

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

14 AUGUST 2008

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Regeneration and Transport – Lead Cabinet Member: Councillor R Cook

2008 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

1. Summary (expanded report summary)

In 2008, the Department for Transport requires Local Transport Authorities to review the progress made to date in delivering their Second Local Transport Plans, and to prepare and publish concise Progress Reports.

The purpose of this Report is to advise Members of the progress made to date against the targets set within the Second Stockton-on-Tees Local Transport Plan, together with the timescale for the preparation and submission of the Council's 2008 Progress Report.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Members note the progress made in 2006/07 and 2007/08 towards the targets set in the Second Stockton-on-Tees Local Transport Plan; and
2. Members note the requirement placed upon the Council to prepare and publish a Local Transport Plan Progress Report in 2008, and the proposed timescale for preparation and submission of this document.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

To ensure that Members are aware of the progress being made towards the targets set in the Second Stockton-on-Tees Local Transport Plan, and the Department for Transport's reporting requirements for 2008.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to

prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

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SUMMARY

In 2008, the Department for Transport requires Local Transport Authorities to review the progress made to date in delivering their Second Local Transport Plans, and to prepare and publish concise Progress Reports.

The purpose of this Report is to advise Members of the progress made to date against the targets set within the Second Stockton-on-Tees Local Transport Plan, together with the timescale for preparation and submission of the Council's 2008 Progress Report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Members note the progress made in 2006/07 and 2007/08 towards the targets set in the Second Stockton-on-Tees Local Transport Plan;
2. Members note the requirement placed upon the Council to prepare and publish a Local Transport Plan Progress Report in 2008, and the proposed timescale for the preparation and submission of this document.

DETAIL

1. In 2008, the Department for Transport (DfT) requires Local Authorities to review the progress made to date in delivering their Second Local Transport Plans (LTPs) and to prepare and publish concise Progress Reports.
2. As well as providing an opportunity for Authorities to assess the progress made between 2006 and 2008 towards the objectives and targets set in their LTPs, the Progress Reports will also allow Authorities to consider any opportunities or threats to the effective delivery of their LTPs over the remaining three years of their life, i.e. between 2008 and 2011. The Progress Reports also offer an opportunity for engagement with key delivery partners and stakeholders, including Local Strategic Partnerships.
3. Unlike in previous years, the Progress Reports submitted by Local Authorities in 2008 will not be assessed or scored by the DfT, and no funding will be allocated on the basis of the information supplied. Instead, the DfT hopes that Progress Reports will form part of a constructive and open relationship between Local Authorities and their regional Government Office.

4. The DfT envisages that, in each case, this dialogue will be concluded with a formal meeting to discuss progress and consider strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to the delivery of the LTP. Although there is no formal timescale for the submission of Progress Reports, the DfT hopes that all Reports will be completed by December 2008 in order to feed effectively into the remaining years of the Second LTP.

Progress Towards LTP Targets

5. The LTP contains a total of 29 indicators – 17 ‘Mandatory’ (i.e. set by the DfT) and 12 ‘Supplementary’ (i.e. set locally) – against which progress is monitored on an annual basis. These indicators are detailed in **Appendix 1**, together with the progress made in 2006/07 and 2007/08 towards the targets set in each case.
6. Whilst not all of the indicators are currently ‘On Track’, progress overall is encouraging. Key achievements include:
 - The long-term decline in bus patronage across the Borough appears to have been halted;
 - Rail patronage is increasing sharply, with the target set for 2010/11 already exceeded;
 - Cycle trips are increasing, albeit at a slower rate than anticipated;
 - Overall traffic growth is starting to slow, with no increase in peak time journeys to the Borough’s four town centres between 2006/07 and 2007/08; and
 - Road casualties are reducing, with 2007 representing the best year on record.

Substantial progress has also been made in a number of other areas, notably carriageway and footpath maintenance, school travel plans, cycle & pedestrian training and the number of non-statutory journeys carried by the Council’s Community Transport Service.

7. The main area where performance is significantly ‘Off Track’ is satisfaction with local bus services and with public transport information. Members will be aware that a Major Scheme Business Case for the Tees Valley Bus Network Improvements – the first stage in a radical restructuring of the sub-regional bus network – was submitted to the DfT in February 2008, and a decision is expected by the end of September. In addition, the Council has allocated over £300,000 of additional capital funding over the three years from 2008/09 to 2010/11 to improve the quality of timetable and route information provided both at bus stops and through a wide range of outlets across the Borough.
8. A number of the indicators monitored through the LTP are also former Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs). Whilst many of the former BVPIs have been superseded by National Indicators (NIs) forming part of the basket of 198 such indicators to be monitored by all Local Authorities, a number have not. The ‘Comments’ column in **Appendix 1** identifies these indicators and sets out the action proposed in each case.

Timetable for Preparation of the 2008 Progress Report

9. Preparation of the 2008 Progress Report is currently underway. In order to ensure that the final Report is submitted to the Government Office for the North East (GO-NE) and the DfT by the end of the year, the following timetable is envisaged:

Action	Timescale
Prepare Consultation Draft of Progress Report.	Early August 2008
Consult with key delivery partners and stakeholders.	Early August to end September 2008
Consider responses to consultation exercise and amend Progress Report as necessary.	October 2008
Prepare and submit final Progress Report.	November 2008

Copies of the Consultation Draft will be placed on the Intranet and in the Members' Library to ensure that Members have the opportunity to submit comments should they so wish.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. Unlike in previous years, the Progress Reports submitted by Local Authorities in 2008 will not be assessed or scored by the DfT, and no funding will be allocated on the basis of the information supplied.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11. None.

RISK ASSESSMENT

12. The activities flowing from the recommendations contained within this Report are categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities will be sufficient to control and reduce risk.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

13. The policies and associated measures set out in the final Second Local Transport Plan contribute to the delivery of all five of the Core Improvement Themes set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy. Specific examples are highlighted in the Table below:

Core Improvement Theme	Key Ambition	Example of Contribution from LTP
Economic Regeneration and Transport	Improved transport networks	Tees Valley Bus Network Improvements major scheme.
Environment and Housing	Tackle climate change	Promotion of walking, cycling and public transport as attractive alternatives to the private car.
Safer Communities	Reduce crime and the fear of crime	Introduction of CCTV cameras on buses, at bus stops and at public transport interchanges.
Children and Young People	Stay safe	Introduction of 'Safer Routes to School' schemes, linked to School Travel Plans.

Core Improvement Theme	Key Ambition	Example of Contribution from LTP
Healthier Communities and Adults	Improved access to health services	The 'Community Lynx' demand-responsive bus service, providing access to healthcare for residents living in areas of the Borough not served by scheduled bus services.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

14. This Report highlights the progress made to date towards the targets set for each of the indicators monitored through the Second LTP, rather than recommending any changes to the Council's current transport policy. It is not, therefore, subject to an Equality Impact Assessment.

CONSULTATION, INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

15. The Council undertook a major consultation exercise as part of the Second Local Transport Plan preparation process. This exercise involved key local transport stakeholders and the residents of the Borough, thereby ensuring that the objectives of the Plan are as consistent as possible with local needs.
16. The guidance issued by the DfT recommends that Local Authorities undertake a limited consultation exercise as part of the process of preparing their 2008 Progress Reports. A consultation draft of the Progress Report will be issued to key delivery partners and stakeholders during the summer, with comments invited by the end of September. The list of consultees includes:
- GO-NE;
 - The Economic Regeneration & Transport Thematic Partnership of Stockton Renaissance;
 - The Environment Thematic Partnership of Stockton Renaissance;
 - The four Renaissance Area Partnership Boards;
 - The four Area Transport Strategy Steering Groups;
 - Ward Councillors; and
 - Local transport providers (e.g. bus and train operators).

All comments received during the consultation period will be taken into account during the preparation of the final version of the Progress Report.

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Background Papers:

None.

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

All.

Property:

None.