

# Public Transport

Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee

3 October 2022



North Tyneside Council

# North East transport governance

- Strategic transport is administered on a 7 authority (2 Combined Authority) footprint
- The North East Joint Transport Committee (JTC) includes representation from across the area
- Transport North East provides the officer team who support the North East Transport Plan
- Nexus are a separate entity and their performance is monitored principally by the JTC's Tyne and Wear Sub-Committee
- Responsibility for the Authority's own North Tyneside Transport Strategy and local transport services rests with the Cabinet Member for Environment



# North East Transport Plan

- The overall North East Transport Plan 2021-2035 was approved by the JTC in March 2021. Its vision is: “Moving to a green, healthy, dynamic and thriving North East”. It will be supported by a number of subsidiary strategies.
- The Committee has asked for this item to focus on public transport. In terms of public transport, the North East Transport Plan includes objectives to:
  - improve bus travel and attract more passengers with new rapid bus corridors, including changing how road space is used
  - support the [Shields] Ferry and develop improvements where possible
  - consider ‘on demand’ solutions
  - invest in Metro and local rail to extend and improve the network
- The Transport Plan includes a pipeline of major schemes
- The JTC oversees progress against Transport Plan delivery



# Developments over recent years

- Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic
  - sharp decrease in patronage
  - reliance on Government funding to sustain services
  - patronage still below pre-Covid levels – greater working from home
  - less travel by concession pass holders
- Cost pressures for operators – rising fuel/energy costs; staff retention
- Bus operators made service changes/reductions
- Nexus re-cast the secured bus network seeking to maintain accessibility
- Metro experiences reliability issues, linked to age of its existing fleet and factors such as adverse weather conditions
- Ticketing is mainly on a single operator basis



# Initiatives being brought forward – short to medium term

- New Metro fleet
- Metro Flow
- Northumberland Line, including rail station at Northumberland Park
- Potential Shields Ferry changes
- Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) schemes:
  - North Shields interchange and embankment walkway
  - Four Lane Ends interchange bus access improvements
  - Routes to Metro stations – cycling and walking improvements
  - Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) improvements, e.g. to traffic signals, to support bus service reliability
- New Metro station at Murton – to be developer funded
- Enhanced Partnership with bus operators – in preparation



# Other initiatives

- Measures to address safety concerns on Metro have included forming a new staff team to allow a more visible and active on-board presence and upgrading of CCTV
- Encouraging concessionary pass holders to make more use of their passes remains a challenge following the Covid-19 pandemic
- Improving the information available to the public about bus and Metro services:
  - the bus Enhanced Partnership is likely to consolidate information in one place which is currently provided on separate operators' apps/websites
  - Metro service updates are provided via website and social media
- New agency Active Travel England will work closely with authorities on cycling and walking projects and be a consultee in the planning process



# Questions

