

Rail North Committee Meeting – Minutes

Meeting: Rail North Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday 7 February 2019

Venue: Chester Town Hall

Attendees:

Cllr Liam Robinson (Chair)
Cllr Keith Little
Mayor Andy Burnham
Cllr Rob Waltham
Cllr Judith Blake
Cllr Trevor Ainsworth
Cllr Stephen Harker
Cllr Don MacKenzie

Liverpool City Region
Lancashire and Cumbria
Greater Manchester Combined Authority
Humber Authorities
West Yorkshire and York
East Midlands Authorities
Tees Valley Combined Authority
North Yorkshire County Council

In Attendance:

David Hoggarth
Gary Bogan
Tom Davidson
Hugh Chaplain
Anna-Jane Hunter
Rob Warnes
Leo Goodwin
David Brown
Caroline Whittam
Richard George
Sam Caughey

TfN, Strategic Rail Director
Rail North Partnership Director
TfN, Transport Planner
TfN, Strategic Rail Advisor
Network Rail (Items 1-6)
Northern (Items 1-6 and part of 12)
TransPennine Express (Items 1-6)
Northern (Items 1-6 and part of 12)
TfGM
SVN Lavalin
DfT (Item 12)

Apologies:

Cllr Carl Les
Cllr Carl Marshall
Cllr Keith Iddon
Mayor Ben Houchen
Mayor Dan Jarvis
Cllr Harold Davenport

North Yorkshire County Council
North East
Lancashire and Cumbria
Tees Valley Combined Authority
Sheffield City Region
Cheshire and The Potteries

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.
- 1.3 The Chair (Cllr Robinson) requested that Item 11 and 12 be taken out of order after Item 7. This was agreed.

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 15 January 2019 were considered and agreed.

RESOLVED: It was resolved that:

- (1) That the minutes of the meeting of the Rail North Committee held on 15 January 2019 be approved as a correct record.

4.0 Performance Reporting

- 4.1 Consideration was given to a report by the Transport Planner on Performance Reporting which was seeking to provide the Committee with more user-friendly, 'real impact' data on passenger impacts.
- 4.2 Mayor Burnham thanked them for the presentation and stated that line by line information is preferable to sectors. This together with the National Rail Passenger Satisfaction Survey (NRPS) is going in the correct direction. He would like to see the NRPS results broken down by line of route.
- 4.3 Cllr Blake appreciated the more passenger focussed data and found it helpful.
- 4.4 Cllr Ainsworth stated that this was exactly what he requires, but questioned how it compares to

other train operators. He suggested some benchmarking would be useful.

- 4.5 David Brown agreed that the data gave a flavour of the information on a granular basis.
- 4.6 Cllr Blake suggested that the information should seek to capture specific accessibility and equalities impacts.
- 4.7 Richard George agreed with this point and stated that information could also be offered station by station.
- 4.8 Cllr Robinson thanked Caroline Whittam for her efforts and suggested further blending of some information (performance data and passenger experience). He then asked the operators to update on the National Passenger Rail Survey results.
- 4.9 Leo Goodwin commented on the disappointing results due to the timing of the survey (in the autumn) when performance was at an unacceptable level and highlighted the efforts being made to increase these levels in the future. He stated that performance is the key driver of satisfaction.
- 4.10 David Brown also commented on the unacceptable period and the problems travellers on both sides of the Pennines suffered. He suggested that the key driver was the way in which disruption is dealt with and offered to share action plans.
- 4.11 David Hoggarth stated that although performance has improved, passengers are still affected by affected by short form trains which will drive scores on any particular day. Transport Focus can provide more detail from the NRPS surveys and a dashboard will be produced for the next meeting.

RESOLVED: It was resolved that:

- (1) That the Committee noted the current performance of the train operators.

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- (2) The views of the Committee on the proposed performance report be incorporated in a revised draft.
 - (3) The Committee noted the National Rail Passenger Survey (NRPS) results for both operators.

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 Train Service Planning Update

- 6.1 The Committee considered a Train Service Planning Update report from the Strategic Rail Advisor.
- 6.2 The Committee also considered a presentation given by Richard George on his work to date.

RESOLVED: It was resolved that:

- (1) The Committee noted the position on the May 2019 timetable planning.
- (2) The Committee noted the latest position on December 2019 timetable plans for Northern and TransPennine Express

7.0 Network Rail Passenger Fund

- 7.1 Anna-Jane Hunter of Network Rail updated the Committee on the Network Rail Passenger Fund.

RESOLVED: It was resolved that:

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- (1) The Committee noted the clarification of the funding and the progress on the Network Rail Passenger Fund.

Network Rail, TPE and Richard George left the meeting at this point.

The next two items were taken out of order in order to facilitate a discussion with Northern on the issue of Sunday Services.

8.0 Confidentiality Protocol

- 8.1 The Committee considered a report by the Legal Services Officer on the Confidentiality protocol.

RESOLVED: It was resolved that:

- (1) The Committee approved a protocol governing the handling of Confidential Information (as defined below) by the attached Constituent and Rail North Authorities ("Protocol").

9.0 Franchise Strategy

- 9.1 The Committee received a presentation from Gary Bogan provided under the terms of the Confidentiality Agreement with the DfT.
- 9.2 The Committee noted that Sam Caughey from the DfT was in attendance at this meeting.

During the discussion of this item, a number of Members had to leave and the meeting became inquorate. The remainder of the agenda items (8, 9 and 10) were therefore **deferred**.

10.0 Date of the Next Meeting

- 10.1 The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6 March 2019 in Committee Room A, Wellington House, Leeds.