



Transport North East Committee

Thursday 9th October, 2014 at 2.00 pm

Meeting to be held at North Tyneside Council, Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, NE27 0BY

www.northeastca.gov.uk

AGENDA

Page No

4. Improving Local Bus Services

Improving Local Bus Services – Bus Strategy Delivery Project Update

1 - 4

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To All Members

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North East Combined Authority

Transport North East Committee

DATE: 9 October 2014

SUBJECT: Improving Local Bus Services – Bus Strategy Delivery Project Update

REPORT OF: Transport Lead Executive Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress of the Bus Strategy Delivery Project (BSDP), ahead of a report being presented to the Leadership Board on 21 October 2014 for decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to:

- a) note the proposals for a Quality Contracts Scheme (QCS) for Tyne and Wear and a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA); and
- b) note in particular the proposal that, if the Leadership Board agrees to proceed with a QCS, then NECA shall adopt a Cross Boundary Collaboration Protocol to manage the effects of the QCS on bus services in Durham and Northumberland;

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Transport North East Committee

1 Background

- 1.1 At its meeting on 29 July 2014 this Committee received an update report on the BSDP. That report outlined the progress to date in developing two alternative options for the improvement of bus services in the Tyne and Wear area, namely a QCS and VPA.
- 1.2 Nexus, on behalf of NECA, have undertaken further detailed analysis of these options. It is intended that the Leadership Board will be asked to make a decision on the options at its meeting on 21 October 2014. A copy of the report (with key appendices), which Nexus have prepared and which it is proposed to present to the Leadership Board is now attached. At that meeting the Leadership Board will also receive a report from NECA officers setting out their assessment of the material presented by Nexus.

2. Proposed Collaboration Protocol

- 2.1 As mentioned above, the options relate to the improvement of bus services in the Tyne and Wear area. However, it should be noted that, as a QCS would have certain impacts on bus services which also serve places and communities in Durham and Northumberland, it is to be recommended that NECA adopts a Cross Boundary Collaboration Protocol to mitigate any impacts on those areas if, in due course, the QCS is made.

4. Next Steps

- 3.1 The QCS and VPA options are to be considered by the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee before being presented to the Leadership Board for consideration and decision. They are being asked to note the options, including the Cross Boundary Collaboration Protocol, and agree that the options are sufficiently developed to be considered by the Leadership Board.

4 Potential Impact on Objectives

- 4.1 The appended report sets out Nexus' assessment of the extent to which the respective options would be likely to achieve the objectives of the Bus Strategy and wider objectives.

5 Finance and Other Resources

- 5.1 The appended report sets out Nexus' assessment of the affordability and wider financial implications of the respective options

6 Legal

- 6.1 The legal issues are outlined in the Nexus report

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Transport North East Committee

7 Other Considerations

7.1 Consultation/Community Engagement

As set out in the Nexus report, an extensive statutory consultation exercise on the QCS proposal has been carried out

7.2 Human Rights

The human rights implications associated with the QCS proposal are set out in the Nexus report.

7.3 Equalities and Diversity

There are no implications for equalities and diversity arising directly from this report.

7.4 Risk Management

The risks of introducing either a QCS or VPA (or neither) are outlined in the Nexus report

7.5 Crime and Disorder

There are no implications for crime and disorder arising directly from this report.

7.6 Environment and Sustainability

These are outlined in the Nexus report.

8. Background Documents

The Bus Strategy for Tyne and Wear
QCS Consultation materials

All background documents are available at
<http://www.nexus.org.uk/busstrategy>

9 Links to Plans in the Policy Framework

- 9.1 The Bus Strategy is part of the Local Transport Plan for Tyne and Wear. Improving transport connectivity and reducing carbon emitted by transport are objectives of the Strategic Economic Plan.

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Transport North East Committee

10 Appendices

Nexus report to NECA on the BSDP.

11 Contact Officers

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12 Sign off

- Head of Paid Service ✓
- Monitoring Officer ✓
- Chief Finance Officer ✓