

AGENDA ITEM 6

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

28 MARCH 2018

**REPORT OF THE
HEAD OF TRANSPORT**

PORTFOLIO: TRANSPORT

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PLAN AND TRANSFORMING CITIES FUND

SUMMARY

The Tees Valley Combined Authority Transport Committee has led on the development of a Draft Strategic Transport Plan with supporting documents. It is proposed that the Combined Authority consult on the plan with the public and key stakeholders between May and August 2018 through an event within each local authority and an online and paper-based questionnaire.

At the Autumn 2017 Budget, the Chancellor announced a £1.7 billion Transforming Cities Fund (TCF). The allocation for the Tees Valley Combined Authority is £59 million for the period 2018/19 to 2021/22. Guidance has recently been issued on the application of the Fund. The investment should be focused on improving public and sustainable transport, helping to reduce congestion and on improving air quality. DfT are also keen that areas consider the use of new mobility systems and technology. These priorities fit well with the Tees Valley's own priorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Combined Authority:

- i. Note the work led by the Transport Committee to develop the Combined Authority's first ever statutory Strategic Transport Plan
- ii. Note the allocation to the Tees Valley Combined Authority from the Transforming Cities Fund
- iii. Delegate finalisation of the plan to the Mayor and Chair of the Transport Committee in consultation with other Members of the Cabinet

DETAIL

Tees Valley Draft Strategic Transport Plan

1. The Tees Valley Combined Authority Transport Committee has developed a Draft Strategic Transport Plan in partnership with the five Local Authorities. This has included close collaboration on the development of the individual documents with officers at each of the authorities via the Transport Planning Officers Group (TPOG) and the Transport Advisory Group (TAG). In addition to regular updates, two workshops have been held with the Combined Authority Transport Committee to inform the plan's development.
2. The Plan has strong links to the Strategic Economic Plan and the Tees Valley Investment Plan. There is a need for the strategic transport plan to address issues such as the area's strategy for the cycling, walking, bus, rail and road networks and to guide and inform the use of Integrated Transport block funding by each of the Tees Valley Authorities.
3. A framework document was published in November 2016, which outlined the five main themes for transport in the Tees Valley, including what and 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.

Since this time an additional cross-cutting theme has been added:

- To Protect and Enhance the Local Environment.
4. The six themes are closely linked together and all contribute to the suggested 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”
 5. The framework document underwent a period of consultation, which received generally positive support but highlighted a number of areas where the strategy would need further strengthening.
 6. Mindful that we did not want the Strategic Transport Plan to become obsolete too quickly, we have adopted the approach of viewing the Plan as a suite of documents, with the Strategic Transport Plan being the overarching transport policy for the Tees Valley Combined Authority, and with much of the detail of what is needed to support our vision for transport being contained within a series of daughter documents, which will be updated regularly as delivery of the identified actions and interventions occurs. The documents are the:

- Tees Valley Road Strategy;
- Tees Valley Rail Strategy;
- Tees Valley Freight Strategy;
- Tees Valley Bus Vision; and
- Tees Valley Cycling & Walking Strategy.

These documents will also be supported by Local Implementation Plans (LIPs) produced by each of the local authorities following the plan's adoption. These LIPs will align local responsibilities and sources of funding with the overall Transport Plan. There will also be an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal of the Strategy.

7. Subject to agreement of the draft documents by the Cabinet, it is proposed to format and design the documents and then consult on the Strategy between May and August 2018. Key stakeholders and the public will be able to view the documents on the Combined Authority's website and at selected locations. There will also be a launch event plus a roadshow held within each of the local authorities. Stakeholders will be given the opportunity to comment on the Strategy through an online questionnaire and the normal postal and email channels. The Transport Plan and its supporting documents will be finalised for publication during April and an appropriate foreword agreed with the Mayor and Chair of the Transport committee prior to the release for consultation.
8. Informed by the findings of the consultation process, the final Strategic Transport Plan will be published during autumn 2018.

TRANSFORMING CITIES FUND

9. The Transforming Cities Fund is part of the Government's National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF), which was announced in 2016. The Chancellor recently announced the NPIF would be extended by a further year (to 2022/23) and enlarged from £23bn to £31bn. A proportion of the fund is for transport.
10. £850m of the TCF fund was awarded directly to the 6 Mayoral Combined Authorities on a per capita basis. It is Capital funding to be used for local transport improvements. A remaining £850m is available to other cities of the UK via a competitive bidding process. Scotland has received a discrete allocation of £300m.

Mayoral Combined Authority allocations

£74m for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough;

£243m for Greater Manchester;

£134m for Liverpool City Region;

£80m for West of England;

£250m for the West Midlands; and

£59m for Tees Valley.

11. The fund will be allocated over four years: £140m in 2018/19; £355m in 2019/20; £485m in 2020/21; and £1.01bn in 2021/22.

The Tees Valley Allocation is profiled as follows:

18/19 £4m
19/20 £13m
20/21 £18m
21/22 £24m

Deployment of the Transforming Cities Fund

12. In establishing the fund, Government have suggested that the Transforming Cities Fund should be invested in transport plan outcomes with a particular emphasis on improving public and sustainable transport, helping to reduce congestion and on improving air quality. The TVCA is also encouraged to consider the use of new mobility systems and technology.
13. These objectives align very closely with our draft Transport Plan and the action plans associated with the Transport Plan's supporting documents provide an excellent basis upon which to define a programme of interventions targeted at these priorities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14. Preparing the draft Strategic Transport Plan has involved the use of external resources, and the Transport Committee approved development funding from the Combined Authority for this purpose. A total of £70,000 was allocated to the activities needed to produce the draft Plan, including to assist with technical work and to resource a statutory public consultation process.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

15. None.

RISK ASSESSMENT

16. This 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. The Framework Strategic Transport Plan underwent a period of consultation between November 2016 and January 2017. The Draft Strategic Transport Plan will be consulted upon over the summer of 2018 before the final Strategic Transport Plan is published in the autumn.

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