

## General Meeting of Rail North Ltd.

**Meeting date:** Thursday 22 September 2016

**Item:** B5

**Subject:** Business Planning for 2017/18

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### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To set out an initial Business Plan for Rail North in 2017/18.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the initial Business Plan is discussed and a further draft is prepared for the next Rail North Ltd Board meeting.

### 3. Information

- 3.1. The Rail North Director wrote to all Rail North member authorities in July setting out the process for developing the 2017/18 business plan and providing some initial context and thoughts on priorities for next year.
  - 3.2. Discussions on the business plan are taking place with individual members and regional groupings. The Officers' Steering Group discussed an initial draft at their meeting on 14 September and comments from that meeting have been incorporated in a further draft.
  - 3.3. Appendix A contains the current draft of the Business Plan for discussion and comment.
  - 3.4. The Rail North Business Planning process is set out in Appendix B.
  - 3.5. Further discussions will take place with member authorities and through the Officer Steering Group to develop a final plan and associated budget proposal for consideration by the Board at their next meeting. Some prioritisation of work will be necessary depending on the resources available. The final proposal will be presented to the general meeting of Rail North, planned for February 2017.
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## Rail North Initial Business Plan for 2017/18

As Rail North, we have achieved a considerable amount already including:

- Securing two transformational, investment-led franchises
- Building a strong joint Management Team and Partnership board to oversee the franchises
- Successfully managing the mobilisation and transition of the franchises
- Influencing the Shaw Review recommendation for a Northern route for Network Rail
- Securing and joint client status on the TransPennine Upgrade and ensuring the brief to Network Rail reflects the commitment to the North
- Establishing new, strong working relationships with the TOCs including the new 'quadrant meetings'
- Pulling together a Single Investment Plan for Rail North partner and industry proposals
- Developing a robust approach to the next control period and Initial Industry Plans.

Recognising these achievements, short-term priorities for the remainder of 2016/17 will include:

- Ensuring that members data and information requirements are met as far as possible
- Establishing strong joint working with the Northern Regional Directors and their teams;
- Influencing Control Period 6 (PR18)
- Refreshing the Long Term Rail Strategy through the development of the Integrated Rail Report with TfN
- Working with TfN on smart ticketing and fares simplification.
- Undertaking an Annual Review of Rail North and the Partnership and reporting to the Rail North Board and Secretary of State for Transport.
- Setting out a clear process for dealing with Rail North Members' enhancement schemes
- Commencing and jointly leading the North of England Route Strategy

Draft Business Plan priorities for 2017/18 are:

1. Through the Rail North Partnership ensure that the train operators meet their performance targets and committed obligations
2. Lead the positive communication of the 'northern investment programme' in infrastructure and franchises, including providing appropriate information to member authorities.
3. Work with TfN to make the case for continued and increased investment in rail in the North of England
4. Play an active role in and positively influence the ORR's approach to Periodic Review 2018 (setting the investment and priorities for 2019-2024) through submitting strategic consultation responses working jointly with TfN
5. Through the Rail North Partnership shape the government's HLOS process in relation to investment in the North of England.
6. Jointly lead the 'North of England Route Study' (part of the industry planning process) with Network Rail
7. Work with TfN to develop and implement an approach to 'co-decision making' on rail investment schemes.
8. Oversee the successful integration of Rail North and TfN when TfN becomes a statutory body
9. Ensure that the new statutory plan for TfN reflects the Long Term Rail Strategy
10. Develop and commence implementation of a prioritised programme of Rail North enhancements including at least one pilot of line speed improvements
11. Lead an industry pilot for efficiency savings through route investment that produces cashable savings for Rail North
12. Act as a strong joint client on the TransPennine Route Upgrade including appropriate and timely decision making on options developed by Network Rail
13. Develop a proposal and supporting business case for further devolution of rail franchising and investment
14. Establish a 'centre of excellence' approach to investment schemes including establishing Rail North as a 'facilitator' of enhancement schemes
15. Develop an approach to fares simplification and wider fares policy for possible implementation from January 2018
16. Develop an approach to line re-openings

17. Develop and commence implementation of a programme of research and development (aimed at passenger experience and delivery of the Long Term Rail Strategy) in collaboration with other relevant authorities
18. Continue to support the APPG Rail in the North Group including holding an annual reception
19. Increase engagement with MPs across the North of England, working jointly with Transport for the North.
20. Continue industry engagement including with the Rail Delivery Group and ORR.
21. Working with neighbouring authorities including West Midlands Rail and the Scottish and Welsh devolved governments on areas of joint interest.
22. Support station devolution proposals developed by member authorities.
23. Influence other relevant franchising processes, working in collaboration with relevant member authorities (for example by responding to consultations)/

## Appendix B: Business Planning Process

