

# Environment & Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee



5<sup>th</sup> March 2015

## Delivery of Clean Bus Technology

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

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#### Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members of the Environment & Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee with an overview presentation on Delivery of Clean Bus Technology.

#### Background

2. The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny at its meeting on 3 July 2014 agreed the work programme for the year ahead which included an overview presentation to members on Delivery of Clean Bus Technology. In accordance with this decision arrangements have been made for members to receive a presentation from Simon Day, Public Transport Manager, Transport and Contract Services.
3. The County Council operates an 'Integrated Transport Unit' in line with Government's best practice guidance. The ITU delivers public transport, home to school transport, SEN transport and adult social care transport. It also has close links with health, clinical commissioning groups and the North East Ambulance Service.
4. Integrating transport in this way enables the authority to create packages of work across sectors to maximise the use of vehicles and staff, ensure full use is made of existing local bus services for education and social work purposes and deliver consistency of standards across different modes. The opportunities to integrate commissioning and delivery of local authority transport with nonemergency healthcare transport have also helped to deliver a simpler and more understandable service for the user.

#### Clean Bus / Vehicle Technology Funds

5. Durham and Sunderland's successful bid in partnership with Go North East (GNE) for funding under the 2013 Clean Bus Technology Fund has been delivered during summer 2014 in partnership with the similar scheme led by Gateshead and Newcastle. A total of 20 buses on routes between Co Durham and Sunderland have been upgraded with innovative exhaust treatment equipment improving emissions from Euro III to near Euro VI.

6. The same partnership team led development of two complementary bids for funding under the 2014 Clean Vehicle Technology Fund, to equip GNE buses on four services across the NECA area with a kinetic energy recovery system. The bid led by Newcastle for Blyth - Newcastle and Newcastle – Sunderland services won funding in the first round of awards. The Durham–led bid covering Durham - Newcastle and Newcastle - South Shields services was awarded funding in a second round announced in December.
7. The presentation will highlight the following areas: background to the Government’s competitive funding grants, brief description of each project, the services and geographical areas covered, partnering approach, the technology used, programme timescales and the expected environmental impacts.

### **Recommendation**

8. Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to note and comment on the presentation.

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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**Finance - None**

**Staffing – None**

**Risk - None**

**Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None**

**Accommodation - None**

**Crime and Disorder – None**

**Human Rights - None**

**Consultation – None**

**Procurement - None**

**Disability Issues – None**

**Legal Implications – None**