

Meeting: Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee

Date: 25 February 2016

Title: North East Transport Manifesto consultation

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Service: Environment, Housing and Leisure

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members of Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee with information regarding the North East Combined Authority (NECA) public consultation on the 'North East Transport Manifesto', which forms the initial stage of a Transport Plan for the NECA area.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are recommended to note details of the NECA public consultation and provide any comments including any suggested points to be considered in the preparation of a North Tyneside Council response to the consultation.

3. Details

3.1 Transport Plan for the North East

The North East Combined Authority (NECA), established on 15 April 2014, is the statutory local transport authority for its area and as such is required to prepare a Transport Plan for the North East. Among other functions, this will supersede the existing Local Transport Plan for Tyne and Wear, adopted in 2011, and those for Durham and Northumberland.

The two-stage process for the production of this Plan is to be:

1. A Transport Manifesto: setting out high-level ambitions; followed by
2. The Transport Plan: a comprehensive, statutory document

North Tyneside Council and other local authorities within the NECA area will continue to have their own plans and strategies for specific aspects of transport: in North Tyneside these include the Cycling Strategy, the Highway Asset Management Plan (HAMP), the Network Management Plan, the Parking Strategy and the Road Safety Strategy.

3.2 Development of the Transport Manifesto for consultation

The process of developing the Transport Manifesto has been overseen by Transport North East Committee (TNEC), with regular updates provided to the North East Leadership Board. A seminar on the Transport Manifesto was held for members of the Leadership Board and TNEC, with relevant officers in attendance, on 4 September 2015.

The TNEC meeting of 24 November 2015 agreed that public consultation should take place in respect of the Transport Manifesto. The consultation will run from 4 February to 8 April 2016.

3.3 North East Transport Manifesto – public consultation

The consultation draft Transport Manifesto is entitled 'Our Journey: a 20 year Transport Manifesto for the North East'. Its sub-title spells out its headline aims: "To provide affordable, attractive, reliable, safe, healthy transport choices for businesses, residents and visitors while enhancing the environment."

The document sets out (on page 6) four key themes, stating that the future transport system in the North East must be:

1. **Easy to use.** It should be easy to plan safe journeys, find out the best way to travel, pay for tickets and get all the essential information for your journey.
2. **Reliable.** The transport network should be one that we can rely on to work, with buses and trains running on time and congestion at a minimum.
3. **Affordable.** Transport should be provided at a reasonable cost relative to the journey being made.
4. **Accessible.** Transport should run as near as possible to where people live and want to travel to, and where businesses are (or want to be) located. It should be usable by everyone."

Underlying these four key themes are ten guiding principles (set out on page 7):

- i. Growth in economic activity
- ii. Equality of opportunity
- iii. More sustainable travel
- iv. Less road congestion
- v. Good access to workplaces, services, shops and leisure
- vi. Healthy, active lifestyles
- vii. Better air quality and lower carbon emissions
- viii. Well-maintained, climate-resilient and safe transport networks
- ix. Efficient use of transport assets
- x. Land use planning that favours sustainable travel

The rest of the document sets out further detail specific to each mode of transport, and also for some topics which relate to more than one mode of transport, such as freight, innovation, and smart transport. It notes that 'Transport North East' will be the new identity for transport functions for NECA, which will help to promote joined-up transport across the NECA area.

The Transport Manifesto is attached and can be viewed online at www.northeastca.gov.uk. Members of the public responding as individuals are invited to complete an online survey. Paper copies of both the Transport Manifesto and the survey are available on request.

3.4 Next steps

Following the consultation, a finalised version of the Transport Manifesto is to be produced. Work towards the preparation of the full Transport Plan for the North East is to proceed during 2016.

4. Appendices

Appendix A - 'Our Journey: a 20 year Transport Manifesto for the North East'

5. Background Information

The following documents have been used in the compilation of this report and may be inspected at the offices of the author.

'Our Journey: a 20 year Transport Manifesto for the North East' (consultation version) – available on the NECA website: <http://www.northeastca.gov.uk>