

**REPORT OF HEAD OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**SUNDERLAND STATION REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To present an update on the Sunderland Station Redevelopment project.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 Sunderland Council and Nexus are jointly been seeking to bring forward the redevelopment of Sunderland Central Station and have both allocated capital funds to support the project.
- 2.2 The current station was opened in 1965, as part of a wider redevelopment of the area, the previous station was badly damaged by bombing in 1943.

**3. Current Position**

- 3.1 The current station building is tired and provides a mediocre entrance to the city centre for both metro and heavy rail passengers. The platform level, however, did receive £7m of investment from Nexus in 2010 and it is perhaps fair to say that the platform level offers a much better passenger experience compared to the main building above.
- 3.2 Both Nexus and the City Council have allocated funds to support the delivery of a new station building, £3.5m from Nexus and £3.75m from the City Council. The current estimated cost for a new station building is between £13m and £15m.
- 3.3 Network Rail also previously allocated £3m towards the project but unfortunately this funding was withdrawn as part of a wider Government spending review 2010/11.
- 3.4 Network Rail no longer can directly allocate funds to such projects, instead this now being the role of the Department for Transport (DfT). As it stands the DfT is not in a position to allocate funds to this project.
- 3.5 The current agreed strategy for the project is to continue to develop a detailed design that is deliverable within a realistic budget. By preparing a detailed design this gives the project a stronger chance of attracting the additional funds required to deliver the project, approximately £6m to £8m, as the scheme will be 'oven ready' and deliverable in the short-term.
- 3.6 The proposals being developed will also include improvements to the public space immediately in front of the main station entrance. The space is currently cluttered with taxis and private vehicles which adds to the mediocre

passenger experience, as well as the experience for pedestrians passing through the area.

- 3.7 Subject to securing additional funds the current programme would see the construction of a new station building commence in 2019/2020.

#### **4 Conclusion**

- 4.1 The City Council and Nexus remain committed to this project and continue to progress the detailed designs for a new station building and explore all options to secure the necessary additional funds.

#### **5. Recommendations**

- 5.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and comment.

#### **6. Glossary**

None

#### **7 Background Papers**

None