

TEES VALLEY BUS FUNDING CONFIRMED

Transport Minister Sadiq Khan announced today that the Tees Valley Bus Network Improvements scheme had cleared the final hurdle and received Full approval from the government. He confirmed that a total of over £57 million will be spent on major improvements on key bus corridors across the area between now and the end of 2013.

Government funding will be topped up with Council and private sector contributions, including bus operators, to provide a network of high quality, high frequency, reliable bus services, focused on the main centres.

Corridors that will benefit from the funding include: Haughton Road, North Road and Yarm Road in Darlington, Raby Road and York Road in Hartlepool, Acklam Road, Cargo Fleet Lane and Marton Road in Middlesbrough, Ormesby Road and West Dyke Road in Redcar and Cleveland, and Durham Road, Norton Road and Yarm Road in Stockton.

Each route will have new bus stops with raised kerbs to provide easy access, bus priority at traffic signals to help keep buses to time investment in new junctions and traffic systems that will benefit all vehicles, not just buses, as well as new bus interchanges in Hartlepool and Redcar.

Better information will be provided at bus stops, including more signs displaying bus services in real time, and there will be more lighting and CCTV to help security and make passengers feel safer. More information will be provided through timetable leaflets and on Council and operator websites.

The bus companies will be continuing to invest in new, low floor, vehicles on these routes, and will be rolling out a programme of driver training and vehicle cleaning to ensure that quality standards are maintained on all routes.

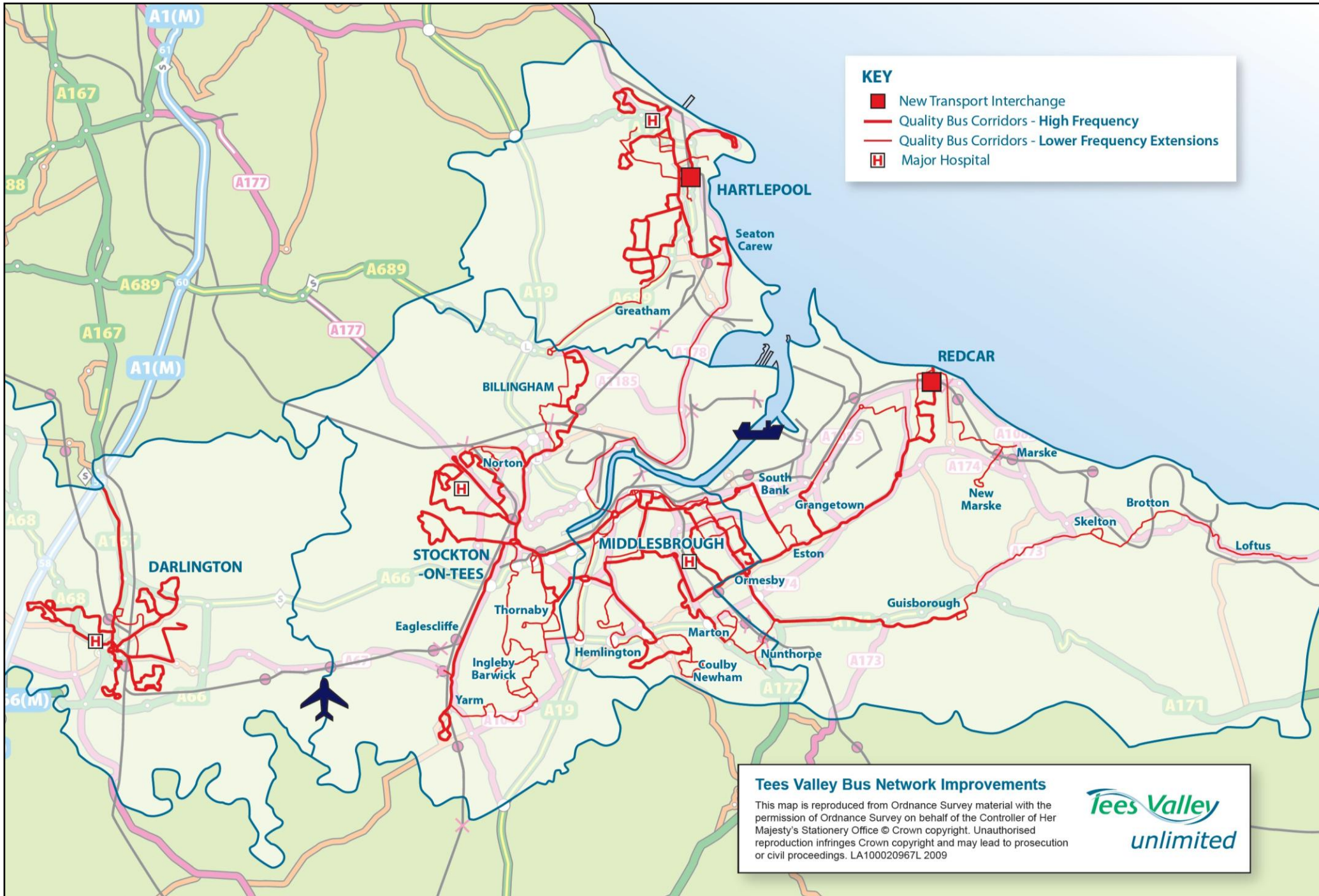
Councillor Peter Jackson, Portfolio Holder of Hartlepool Borough Council and current Chair of Tees Valley Unlimited's Transport sub-Board, said "This scheme has been five years in development, and we welcome the confirmation of funding that will see all parts of the Tees Valley benefiting from these investments in the next few years. Public transport will have a vital role to play in helping people recover from the recession, as well as supporting a more sustainable transport system for the future."

Added Hugh Lang, Chair of Tees Valley Unlimited “This scheme is a prime example of the benefit of having a true public-private partnership that can argue the Tees Valley’s case for investment with government, and I would like to thank all of those involved in making it happen, including bus operators. It will bring real benefits to the local economy, providing modern transport facilities for local people and visitors alike.”

Interested parties can keep up to date with the progress of the scheme through the Councils’ websites, or using the City Region travel information portal found at www.connectteesvalley.com.

26-3-10

NOTE FOR EDITORS: Please find below a schematic illustration of the corridor within the project. For further information please contact Peter Dodson, telephone 01642 353111/07753 910536



KEY

- New Transport Interchange
- Quality Bus Corridors - High Frequency
- Quality Bus Corridors - Lower Frequency Extensions
- H Major Hospital

Tees Valley Bus Network Improvements

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