

THE ASSOCIATION OF RAIL NORTH PARTNER AUTHORITIES

Minutes of the meeting of the Association held at Manchester Town Hall, The Reception Room, Manchester on 12 January 2016.

PRESENT:

Sir Richard Leese	Greater Manchester Combined Authority
Keith Wakefield	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
John Fillis	Lancashire County Council
Phil Riley	Blackburn with Darwen Council
Ray Oxtby	North East Lincolnshire Council
Keith Little	Cumbria County Council
Liam Robinson	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
Terry O'Neill	Warrington Borough Council
David Brown	Cheshire East Council
Brian Clarke	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Jack Brereton	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Mark Winnington	Staffordshire County Council
Fred Jackson	Blackpool Council
Nick Forbes	North East Combined Authority
Phil Riley	Blackburn with Darwen Council
Dean Collins	Derbyshire County Council
Andy Burton	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Ian Gillies	City of York Council

APOLOGIES:

Baroness Redfern	North Lincolnshire Council
Nick McDonald	Nottingham City Council
Chris Metcalfe	North Yorkshire County Council
Bill Dixon	Darlington Borough Council
Martin Mancey	Hull City Council
Chris Akers-Belcher	Hartlepool Borough Council
Steve Calvert	Nottinghamshire County Council
Bob Cook	Stockton Borough Council
Julie Dore	Sheffield City Region Combined Authority
Sam Dixon	Cheshire West and Chester Council (substitute attended)

IN ATTENDANCE:

David Hoggarth	Rail North Ltd
Fergus Robertson	Rail North Partnership
Leo Goodwin	First
Graham Micklejohn	First
Roger Cobbe	Arriva
Jerry Swift	Arriva
Andy Brown	Cumbria County Council
Mike Ibbotson	Hull City Council
Jim Bamford	Nottinghamshire County Council
Kevin Williams	Derbyshire County Council
Wayne Menzies	Merseytravel
Lucy Hudson	North East Lincolnshire Council
Gerard Rhodes	Cheshire West and Cheshire Council
Clare Horton	Staffordshire County Council
Austin Knott	Stoke-on-Trent City Council

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and explained that the main purpose was to receive presentations from the winning bidders for the Northern and TransPennine Express franchises.

2. CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

- 2.1 One nomination was received from Cllr Liz Redfern from North Lincolnshire Council. Baroness Redfern was elected as Vice Chair of the Association of Rail North Partner Authorities.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

- 3.1 The Chair reminded members to make appropriate declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 OCTOBER 2016

- 4.1 These were agreed with one correction to the attendance list.

5. FRANCHISE AWARD

- 5.1 A presentation was made by Roger Cobbe, Policy Director of Arriva UK Trains Ltd (the winning bidder for the Northern Rail franchise). The presentation set out the main features and benefits of the new Northern franchise including:

- A total transformation of the rolling stock fleet
- 30% of the fleet ultimately comprising of brand new rolling stock
- 2000 new trains services per week
- Northern Connect service linking main centres across the North
- A vision comprising trains fit for conurbations, payment before travel, smart ticketing and expansion built on revenue growth
- Steady progress towards a rational fares structure
- A greater focus on Community Rail
- Innovation and service development funds.

5.2 Members asked a number of questions covering:

- A request for regional meetings with Arriva
- Locations of proposed apprenticeships
- A request for the breakdown of number of new vehicles by diesel and electric
- Regional Management Units
- Staff recruitment
- The proposed Innovation fund
- A request for the Managing Director to attend future meetings of the Association
- Smart ticketing
- The positive role of Rail North in achieving growth and journey time reductions
- The importance of tourism on routes to Blackpool.

5.3 A presentation was made by Leo Goodwin, Managing Director Designate for TransPennine Express. The presentation set out the main features and benefits of the new TransPennine Express franchise including,

- A proper intercity service for the North
- £500m investment including 220 brand new carriages and 13m extra seats p.a
- A timetable broadly the same 7 days per week
- A plan to accelerate growth as quickly as possible
- 70% of the fleet to be brand new trains with the first new train by the end of 2017
- Capacity more than doubling
- £18m invested in stations
- An expansion in the number of apprenticeships
- Half price tickets for 16-18 year olds and job seekers
- A desire to work closely with Rail North.

5.4 Members asked a number of questions covering:

- Innovation and the benefits for small businesses
- A request to attend future meetings of the Association
- Approach to managing risk
- Timeline for uplifting capacity.

5.5 Sir Richard Leese thanked the two presenters and recognised the good work that had been done by both the bidders and Rail North members. There is a need to keep up the work as next time the expectation is that Rail North will be letting the franchises.

6. TRANSITION AND MOBILISATION

6.1 The Rail Director, North of England presented a report on transition and mobilisation of the franchises. He highlighted his role as being the single point of contact for the franchisees on commercial matters, but also in promoting Rail North's plans. The mobilisation is currently on track. The report was noted.

7. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSE

7.1 The next meeting of the Association is to take place on 2 March 2016.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

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Chairman