

**ENVIRONMENT AND ATTRACTIVE CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
16 NOVEMBER 2009**

REVIEW OF ACCESSIBLE BUS NETWORK - CONSULTATION

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NEXUS

**Strategic Priorities: Attractive and Inclusive City and Prosperous City
Corporate Performance Objectives CI01**

1. Why has the report come to the Committee

- 1.1 To receive a report from Nexus on the review of accessible bus network in Sunderland.
- 1.2 This work should support the Council in achieving its strategic priorities of an Attractive and Accessible City by examining the factors constraining the growth of use of public transport.

2. Background

- 2.1 Mr Tobyn Hughes, has been invited to the meeting to present a report on the on the consultation plan for the review of the accessible bus network in Sunderland.
- 2.2 Nexus and Sunderland City Council are undertaking a review of the accessible bus network across Sunderland with a view to improve accessibility to public transport across the district.
- 2.3 Targets for accessibility were set and agreed as part of the Bus Strategy for Tyne and Wear. The accessible bus network will be designed to help meet these targets.
- 2.4 The agreed targets for Sunderland are:

Sunderland

		Current Daytime	Proposed Daytime	Current Evening	Proposed Evening
Within 30 mins	Main Centres	62%	75%	56%	65%
	Local Service Centres (including GP surgery)	97%	100%	90%	93%
	3 Key Employment Sites	59%	75%	35%	50%
	General Hospital	53%	75%	33%	50%
	Within 400m of a 10 minute bus service	77%	85%	28%	35%
	Within 400m of a 15 minute bus service	86%	95%	67%	75%

3 Current Position - Consultation process

- 3.1 It is proposed that the revised network for Sunderland be subject to a rigorous consultation process to ensure that the proposed network achieves the correct balance between public aspirations and available resources. The following consultation process is proposed:

	Step	Timescales
1	Approval of the consultation processes for Sunderland by EMT and Council Leader EMT requested sign off from Sarah Reed and Deborah Lewin	Presented for approval at EMT on 22 nd September 2009; sign-off Oct 2009
2	Presentation of the consultation plan to Environment and Attractive Cities Scrutiny Committee	16 th November 2009
3	Approval of the consultation processes and invitation to engage at Inclusive Communities partnership (3 Nov) and Attractive and Inclusive Cities partnership	Meetings to be held during November
4	Agreement of communications and consultation materials and detailed process by the Leader	Meeting with the Leader in early December
5	Proposed Network for Sunderland available	Early January 2010
6	Presentation of the Network to the Leader Presentation of the Network to the Cabinet	January 2010
7	Network presented to Scrutiny Committee and Members, then Area committees	February 2010
8	Public Consultation commences 4 public events – one in each regeneration area 5	March – May 2010
9	Presentation of the final network to the Leader	June - July 2010
10	Presentation of the final network to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet - Environment and Attractive Cities Scrutiny Committee - Inclusive Communities Partnership - Attractive and Inclusive Cities Partnership - 	TBC circa July 2010
11	Communication with all members on the final network	July/September 2010
12	Communication with the public on the final network and feedback from the consultation process	August/September 2010

3. Recommendation

3.1 Members are asked to consider the evidence received.

4. Background Papers

Tyne and Wear Local Transport Plan 2006/11

Sunderland Strategy

Bus Services Across the UK – House of Commons Transport Committee

Papers of the Environmental and Planning Review Committee – November 2006

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