

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....19th June 2008

1. Title of Item/Report

Tees Valley Bus Network Improvements

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report relating to Tees Valley Bus Network Improvements.

On 7 September 2006, Cabinet authorised the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit – acting on behalf of the Council and its partner Authorities in the sub-region – to develop and submit a Major Scheme Business Case for the Tees Valley Bus Network Review to the Department for Transport. It was advised that following rejection of the initial Business Case submitted in October 2006, a revised Business Case for the scheme was submitted to the Department for Transport on 29 February 2008.

Members of Cabinet were advised of the key elements of the proposed scheme.

It was explained that a decision from the DfT on whether to grant 'Conditional Approval' for the scheme was due by the end of August 2008 and, if the decision was positive, 'Full Approval' was expected follow by the end of the calendar year. It was noted that subject to approval being granted, works 'on the ground' were expected to commence early in 2009, with completion of the scheme as a whole envisaged by mid-2011.

It was explained that given the above timescale, work was currently underway to develop a detailed Project Plan for delivery of those elements of the scheme within the Borough over the next three years.

Members of Cabinet were advised that assuming that Conditional Approval for the scheme was secured in August 2008, a Borough-wide publicity campaign would be carried out over the remainder of the calendar year.

It was noted that a further report, updating Members on progress, would be brought to Cabinet in October 2008.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The scope of the Tees Valley Bus Network Improvements, and the implications of the scheme for the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees be noted.
2. The submission of a revised Major Scheme Business Case to the Department for Transport on 29 February 2008 be noted, and that the Department's decision on 'Conditional Approval' is expected by the end of August 2008.
3. Subject to Department for Transport approval of the Major Scheme Business Case, officers be authorised to pursue the preferred strategy for delivery of the scheme as outlined within the Report.
4. The intention to carry out a Borough-wide publicity campaign following the granting of Conditional Approval for the scheme be noted.
5. A further Report, updating Members on progress, be brought to Cabinet in October 2008.

3. Reasons for the Decision

Improvements to the public transport infrastructure are central to the delivery of key elements of the local transport plan and will make significant changes to the mode of travel available to the community.

This scheme is intended to not only halt the decline in bus patronage but to make positive changes to the way in which people travel to and from work and access services and facilities.

Central to this project will be an improvement in the quality of the public transport services offered in the Tees Valley which will be measurable through the satisfaction level with bus services.

Coupled with this scheme will be a consultation programme and publicity campaign that will raise the profile of public transport in the area and encourage modal shift towards more sustainable transport.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not Applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Not later than Midnight on Friday 27 June 2008

Proper Officer  
23 June 2008