

AGENDA ITEM 8**REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY
COMBINED AUTHORITY
CABINET****26 JULY 2019****REPORT OF THE
HEAD OF TRANSPORT****PORTFOLIO: TRANSPORT****STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PLAN****SUMMARY**

The Tees Valley Combined Authority is the Local Transport Authority for the Tees Valley and has therefore led on the development of a draft Strategic Transport Plan. It is proposed that the Combined Authority consult on the plan with the public and key stakeholders between August and October 2019 through an online and paper-based questionnaire and at least one event within each local authority area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Combined Authority Cabinet:

- i. Approve the draft Strategic Transport Plan for the purposes of consultation between August and October 2019 (**Appendix 1**);

DETAIL**Tees Valley Draft Strategic Transport Plan**

1. The Tees Valley Combined Authority has developed a draft Strategic Transport Plan (summary and full version attached as **Appendix 1**) in partnership with the five Local Authorities. This has included close collaboration on the development of the plan with officers at each of the authorities via the Transport Planning Officers Group (TPOG) and the Transport Advisory Group (TAG). Two workshops have also been held with the Combined Authority Transport Committee to inform the plan's development.
2. Over the 10 years up to 2026, the Tees Valley Strategic Economic Plan sets out the aim to create 25,000 new jobs and build 22,000 new homes. To ensure that everyone in Tees Valley is able to work, study, enjoy and fully participate in these ambitious plans for the future, there is a need for a world class transport system. Transport is about connecting people and businesses in the Tees Valley and beyond.

Delivering a world-class transport system that is fit for the future is a critical enabler for the success of the area.

3. Based on this, the proposed transport vision for Tees Valley is:

“To provide a high quality, clean, quick, affordable, reliable and safe transport network for people and freight to move within, to and from the Tees Valley”
4. To support the vision, three broad objectives are proposed which reflect the main challenges and opportunities facing the Tees Valley:
 - Social opportunity – helping people access jobs, education, services and leisure opportunities and improving public health;
 - Economic growth – delivering the Strategic Economic Plan and the economic growth plans of Tees Valley Local Authorities; and
 - Environmental protection and enhancement – addressing the impact of the transport network on the environment and supporting the legislative requirements to reduce air and noise pollution, carbon emissions and detrimental impacts on the natural and built environment.
5. Based on feedback received there is now more emphasis in the plan on local journeys, whilst recognising that very often improving local journeys requires action on a larger scale. For example, the frequency and service patterns on our local rail network are determined by the interaction of local trains at the national rail gateways of Darlington and Middlesbrough. Congestion and incidents on the main highway network, particularly the A19 and the A66, have a major impact on the operation of more local roads, including those on which the core bus services operate.
6. The plan also includes a section outlining what the plan means for everyone living, working, having a business or visiting the Tees Valley.
7. To deliver against the vision and objectives a framework has been developed around six themes. No one theme is more important than the other, but the plan is set out in this way to recognise where the Tees Valley has more autonomy through the devolution deal to bring forward the right intervention, at the right time. The six themes are set out below:
 - National rail;
 - Major roads;
 - Connecting economic centres;
 - Unlocking key sites;
 - Local journeys; and
 - Deliver social equality and protect and enhance the environment.
8. The plan has been developed as a suite of documents, with the Strategic Transport Plan being the overarching transport plan for the Tees Valley. The detailed actions are then set out within a series of Implementation Plans including the:

- Tees Valley Road Implementation Plan;
- Tees Valley Rail Implementation Plan;
- Tees Valley Freight Implementation Plan;
- Tees Valley Bus Implementation Plan;
- Tees Valley Cycling & Walking Implementation Plan; and
- Tees Valley Airport Implementation Plan

9. These implementation plans will be dynamic and will enable the Combined Authority to be agile when responding to new challenges and opportunities.
10. These documents will 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 Strategic Transport Plan. There is also an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal, which is aimed at ensuring the early integration of sustainability considerations within the plan.

Consultation

11. It is proposed to undertake a 12-week consultation on the plan between August 2019 and October 2019. Statutory consultees, 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 at least one roadshow held within each of the local authorities where access will be carefully considered to ensure as many people as possible are able to contribute. Consultees will be given the opportunity to comment on the plan through an online questionnaire and the normal postal and email channels. The proposed consultation timetable, which is still to be confirmed, is set out below.

Proposed consultation timetable	
W/C 12/08/19	12-week consultation commences
Throughout September 2019	Consultation exhibition Darlington
	Consultation exhibition Hartlepool
	Consultation exhibition Middlesbrough
	Consultation exhibition Redcar & Cleveland
	Consultation exhibition Stockton-on-Tees
W/C 4/11/19	Consultation Ends

12. Informed by the findings of the consultation process, the final Strategic Transport Plan will come back to Cabinet for formal approval in early 2020 and will then be published.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

13. None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

14. None.

RISK ASSESSMENT

15. 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 & COMMUNICATION

16. The draft Strategic Transport Plan has been discussed with local authorities, at the Chief Executives Group and at Transport Committee. There will be a public consultation between August 2019 and October 2019, before the final plan is published at the beginning of 2020.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

17. An Equality Impact Assessment of the Strategic Transport Plan has been undertaken as part of the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal. The equality and diversity impacts of individual projects and schemes will be considered during development.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

18. This item has been considered at the LEP meeting in advance of it coming forward to Cabinet.

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Appendix 1 – Summary and full version of the draft Strategic Transport Plan