

Rail North Committee Meeting – Minutes

Meeting: Rail North Committee Meeting
Date: Wednesday 6 March 2019. 13.00 – 17.00
Venue: Leeds – Committee Room A, Wellington House.

Attendees:

Cllr Liam Robinson (Chair) (to item 6)	Liverpool City Region
Cllr Trevor Ainsworth (Chair from item 6)	East Midlands Authorities
Cllr Harold Davenport	Cheshire and the Potteries
Mayor Andy Burnham (Part to item 6)	Greater Manchester Combined Authority
Cllr Don Mackenzie (Part to item 7)	North Yorkshire
Cllr Judith Blake (Part from item 7)	West Yorkshire and York

Also in Attendance:

Richard George (Item 4)	SNC Lavalin
Amanda White	Rail North Partnership Board and TfGM
Barry White	Chief Executive
David Hoggarth	Strategic Rail Director
Gary Bogan	Rail North Partnership Director
Tom Davidson	Transport Planner
Adam Timewell (Part)	Rail North Partnership
Salim Patel (Item 6)	TfN
Richard Allan (Part of item 6)	Northern
Rob Warnes (Part of item 6)	Northern

Apologies:

Cllr Keith Little	Lancashire and Cumbria
Cllr Rob Waltham	Humber Authorities
Mayor Dan Jarvis	Sheffield City Region
Cllr Keith Iddon	Lancashire and Cumbria
Cllr Carl Marshall	North East Authorities
Mayor Ben Houchen	Tees Valley

1.0 Welcome and Apologies **Action**

- 1.1 Members of the Board / Committee were welcomed to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence were noted as set out above. The Chair noted that the minimum 50% of members were not present for a quorum under the TfN constitution. He proposed to the meeting that the procedure be waived and that the legal minimum of 25% of members apply for the meeting.
- 1.3 The Chair stated that he would have to leave the meeting early and asked for a nomination to take the Chair. Cllr Ainsworth kindly offered to take the Chair when required. Other members stated that they would have to leave early, and it was also noted that Cllr Blake would not be able to attend until later in the meeting.
- 1.4 To assist with agenda and time management, the Chair suggested that the Chairs' briefing note be circulated to all members in advance of future meetings. DH

RESOLVED It was resolved that:

- (1) The TfN procedure for a minimum of 50% of members to be present for a quorum be waived to allow the meeting to proceed within the legal minimum of 25% of members.

2.0 Declaration of Interest

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3.0 Minutes

- 3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2019 were considered and agreed.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2019 be approved as a correct record.

4.0 Performance Update

- 4.1 Consideration was given to a report by the Transport Planner on Performance Update.
- 4.2 Richard George provided a verbal update to the members on his performance improvement plan.
- 4.3 Mayor Burnham questioned Richard George's role in the May 19 and the December 19 timetable negotiations.
- 4.4 In response, Richard George stated that he is working with the industry on readiness for the May timetable and the Project Management Office (PMO) of Network Rail is leading on the December timetable.
- 4.5 Richard George also stated that he is working on two other documents:
- A list of minor investments to support his action plan. This will be reported back in April.
 - A list of committed services and supporting infrastructure. This is likely to be reported back in May.
- 4.6 Caroline Whittam and Tom Davidson then gave a presentation on performance data analysis and showed the members the information gathered so far. TfN will work with train operators to gain crowding and capacity information and finalise in April.
- 4.7 Mayor Burnham said that the data should account for the passengers who cannot get on a train due to crowding. It was confirmed that it was the intention to incorporate this.
- 4.8 Cllr Davenport questioned whether Train Operators now actually admit that overcrowding is a problem. Gary Bogan explained that there is no regulatory limit to the number of passengers that can fit on a train.
- 4.9 Cllr Ainsworth asked if performance in the North could be benchmarked against other train operators, nationally. It was agreed this would be done for future reports.

- 4.10 Cllr Robinson thanked Tom Davidson and Caroline Whittam for the presentations but stated that there was much more work to be done to gain passenger information.
- 4.11 Mayor Burnham questioned if mid 80s (PPM) was good enough and is this the 'new normal' even before we take Sunday Services into consideration. He does not feel this is good enough. The Chair agreed.
- 4.12 David Hoggarth has been informed by the industry of a further step change improvement in May 2019, but the precise nature had not been evidenced.
- 4.13 Richard George stated that new more reliable fleets will be in place during 2019 with resilience across the system. He stated that the May 19 timetable will be a further improvement and December 19 will also be a marked improvement.
- 4.14 Mayor Burnham stated that there cannot be a repeat of May 2018.
- 4.15 Cllr Robinson stated that for the industry to deliver a robust timetable, it may be that some new services cannot be delivered, as more trains are travelling through the infrastructure causing unreliability.
- 4.16 Mayor Burnham mentioned the problems on the Castlefield corridor and asked why the industry had put more trains on the system when the infrastructure could not cope with it. He suggested that the industry needs to get to heart of this matter so that a reliable service can be delivered. It is unacceptable that trains are so regularly delayed on this part of the network. He suggested going back to the previous quantum of trains as a way of delivering a more reliable service.
- 4.17 It was reported that Network Rail are undertaking a study of the corridor and Central Manchester congestion problems. Cllr Robinson queried whether the findings will be reported.

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- 4.18 Cllr Robinson stated that thought will be needed on this issue in April and highlighted that if services had to be reduced in the short-term some tough choices would be needed. Mayor Burnham then mentioned the May 2020 timetable and stated that discussion need to start for this as soon as possible if this was the opportunity to sort the problem.
- 4.19 Cllr Robinson asked David Hoggarth to check with Network Rail that the information will be ready for the April Meeting. DH

RESOLVED: It was resolved that:

- (1) The Committee **noted** current performance trends.
- (2) The Committee **endorsed** the revised reporting proposed subject to the addition of suitable crowding information and benchmarking.

5.0 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED: That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business since it is likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of confidential information as defined in s100A(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

6.0 Franchise Strategy

(During the course of this item Cllr Robinson left the meeting and handed the Chair to Cllr Ainsworth. Mayor Andy Burnham also left the meeting and the meeting became inquorate for the remainder of this item).

- 6.1 The Rail North Partnership Director, Gary Bogan, gave a presentation to the members on a number of commercial matters in relation Franchise Strategy.

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- 6.2 Richard Allan and Rob Warnes of Northern joined the meeting for part of this item and presented on their strategy for Sunday services.

RESOLVED It was resolved that:

(Inquorate decision):

- (1) The Committee **noted** the presentation and provided views on a number of items contained within the presentation.

7.0 Review of the Rail North Partnership

(Cllr Blake joined the meeting and it was again quorate).

- 9.1 The Committee received a paper with draft recommendations on the Blake Jones Review from Cllr Blake.
- 9.2 Cllr Blake requested feedback from the members and indicated that the full report would go forward to the Transport for the North Partnership Board in April.
- 9.3 David Hoggarth stated that the plan was to send the report for industry fact checking, but this can be done in parallel to it going to the Board members before it is published.

RESOLVED It was resolved that:

(Inquorate decision):

- (1) The Committee **noted** the paper.

8.0 Special Compensation Scheme

- 8.1 The report contained an update on the special compensation scheme.

RESOLVED It was resolved that:

(Inquorate decision):

- (1) The Committee **noted** the paper.

9.0 Date of the Next Meeting

- 9.1 The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 2 April 2019 in Committee Room A, Wellington House, Leeds from 10.00 until 12.00.