and a series of delivery plans focussed on the detail and responded to changing circumstances. The Committee agreed that it made sense to wait for the new government guidance before undertaking a formal review. Any proposed changes can be discussed at Transport Committee prior to being approved by TVCA Cabinet.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:- Transport Committee noted the update.</p>
TC05/2023	<p>CITY REGION SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SETTLEMENT (CRSTS) PROGRAMME PROGRESS</p> <p>Committee were provided an overview of progress made in the delivery of the £310m City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) Programme.</p> <p>Committee members were advised that the CRSTS funding was approved by government on 1st April 2022 following discussions between TVCA and government over a 12 month period. The fund is a 5 year, capital funding settlement for the period April 2022 to March 2027.</p> <p>The CRSTS Programme is based around 7 key investment packages and has 41 identified projects.</p>

In addition to the £310m, TVCA has secured an additional £128m of funding, either to support the projects identified or for complementary activity that supports the aims and objectives of the investment packages. Committee members were invited to ask questions or comment.

Councillor Little enquired whether the projects are currently on budget and was advised that no projects have been completed to date, but that the overall programme budget is being effectively managed at the present time. Some projects are part funded by previous funding streams and are expected to be completed within the next 2-3 months.

Councillor Gavigan asked whether mitigations are in place to allow for inflation. He was advised that this is the key risk to the delivery of the programme. This is being managed at a programme level and mitigations are in place such as adopting a phased approach to delivery with additional funding from other sources for future phases or potentially value engineering projects to the budget available.

TB advised Committee members that TVCA has worked collaboratively with Local Authority colleagues and demonstrated to government that the Tees Valley can deliver. He stressed that for CRSTS1 Government pushed their national priorities and had to agree the programme of projects. He stressed that there is an emerging pipeline of schemes so we are not starting with a blank canvas.

In the first round of CRSTS, the funding could not be used for road schemes. The Mayor and officers at TVCA are therefore pushing government for autonomy on future funding.

Cllr Quartermain asked what the remit of the Transport Committee is and was advised that the remit is laid out in the TVCA Constitution. It was agreed that the relevant section will be circulated to Transport Committee members.

Cllr Quartermain also enquired whether the progress on the CRSTS projects could be discussed at future Transport Committee meetings. TB advised that projects are discussed on a monthly basis with LA officers at the Transport Advisory Group meetings. He agreed that an overview of the programme will be brought to committee meetings in future and that committee members were welcome to attend the 5 weekly meetings held with LA officers.

RESOLVED THAT:-

- Transport Committee section of the TVCA Constitution to be circulated to members;
- An overview of progress with the CRSTS programme, including a list of projects, be brought to future Committee meetings;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee members be invited to attend the 5 weekly meetings with local authority officers; • The Committee note the content of the report and continue to work closely with TVCA to ensure delivery of the CRSTS programme within the required timeframe.
TC06/2023	<p>BUS OVERVIEW</p> <p>Committee members were provided an overview on a range of issues in relation to bus services and an update on the latest position.</p> <p>Committee were also advised that the TVCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee have established a sub-committee to review the effectiveness of the Bus Service Improvement Plan.</p> <p>Committee members were invited to ask questions or comment.</p> <p>Cllr Quartermain commented that he has received a number of complaints from Arriva passengers stating that buses don't show up or are late and that bus shelters are dirty.</p> <p>TB advised committee members that TVCA work closely with operators and monitor performance through the Enhanced Partnership. Bus operators can provide operational data and TB suggested inviting Arriva to attend the next committee meeting to provide an overview. Committee requested that data be provided in advance of the next meeting and that an overall performance figure is provided as well as by LA area.</p> <p>AW advised that, following a procurement exercise, Clear Channel will be appointed to supply, maintain, repair and replace bus shelters. The contract specification has been developed to improve the customer experience.</p> <p>TB advised that there is a history of partnership working between the public sector and bus operators in the Tees Valley. This has now been formalised through the Enhanced Partnership. Franchising was discussed and committee were advised that this is a complex statutory process which would place significant financial risk on TVCA. Cabinet has therefore agreed that the Enhanced Partnership was the preferred option. TB agreed to provide a summary paper on bus franchising at the next meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Gamble commented that it is not possible to purchase a through bus ticket for certain journeys and provided a specific example of the Service 61 changing to the 52. TB agreed to look into that specific example and report back to Cllr Gamble.</p> <p>Cllr Little enquired whether the Tees Flex could operate as a Dial-A-Ride service due to the shortage of disabled taxis.</p> <p>TB agreed to look into this as an option and report back to Cllr Little.</p>

	<p>Cllr Furness had enquired prior to the meeting why Tees Flex had been extended and it was explained that the service launched just as covid hit so it was extended in order to obtain a better picture of the trial.</p> <p>Cllr Quartermain enquired why there was not more information about Tees Flex in the report and was advised that the report was a broad overview on a range of bus issues, but if the Committee would like more detail in future we can factor that in to the reports.</p> <p>Cllr McCollom enquired how the decisions were made about how the BSIP+ funding was spent. TB advised that the funding was received at short notice and meetings were held with all 5 Local Authority Leaders and the Mayor. A value for money assessment was carried out that considered usage against cost per trip. The Local Authority Leaders took the decision about which services to support.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee note the content of the report; • Operational performance data for Arriva & Stagecoach to be provided to the Committee; • Arriva be invited to attend the next Committee meeting; • A summary note on bus franchising be brought to the next Committee meeting; • TB to investigate issues surrounding through ticket for Cllr Gamble; • TB to look into the option of a Dial-A-Ride service utilising Tees Flex; • Further information on Tees Flex to be brought to a future committee meeting.
TC07/2023	<p>ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY PLAN & FUNDING UPDATE</p> <p>Committee were provided an update in relation to the implementation of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in the region, the EV Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund.</p> <p>Committee were advised that the first phase of investment has already delivered 135 fast and rapid charging points in 36 local authority owned car parks.</p> <p>The EV Infrastructure Delivery Plan has been developed in collaboration with the five Local Authorities. The plan will be shared with committee members in due course and a final version will be published.</p> <p>The Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund aims to deliver a step-change in the deployment of local, primarily low power, on street EV</p>

	<p>charging infrastructure across England. The primary focus of the fund are residents without off street parking. The bidding deadline is 30th November.</p> <p>Committee members were invited to ask questions or comment.</p> <p>Cllr Little enquired about the number of electric vehicles there are in the Tees Valley. TB advised that this analysis is included in the Delivery Plan, which will be shared with the committee.</p> <p>Cllr Gavigan enquired whether there would be an advantage to all LAs working collaboratively on this to ensure that as you move around the Tees Valley, the infrastructure is the same. He was advised that it would be good to have a common position however the Local Authorities currently have differing views. This is being discussed at officer level prior to the bid being submitted to try and reach commonality wherever feasible.</p> <p>Cllr Quatermain enquired about train decarbonisation. Aw agreed to forward the Network Rail (NR) Decarbonisation Strategy.</p> <p>RESOLVED THAT:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee note the content of the report and that TVCA and the local authorities continue to work collaboratively on EV charging infrastructure; • The EV Delivery Plan will be circulated once drafted; • Supply Cllr Quartermain with copy of the NR Decarbonisation Strategy
	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Committee requested that meetings are scheduled to take place quarterly, with the next meeting scheduled to take place in January 2024.</p>