

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF MIDDLESBROUGH BUS STATION, SUMMER 2012

BRIEFING NOTE FOR TRANSPORT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

Middlesbrough Bus Station will close in the summer for a major overhaul, designed to make it as accessible as possible for disabled and other users.

The Bus Station, which opened on 6 October 1982, is one of the busiest in the North East for both local bus and express coach services, with an average of 35,000 passengers passing through every weekday. The Bus Station is used by over 1,400 buses and coaches each weekday, equating to around 450,000 vehicle movements per year.

The Bus Station will be out of action for between four and six weeks whilst the improvement works are carried out. Alternative facilities will be provided elsewhere in the town centre to ensure that disruption is minimised, and bus and coach passengers will be kept fully informed both beforehand and throughout the works.

The main Bus Station concourse and shop units will remain open throughout the works.

The £1.5 million project is part of the Tees Valley Bus Network Improvement Scheme, a Department for Transport-funded initiative that will see a £57 million investment in infrastructure improvements across the Tees Valley.

The Council has appointed contractor Walter Thompson to deliver the scheme's two key elements, which are:

- Reconstruction of the external concourse area and part-reconstruction of the ramps to the upper deck, dropping the carriageway level by 60 mm to create low floor stops at the majority of the local bus stands within the Bus Station; and
- Introduction of automatic doors at each of the stands, which will be triggered when a bus approaches.

The improvement works are programmed to commence on Monday 16 July 2012, and are expected to take between four and six weeks to complete. The contractor will work extended hours to ensure that the closure period is as short as possible.

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When the Bus Station closes, the 21 local bus stands and the express coach stand will be relocated to temporary sites elsewhere in the town centre. The Council has worked closely with Tees Valley Unlimited's Public Transport Group to develop the temporary traffic management arrangements required whilst the Bus Station is closed. These arrangements include the creation of a 'mini bus station' within the adjacent Denmark Street Car Park, which will be closed to all other traffic for the duration of the works. Two express coach stands will be provided within the mini bus station, together with temporary passenger facilities to replace those currently available within the Express Lounge of the Bus Station itself.

A major publicity exercise will be carried out before the commencement of works to ensure that key stakeholders and regular users of the Bus Station are fully aware of the closure and the temporary arrangements that will be in place whilst the Bus Station is out of action. In addition, staff will be 'on the ground' for the first few days of the closure, both within the Bus Station and at the temporary bus stop locations around the town centre, to offer guidance and advice to the travelling public.

ROB FARNHAM

Principal Engineer, Parking and Traffic Engineering

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