



**Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive and
Ian Thompson, Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic
Development**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a brief overview of TRANSIT 15 project prior to the presentation providing information on the purpose of project, progress made to date and next steps.

Background

- 2 Members will recall that at the meeting of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 4 April 2011, a refresh of the Work Programme for 2011-2013 was considered within the context of the "Altogether Wealthier" priority theme of the Council Plan 2011-2014. As a result of this refresh the TRANSIT 15 project was identified for inclusion within the Committee's current Work Programme for 2011-2013.
- 3 TRANSIT 15 is a major public transport project in Durham County Council's current Local Transport Plan (LTP3). The main objectives of LTP3 include maintaining or improving the reliability and predictability of journey times on key routes and improving the whole journey experience for transport users.
- 4 The project will continue to build on past public transport investment by Durham County Council and operators, in bus stations, bus stops, real-time information, bus priority and new vehicles by:
 - Reducing journey times and improving reliability for bus users through removal of known delay points on the network.
 - Enhanced personal safety for bus users by improving the waiting environment at bus stops and ensuring that they are not obstructed by indiscriminate parking.
 - Tackling congestion on the highway network by bringing about a shift in travel choice from the private car to bus.
 - Moving towards a 15 minute bus service frequency on key routes through partnership with Arriva and Go North East.

- 5 Government funding of £5 million through the Regional Allocation has been made available to cover the cost of the improvement schemes included under the project. Additional funding may be required from LTP3 to complete all of the proposals associated with the project.
- 6 Following assessment and liaison with the bus operators, the routes that would return the best value return on investment have been identified. Routes between Durham City and the following locations have been selected for inclusion in the project programme:
 - Birtley
 - Bishop Auckland
 - Consett
 - Coxhoe
 - Crook
 - Sherburn
 - Stanley
- 7 Delivery of the planned outcomes of the scheme is shared by our Partners, Arriva and Go North East, who will also play their part in providing better services for passengers.

Current position

- 8 Some schemes have already been completed under Local Transport Plan 2 (LTP2) including Stanley roundabout (ASDA), New Inn signals– Durham and A691 Kaysburn roundabout improvements. Detailed design of other highway improvement schemes is underway. Subject to consultation, it is planned to complete most of the schemes in 2012 with a small number of the more difficult schemes remaining in the programme beyond this date.

Recommendation

- 9 That members of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the report and presentation in relation to the TRANSIT 15 project and agree to receive a further report detailing progress at the July Committee meeting.

Background Paper(s)

Information produced for TRANSIT 15 project

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – Any financial implications will be detailed within the various TRANSIT 15 proposals.

Staffing – Staffing requirements/ implications again will be detailed in the respective TRANSIT 15 proposals.

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity – Any Equality and Diversity issues will be dealt with in accordance with appropriate legislation.

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder - None

Human Rights - None

Consultation - None

Procurement - None

Disability Discrimination Act –Any Disability Discrimination issues will be dealt with in accordance with the appropriate legislation.

Legal Implications - None