

AGENDA ITEM 8

**REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY
COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET**

27TH JULY 2017

**REPORT OF THE
HEAD OF TRANSPORT**

PORTFOLIO: TRANSPORT

TRANSPORT PLAN UPDATE

SUMMARY

Following the recent consultation on the Tees Valley Transport Framework 'Connecting the Tees Valley' a more detailed Strategic Transport Plan (STP) for the area is currently under development. The plan will have strong links to the Strategic Economic Plan and the Tees Valley Investment Plan and will provide a framework for our partnership working on transport issues with Department for Transport and its executive agencies such as Highways England and Network Rail. The plan will also inform our working with Transport for the North.

There is also a need for the strategic transport plan to address issues such as our strategy for the area's bus network and for cycling and walking, and to link to the Local Implementation Plans produced by each of the Tees Valley Authorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Combined Authority Cabinet note the update on progress towards development of a Strategic Transport Plan and supporting documents.

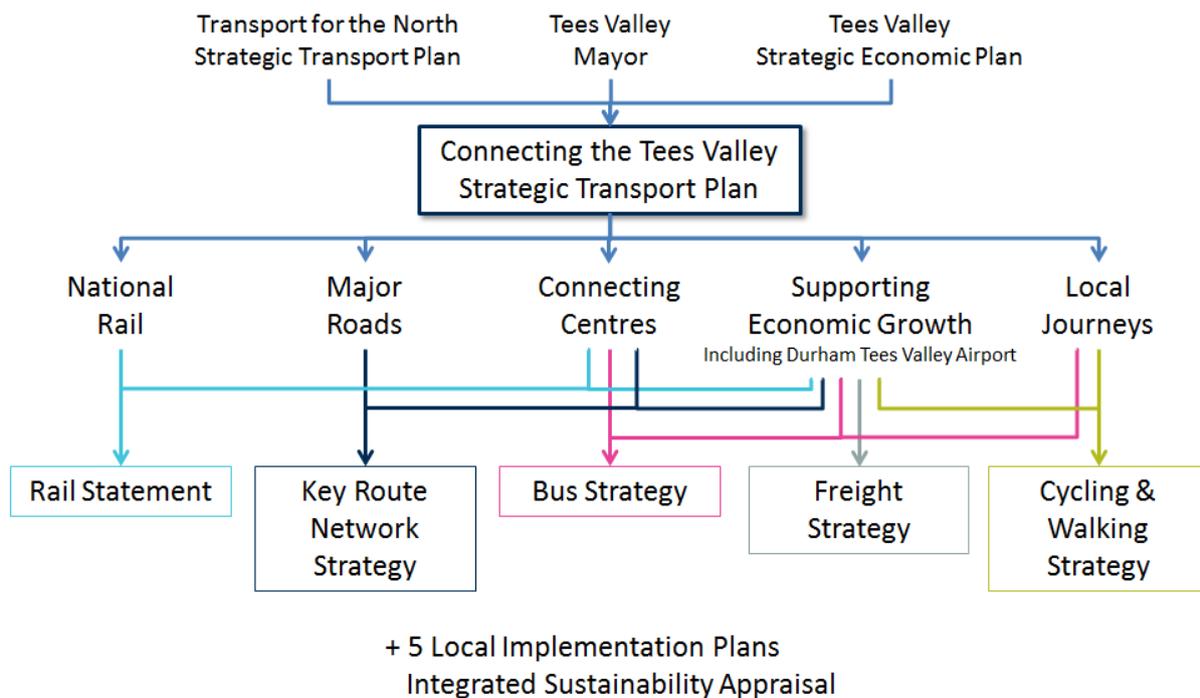
DETAIL

1. A Transport Framework document was published by the Combined Authority in November 2016, which outlined the five main themes for transport in the Tees Valley, including how the Combined Authority planned to make improvements to them. The five themes are:
 - National Rail;
 - Major Roads;
 - Connecting Centres;
 - Supporting Economic Growth; and
 - Local Journeys.
2. The five themes are closely linked together and all contribute to a vision for the future of transport in the Tees Valley:

“To provide a high quality, quick, affordable, reliable and safe transport network for people and freight to move within, to and from the Tees Valley”
3. The framework document underwent a period of consultation, and it received generally positive support. The consultation process also highlighted a number of areas where the strategy would need further strengthening.
4. Issues raised included improved bus services and ticketing, improved cycle links and parking, improved rail services, links and stations, various new and improved road proposals and improvements to general connectivity. A frequently raised issue in the consultation was Durham Tees Valley Airport, particularly its future utilisation and the position of the Combined Authority.

CURRENT STATUS

5. At their meeting of the 22nd of March the Transport Committee agreed a proposed structure for a Strategic Transport Plan, including the development of a number of supporting documents intended to provide a greater level of detail on particular priorities and modes.
6. The Transport Advisory Group are currently progressing a draft of the STP that incorporates feedback from the recent consultation. Initial drafts of the supporting strategies are also underway. A gap analysis has been undertaken to identify further content that needs to be included in the suite of documents. This will help ensure that the supporting strategies complement each other and the main STP.
7. The Draft STP will summarise the key transport asks for the Tees Valley, why they are needed and explore routes to delivery across national, regional and local funding opportunities. It will be relatively short in length. The main document will be kept brief by including much of the detail within the supporting strategies, as outlined within the following diagram.



8. A structure template has been produced to ensure consistency of style across the supporting strategies.
9. The TVCA transport team are currently producing a draft of a Tees Valley Bus Vision. This will be an outline of what a good Tees Valley Bus Network would look like and will inform a Bus workshop during July, with the operators and other interested parties. The outcomes from this summit will then inform the development of a Tees Valley Bus Strategy.
10. The Rail Statement and Key Route Network Strategy will provide more detail on our key road and rail ambitions, and be designed to interface with Highways England's Road Investment Strategy Process and Network Rail's Control Period investment process. The Freight Statement will be multi-modal and designed to influence various investment processes.
11. The Cycling & Walking Strategy is currently under review, in light of the recent publication of the DfT's Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy (CWIS). One of the recommendations from the strategy is the production of a Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan (LCWIP), which could be produced at a Tees Valley level and sit beneath the Cycling and Walking Strategy. It is proposed that a Tees Valley LCWIP will be based upon a Key Cycle Route Network, which will highlight the key active travel corridors across the Tees Valley and any gaps that require filling through investment from either the current LGF Sustainable Access to Employment programme or future funding bids.
12. Independent consultants are currently producing the Scoping Report for the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal. They will be engaging with statutory consultees within the next month and the outcomes will help shape the STP.

TIMESCALES

13. Structure and scope of STP has been agreed with Transport Committee and Elected Mayor.

- Early Aug 2017 – Draft of STP and associated daughter documents produced for discussion
- 5th Sep 2017 – Transport Committee to consider information prior to consultation period
- Early Sep – Oct 2017 – Potential for statutory 12 week consultation period
- Nov – Dec 2017 – Finalise STP and supporting documents based upon consultation responses
- Early Jan 2018 – Transport Committee to consider STP and consultation findings prior to publication
- Jan 2018 – Publication of final STP

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14. Funding for development of the strategic Transport Plan has been committed as part of the TVCA's budget.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

15. The TVCA are responsible for developing a Transport Plan for the area. Part 4 of the Tees Valley Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2017 includes as an exercisable function of the Combined Authority the functions of the constituent councils as local transport authorities; as contained in Part 2 (local transport) of the 2000 Act. Part 2 (local transport) of the 2000 Act includes the preparation of local transport plans as a duty.

RISK ASSESSMENT

16. Development of the Strategic Transport Plan is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.”

CONSULTATION

17. Consultation has taken place on the initial Transport Framework developed to inform the draft Strategic Transport Plan. A full Statutory Consultation will be undertaken on the STP once a final draft has been agreed. Consultation on the Scoping Report for the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal commenced with Statutory Consultees at the beginning of July.

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