

## North Staffordshire Integrated Transport Package



This is a comprehensive package of 6 potential public transport and regeneration proposals focussed on supporting the renaissance and growth potential of North Staffordshire as one of the engines of regeneration for the Region. At the heart of the strategy is the introduction of a Bus Rapid Transport system - Streetcar – which will improve links between the residential areas, urban centres and regeneration sites across North

Staffordshire. The package also includes the development of a new City Centre public transport interchange, improvements to Stoke railway station, and improvements to the M6 Junction 15 - the main highway gateway to the sub-region.

### Objectives

- Encourage private sector investment and support development and jobs
- Increase the attractiveness of the City Centre as a destination
- Encourage modal switch to sustainable modes, reducing congestion and improving journey time reliability
- Improve access to development sites

Schemes	Current Position	Timetable
Streetcar Network	Transport model in development. Preliminary design and outline business case complete. Major Scheme Business Case (MSBC) being developed for Green Line with Blue Line to follow around 2 years later. An initial component of the scheme “University Boulevard” was included in the West Midlands Regional Funding Allocation (RFA) Advice.	Green line Construction 2013 - 2017  University Boulevard Construction 2011/12
City Centre Public Transport Interchange	Planning permission granted and funding package being developed.	Construction 2011 Completion 2012
Local Regeneration Schemes	MSBC for Hanley-Bentilee Link being developed. Other schemes under review.	Construction 2012 - 2014
Strategic Park and Ride	Initial modelling being progressed. City Centre parking strategy under review.	Construction 2014 Completion 2020
Rail Improvements	Discussions with Network Rail being progressed. New long-stay car park under construction at Stoke-on-Trent station.	Long-stay car park Completion Summer 2009
Trunk Road Improvements	Improvements to A500 and M6 J15 awaiting consideration by Highways Agency (HA).	HA consideration 2009

### Alignment with delivery of Regional goals

Competitiveness, employment and productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates the conditions to encourage private sector investment, supporting development and jobs</li> <li>• Improves the connectivity and access to labour markets of key local and regional business centres</li> <li>• Reduces lost productive time on the local networks by improving the reliability and predictability of journey times</li> </ul>
Tackling Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributes to reductions in emissions through encouraging modal switch from private vehicles to more sustainable modes</li> </ul>
Achieving everyone's potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides large scale accessibility benefits to local people</li> <li>• Improves links between the residential areas, urban centres and regeneration and development sites across North Staffordshire</li> <li>• Improves access to/from/within Stoke station for all users</li> </ul>
Health, safety and security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improves the health of individuals by encouraging and enabling more physically active travel at the start/end points of journeys on the public transport network</li> </ul>
Quality of life and the natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivers long-term environmental benefits including reduced traffic noise and pollution and improved air quality</li> <li>• Improves the journey experience of transport users of urban, local and regional networks, including at the interface with other networks</li> </ul>

Regional and national connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improves access to regional and national markets by enhancing service quality and reliability</li> <li>• Improves and increases capacity, and connectivity for both existing and new public transport users, to and within the sub-region</li> </ul>
Housing growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides a high quality public transport network to support housing growth</li> </ul>

## Background

The geographic location of North Staffordshire has strong transport links with a number of regions and provides a real connectivity opportunity that needs to be exploited. The integrated transport package is being developed to support the regeneration of North Staffordshire and help to close the regions productivity gap with the national average. North Staffordshire accounts for some 21% (£2.12bn) of the output gap of the West Midlands Region and is therefore critical to the achievement of the aim of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES). Schemes in this priority will enable strategic choices to be realised by supporting economic and housing growth, image and place making.

## Context

The North Staffordshire Integrated Transport Study<sup>1</sup> concluded that to safeguard regeneration programmes it is necessary to deliver a major uplift of the quality of public transport in North Staffordshire and tackle the ongoing problems of traffic congestion. It recommended the need to make a step change in public transport provision and quality, to create a network of strategic park and ride sites serving the urban core in parallel with the introduction of a revised parking policy, and to develop a set of targeted capacity improvements to strategic roads coupled with demand management measures and improved travel planning.

The Capital Investment Strategy for the City Council contains a number of regeneration schemes involving key local highway network improvements which are designed to support the regeneration of the City by relieving local traffic congestion hotspots, improving the reliability of public transport and improving access to development sites. These have been identified following work carried out using the North Staffordshire Transport Model.

The Integrated Transport Package seeks to address the public transport and congestion issues facing North Staffordshire by increasing the number of journeys made by public transport and reducing the potential for growth to be stifled by congestion on the highway network. It will do this by tackling capacity issues on both road and rail networks. Particularly the need for a new high quality transport interchange in the City Centre (currently a third of all visitors arrive by bus); improving East-West rail connections which are constrained by the West Coast Main Line; rail capacity at Stoke Station, which has over 1 million passengers using it each year; sections of the A500 which suffer from severe traffic congestion at peak times and constrain the further regeneration of the corridor; Junction 15 of M6 which experiences severe traffic congestion and acts as a barrier restricting movement and constraining the economic potential of the region; and focusing on supporting the renaissance and growth potential of the City Centre.

Improving the public transport network in North Staffordshire was identified as a priority for investment in Policy T12 of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands<sup>2</sup>. This priority also supports the Sustainable Communities and Sustainable Living objectives of the West Midlands Economic Strategy<sup>3</sup>.

## Delivery

The projects in this priority are being delivered by Stoke-on-Trent City Council (SoTCC) and North Staffordshire Regeneration Partnership, with the exception of the Trunk Road Improvements which will be delivered by the Highways Agency and the Rail Improvements which will be delivered by Network Rail. The investment plan to implement the strategy is in the early stages of development but initial estimates are indicated below:

<sup>1</sup> North Staffordshire Integrated Transport Study, Halcrow, 2005

<sup>2</sup> Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands, January 2008

<sup>3</sup> Connecting to Success West Midlands Economic Strategy, 2007

Scheme	Indicative Cost (£m)	Source(s)
Streetcar Network		
• Greenline	23	SoTCC/AWM/Bus Operators/RFA
• University Boulevard	12	SoTCC/AWM/Bus Operators/RFA
City Centre Public Transport Interchange	16	SoTCC/AWM/Developers
Local Regeneration Schemes		
Currently specified scheme – Hanley-Bentilee Link	27	RFA
Other schemes	various	SoTCC/DfT/AWM
Strategic Park and Ride	15	SoTCC/AWM/Developers
Rail Improvements	various	Network Rail/Train Operating Companies
Trunk Road Improvements	various	SoTCC/Highways Agency

The short term actions required to deliver this priority at the time of the launch of the Regional Transport Priorities Action Plan on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2008 were:

Short Term Actions (As included in the Regional Transport Priorities Action Plan December 2008)	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete Outline Business Case (OBC) for Streetcar Green Line - 2008/2009</li> <li>Start Major Scheme Business Case (MSBC) Streetcar Green Line - 2008/2009</li> <li>Progress Planning Matters - 2009 onwards</li> <li>Progress Third Party Funding - 2009 onwards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft Outline Business Case completed Feb 2009</li> <li>Transport model for MSBC in progress</li> <li>Design work is ongoing</li> <li>Work on funding package is ongoing</li> </ul>

Since the launch of the Regional Transport Priorities Action Plan significant progress has been made in the delivery of this priority. As such the revised actions for 2009/10 are:

2009/10 Short Term Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete development of Business Case for funding of University Boulevard by May 2009</li> <li>Start Major Scheme Business Case for Hanley-Bentilee Link by September 2009</li> <li>Complete updating of North Staffordshire Multi-Modal Transport Model by December 2009</li> <li>Start Major Scheme Business Case for Streetcar Green Line by January 2010</li> <li>Complete preliminary design and costings for Streetcar Green Line by March 2010</li> <li>Develop Park and Ride and City Centre parking strategy by March 2010</li> </ul>

**Lead Organisation:** Stoke-on-Trent City Council

**Contact:** Tom Macartney

**Email:** [tom.macartney@stoke.gov.uk](mailto:tom.macartney@stoke.gov.uk)

**Publication Date:** 11 May 2009