



**29 May 2014**

### **Tunnels re-opening date confirmed**

The re-opening date for the under-refurbishment Tyne Pedestrian and Cyclist Tunnels between Howdon and Jarrow has been confirmed as June 2015 following the awarding of additional contracts to deal with asbestos removal and corrosion.

The free, scheduled shuttle bus and a Night Service for shift workers will continue to operate during the closure.

Paul Fenwick, project director for the Grade II-listed tunnels, said: “Once we decided to fully address the asbestos and corrosion issues, we believed the works could be completed by February or March. When the bids came back from prospective specialist contractors it became obvious that the works would take longer than we had originally hoped.

“The alternative transport measures we put in place – providing a free replacement shuttle bus and a Night Service – have proved highly successful and will continue until the tunnels re-open.

One of the features of the refurbishment will be the replacement of two of the original wooden-step escalators with inclined lifts.

The main contractor is GB Building Solutions Ltd.