

Meeting: Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee

Date: 25 February 2016

Title: Transport Infrastructure

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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 information for Members of Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee in relation to transport infrastructure projects being brought forward in the borough, including the programme of transport projects funded through the Local Growth Fund (LGF).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are recommended to note the report and the presentation to be delivered at the meeting.

3. Details

3.1 Background

The Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) for the North East sets out the region's aspirations to deliver 'more and better jobs'. The SEP is arranged around six themes, one of which is 'Transport and Connectivity: Creating the best networks – connecting the North East to the national and international economy'.

Following the North East Growth Deal, announced in July 2014, a programme of projects funded through the LGF on a number of themes, including transport, has been put in place to deliver improvements in line with the aims of the SEP.

3.2 Major schemes – LGF funded

Four schemes in North Tyneside obtained approval to proceed from the North East Leadership Board during 2015/16. These are:

- i. **A1058 Coast Road** (Billy Mill and Norham Road junctions) – approved by the Leadership Board in July 2015, the scheme includes improvements to Norham Road and Billy Mill junctions; widening of A1058 Beach Road to the east of Billy Mill; and pedestrian and cycle crossing improvements at the junctions. It improves access in the Coast Road corridor, including to the West Chirton development site.
- ii. **A1056 Weetslade improvements** – approved by the Leadership Board in November 2015, the scheme includes improvements to A1056 Sandy Lane and its junctions with the B1318 (Wideopen) and A189 (Weetslade roundabout), and improves access to the Indigo Park major employment site.
- iii. **A191 corridor** (Coach Lane to Tyneview Park) – approved by the Leadership Board in January 2016, the scheme includes improvements to the A191 Tyneview Park junction and re-marking to provide an extra westbound lane on A191 Whitley Road. It links in to the completed Four Lane Ends and A188 junction improvements scheme.
- iv. **A19 employment corridor** (Holystone to Cobalt) – approved by the Leadership Board in January 2016, the scheme includes increased capacity at A19 Holystone roundabout and an additional lane on A191 New York Road, and improves accessibility to Cobalt Business Park and other employment sites in the A19 corridor.

A further scheme, North Bank of the Tyne transport improvements, is to be delivered from 2016/17. Design work and preparation of the business case will commence early in 2016/17 for the scheme, which will support continued accessibility to employment sites on the North Bank of the Tyne.

To assess the effects of each scheme, monitoring involves a range of ‘outcome’ measures, including average daily traffic flows; CO₂ emissions (calculated from traffic data); bus travel time; walking and cycling journeys; and, where appropriate, jobs created at ‘impact sites’ (key development sites).

The delivery of major schemes has to be co-ordinated with other works on the highway network, which include highway improvements delivered with external funding such as developer contributions.

3.3 Cycling infrastructure schemes

Working in partnership with Newcastle City Council, government funding from the Cycle City Ambition Fund has been allocated to improve cycling and walking infrastructure along the Coast Road cycle route: work is to proceed, subject to relevant approvals, in 2016/17. This will complement recent cycling and walking improvements at Beach Road and the A1058-A192 ‘Tynemouth Pool’ roundabout, which were delivered with the use of external funding from the Cycle Safety Fund.

Some capital funding from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) was allocated alongside the LGF: using this funding, a scheme for cycling and walking improvements in Cobalt Business Park area is planned for delivery in 2016/17.

3.4 Highways England major scheme – Silverlink

The major scheme to convert A19-A1058 Silverlink interchange to a fully grade separated junction is promoted by Highways England, who manage the national Strategic Road Network, which includes the A1 and A19. It forms part of the five-year Road Investment Strategy (RIS) set by central government. Following the Development Consent Order process, the scheme was approved by the Transport Secretary on 28 January 2016.

3.5 Other schemes

Other substantial investments in transport infrastructure in North Tyneside include:

- i. **Metro modernisation** – a £350m programme, with government funding, is ongoing to renew the infrastructure of the Tyne and Wear Metro system. The North Tyne Loop is currently the highest priority section of the network to renew and works forthcoming in 2016 are anticipated to involve over 7km of full track renewal.
- ii. **Tyne Pedestrian and Cyclist Tunnels** – a refurbishment project is ongoing for the historic Grade II-listed Tyne Pedestrian and Cyclist Tunnels. While the tunnels are closed for the works, NECA is providing a free daytime shuttle bus which can carry bikes.

3.6 Next steps

A longer-term programme of Local Growth Fund transport schemes will be managed and developed in order to put in place an ongoing programme of transport improvements, linked to the region's economic objectives. As part of this, a number of potential schemes are being assessed for further development.

4. Appendices

None

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.

More and Better Jobs – a Strategic Economic Plan for the North East

<http://nelep.co.uk/whatwedo/strategic-economic-plan/>

North East Leadership Board 19 January 2016 – Item 7 Project Approvals

North East Leadership Board 17 November 2015 – Item 10 Project Approvals

North East Leadership Board 14 July 2015 – Item 7 Coast Road A1058 – Scheme Approval

<http://www.northeastca.gov.uk/committee-meetings/north-east-leadership-board-background-information-papers>

Highways England website – A19/A1058 Coast Road [Silverlink] Junction Improvement

<http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/a19a1058-coast-road-junction-improvement/>

Nexus website – Metro modernisation

www.nexus.org.uk/metro/modernisation

Tyne Pedestrian and Cyclist Tunnels website – Refurbishment of the tunnels

www.tynepedestrianandcyclisttunnels.co.uk/refurbishment