

Meeting: Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee

Date: 3 October 2022

Title: Public Transport

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Service: Law and Governance

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide an introductory briefing ahead of meeting with Councillor Carl Johnson, Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member with responsibility for strategic transport.

2. Details

- 2.1 The sub-committee is responsible for reviewing and challenging the impact of decisions and actions taken by the Elected Mayor, Cabinet and partner organisations in relation to the transport network, highways and road safety. In fulfilling this role the sub-committee has agreed to meet with Councillor Carl Johnson, the Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member with responsibility for strategic transport.
- 2.2 Councillor Johnson represents the Authority on the North East Joint Transport Committee. The Committee brings together representatives from constituent authorities in the region to produce the North East Transport Plan which sets out the region's transport aspirations up to 2035. It brings to life the region's transport aspirations and includes a live programme of around 243 schemes which equal at least £6.8bn of transport investment, a figure which will grow over the lifespan of the Plan. Projects in the Plan include major improvements to regional walking and cycle routes, new train stations, extensions to Metro, increased bus operations and a variety of major road and rail investments. Details of the plan are available to view at <https://www.transportnortheast.gov.uk/>
- 2.3 The purpose of the meeting will be to review the state of public transport services in North Tyneside and examine the actions being taken by the North East Joint Transport Committee to deliver the North East Transport Plan. Please note that responsibility for the Council's own Transport Strategy and local transport services rests with Councillor Sandra Graham.
- 2.4 The sub-committee has previously discussed the implications of high fuel costs and whether this is expected to lead to an increase in demand for the use of public transport and more active travel, such as cycling. It was noted that whilst it would be a personal

choice to use public transport there were several issues which would need to be addressed to encourage more people out of their cars, including addressing safety concerns, encouraging concessionary pass holders to make more use of their passes and improving the information available to the public about bus and Metro services. The sub-committee may wish to explore these issues with Councillor Johnson.

- 2.5 The Chair has invited Councillor Johnson to give a short introductory presentation followed by an opportunity for members of the sub-committee to ask questions and discuss any issues.

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:

- North Tyneside Council Constitution
- Economic Prosperity Sub-Committee minutes and work programme 2022/23
- North East Transport Plan