

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting5th February 2009

1. Title of Item/Report

Local Transport Act

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report relating to the Local Transport Act. The Act received Royal Assent in November 2008, following an 18 month passage through the legislative procedures.

Members of Cabinet were informed that the Act had three main parts:

- It enabled local authorities to improve the quality of local bus services;
- It reformed the arrangements for local transport governance in major conurbations; and
- It reformed the existing legislation relating to local road pricing schemes.

It was explained that during the Bill's passage through Parliament, the Tees Valley authorities and other partner organisations had been working together in anticipation of the Act to produce a locally-tailored response to all three parts of the Act.

Cabinet was provided with a summary of the Council's joint response with the other Tees Valley Authorities:

- The development of a Quality Partnership Scheme (QPS) with the principal bus operators, in line with the major bus scheme funding bid that was currently with Government for approval. The QPS would follow the scope outlined in the Act and was likely to be the first multi-authority, multi-operator agreement of its type in the country.
- The setting up of a non-statutory Transport Board, Transport for Tees Valley, within the new governance structure of Tees Valley Unlimited.
- A new way of working with the Highways Agency to make better use of the existing strategic road network without the need for a local road pricing scheme for the foreseeable future.

RESOLVED that:-

- 1.The new powers contained within the Local Transport Act be noted.

2. It be noted that the Council will continue to work in Partnership with the other Tees Valley Local Authorities and Bus Operators to deliver the 'Connect Tees Valley' Bus Major Scheme.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The reasons for this recommendation are:

- a) The approach taken by the Tees Valley authorities and their partner organisations provides solutions that are much more complementary to the particular circumstances of the city region rather than adopting a 'national' model.
- b) The approach taken allows future flexibility to move towards more statutory arrangements in the future, as allowed by the Act, depending on the circumstances, and with the prior agreement of all authorities involved.

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

Midnight on Friday 13th February 2009

Proper Officer
09 October 2009