

Rail North Committee Meeting – Minutes

Meeting: Rail North Committee Meeting
Date: Tuesday 15 January 2019
Venue: West Room, Leeds Civic Hall

Attendees:

Cllr Liam Robinson (Chair)	Liverpool City Region
Cllr Keith Little	Lancashire and Cumbria
Mayor Andy Burnham	Greater Manchester Combined Authority
Cllr Rob Waltham	Humber Authorities
Cllr Judith Blake	West Yorkshire and York
Cllr Harold Davenport	Cheshire and The Potteries

In Attendance:

David Hoggarth	TfN, Strategic Rail Director
Gary Bogan	Rail North Partnership Director
Tom Davidson	TfN, Transport Planner
Hugh Chaplain	TfN, Strategic Rail Advisor
Anna-Jane Hunter	Network Rail (Items 1-6)
Rob Warnes	Northern (Items 1-6)
Leo Goodwin	TransPennine Express (Items 1-6)
David Brown	Northern (Items 1-6)
Duncan Cross	Richard George Team (Items 1-6)

Apologies:

Cllr Carl Les	North Yorkshire County Council
Cllr Trevor Ainsworth	East Midlands Authorities
Mayor Ben Houchen	Tees Valley Combined Authority
Mayor Dan Jarvis	Sheffield City Region
Cllr Carl Marshall	North East

1.0 Welcome and Apologies

Action

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| 1.1 | Members of the Board / Committee were welcomed to the meeting. |
| 1.2 | Apologies for absence were noted as set out above. |

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- 1.3 The Chair (Cllr Robinson) requested that Item 9 be taken out of order after Item 6. 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 6 December 2018 were considered and amendments were made. Cllr Blake felt that her points raised in the last meeting were not adequately covered, so the minutes were duly amended by adding the following:

"4.3 - JB raised concerns about overcrowding, especially as a result of short formations, with passengers being left behind at stations every day with operators unable to provide data on the scale of the problem. She noted that TfN had had to arrange surveys, and questioned if CCTV could be used to report the problem. She also raised health and safety concerns with reports of children being left behind at stations. She recounted witnessing a lady having a panic attack on a crowded train from Sheffield to Leeds which was very concerning and illustrated the 'people impact' of current performance."

She also requested that initials are not used within the minutes.

There were two further minor changes made (shown as underlined):

"8.4 - Members were advised that TfN proposes a response to TPE's proposed extension of services to Edinburgh that accepts the proposal for inclusion in the TPE December 2019 timetable bid to Network Rail, on the basis that the increase in service on a new route must not be at the expense of delivering contracted reliability and capacity on existing services."

It was resolved that:

- (1) TPE's proposed service extension to Edinburgh be endorsed subject to it

not being “at the expense of contracted reliability”.

RESOLVED: Subject to the above changes the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2018 be approved as a correct record.

4.0 Performance Update

- 4.1 Consideration was given to a report of TfN’s Transport Planner setting out recent performance information. A verbal update was provided by Anna-Jane Hunter of Network Rail. She discussed the anticipated marked improvement in PPM since the 9 December timetable change and highlighted the significant improvement for TPE. Northern were also producing good steady results and she acknowledged that numbers are not quite where we want them but expected further improvement. Network Rail will continue to seek improvements.
- 4.2 Leo Goodwin (TPE) mentioned that the 9 December 2018 timetable change included changes to the North TransPennine Route previously discussed and he was pleased to report this has facilitated a marked improvement. From 9 December to 13 January 2019 PPM had increased to around 85% on average. The last couple of weeks had seen highs of 88-89%, which is similar to levels prior to May 2018.
- 4.3 Rob Warnes (Northern) mentioned the encouraging results having put changes in place. He recognised that there are still problems around the Central Manchester area and analysis of issues and potential solutions is ongoing.
- 4.4 David Brown (Northern) stated that a joined up plan across the North is required. Richard George’s team are producing good results and already developing a plan across the north.
- 4.5 Duncan Cross (Richard George’s team) echoed industry colleagues and stated that a draft action plan from the last meeting had been received and changes were made to Richard George’s final report which will be seen at the

- February meeting. Duncan agreed to supply copies of this presentation to Committee members. He is pleased with the co-ordination and has received good feedback on the work so far.
- 4.6 Cllr Robinson thanked the presenters and requested that an interim report is supplied.
- 4.7 Cllr Brewis questioned the train crewing problems. In response Leo Goodwin explained the mixture of training options and this year, due to expanding capacity/increased need, there will be three training schools instead of the usual one. David Brown stated similar plans but on a larger scale. A recruitment drive has begun.
- 4.8 Mayor Burnham noted an improving picture and that the new year began much better. He did state that too much is being asked of the industry and TfN have tried to move issues forward but having no Sunday Service should not be the 'new normal' as this is not acceptable. Also these cancellations do not appear on any statistics. This issue is urgent as congestion, especially at weekends, is becoming a problem.
- 4.9 David Brown addressed the issue of short formations. New rolling stock is planned and drivers are now being trained on new trains which are due in March 2019. In terms of weekends, prior to Christmas RMT were invited to ACAS to arrange a meeting to participate in an Inquiry to attempt to sort out the dispute. Sunday working is a big issue and engineering work also causes problems that day too. It was noted that discussions with the Rail North Partnership (RNP) are required on Northern's plans to resolve the situation.
- 4.10 Cllr Davenport questioned the issues that were raised with the new rolling stock and when would this be in service. In response, Leo Goodwin stated that 3 fleets were being introduced and one has issues on testing. This has been rectified on several trains now and further testing is taking place. Trains are expected to enter into passenger service in the

Spring, the exact date will be confirmed once testing has been completed.

- 4.11 Rob Warnes stated that brand new trains are currently being tested. He updated the meeting on the good progress being made on refurbished 'flex' trains.
- 4.12 David Brown informed the meeting of the investment being made in new depot facilities. Leo Goodwin stated that they are also delivering new depots with new ways of working.
- 4.13 Cllr Blake echoed previous comments and recognised the progress being made, but she reminded the meeting not to lose sight of the travelling public's continued plight. She stated that we do get reliable information on train running, etc, but we are still missing the data on how the public are impacted. Even with all the new technology and systems, there is no ability to count the number of people left behind on platforms. Authorities have done this work in the past. She stated that the recent Reviews are all passenger focussed, but we do not have the exact passenger information to better understand the situation. She questioned how the new rolling stock will assist with the ongoing Huddersfield to Leeds problems, as bringing in new stock brings its own risks. She would welcome robust, ongoing information.
- 4.14 David Hoggarth stated that some surveys have taken place and TfN is working with the operators on a revised report for consideration at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: It was resolved that:

- (1) The performance update and industry plans be noted.
- (2) David Brown will send out a note on the IR issues.
- (3) Duncan Cross will issue his report to the Committee members.

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 Timetable Development

- 6.1 The Committee considered a report of the Senior Rail Advisor covering the development of the December 2019 timetable.
- 6.2 The Committee received a presentation from Leo Goodwin setting out TPE's proposals for December 2019. These proposals had been formally submitted to the Rail North Partnership as set out in the covering report.
- 6.3 The Committee received a presentation from Rob Warnes setting out Northern's plans. He recapped on a presentation given at the previous meeting and provided some additional detail.
- 6.4 Cllr Robinson thanked the presenters for their complex and detailed presentations and led a discussion on the proposals.
- 6.5 The Committee noted the enhancements and new rolling stock planned, but discussed in some detail the infrastructure constraints that, in some cases restricted the service enhancements that could be delivered in the short-term.
- 6.6 Constraints in West Yorkshire, Central Manchester and the Stockport areas were discussed. In expressing concerns, it was agreed that a summary of network/ infrastructure gaps would be provided to the next meeting clearly setting out where work is

in progress, planned or still required to facilitate committed enhancements.

- 6.7 An update was provided on Boxing Day services. A report on potential services for 2019 would be brought to a future meeting. Network Rail would work with operators on the availability of the network given planned engineering work.

RESOLVED: It was resolved that:

- (1) The Committee noted the issues affecting train service planning for the May 2019 and December 2019 timetables.
- (2) The Committee endorsed a set of principles set out in the attached report that represent TfN's strategic advice to the industry with regard service planning.
- (3) The Committee agreed a response to the initial industry proposals for December 2019 as set out in the attached report.
- (4) A report to the next meeting be tabled on the network and infrastructure constraints and DfT to be invited to attend a future meeting.
- (5) Proposals for Boxing Day services in 2019 be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee.

The next item was taken out of order so that industry representatives could be present.

9.0 Network Rail Passenger Improvement Fund

- 9.1 Anna-Jane Hunter of network Rail updated the Committee on the Network Rail Passenger Improvement Fund. The £15m of funding for the North had been announced at the TfN Board meeting on 6 December.
- 9.2 The Committee asked a number of questions and raised a number of issues in relation to the

proposed fund. However, it was noted that the funding was available in the current 'Control Period' to 31 March 2019 and Committee Member wished to ensure that the north didn't miss out on the investment. The Strategic Rail Director was asked to seek further clarity from the DfT and report back.

RESOLVED: It was resolved that:

- (1) DfT be asked for a response to the issues raised at the meeting.
- (2) Subject to the above response, the Committee endorsed the approach.

7.0 Review of the Rail North Partnership

- 7.1 Cllr Blake updated the members on her meeting with Andrew Jones MP and DfT officers in Harrogate recently. She said that we can now build on the Glaister Review and feed into the Williams Review and it is the intention that the draft report will be shared at the next Rail North Committee (RNC) meeting on 7 February 2019. She stated that it was important that TfN own this document.
- 7.2 Cllr Robinson requested the report be circulated a week prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Committee noted the progress on the Joint Review of the Rail North Partnership.

8.0 Rail Passenger Compensation Update

- 8.1 The Committee considered a report on the next stage of Rail Passenger Compensation. David Hoggarth provided a verbal update on the additional options considered following a request at the previous meeting.
- 8.2 Committee members discussed the options and requested some changes to the proposal.

RESOLVED: It was resolved that a final proposition be tabled at the meeting on 7 February taking into account the comments made by the members at the meeting.

10.0 Franchise Commercial Matters

- 10.1 The Committee received a presentation from Gary Bogan provided under the terms of the Confidentiality Agreement with the DfT.
- 10.2 The presentation covered a number of matters relating to the commercial management of the franchises.
- 10.3 Committee members thanked Gary Bogan for his presentation and the level of detail provided.
- 10.4 Members agreed that in future there should be a standing item on the agenda covering these issues. Noting that many of the items were 'reserved matters' under the Partnership Agreement with DfT, the DfT should be invited to attend future meetings.

RESOLVED: It was resolved that:

- (1) The presentation from Gary Bogan on a number of detailed commercial matters be noted.
- (2) DfT be invited to attend future agenda items on this subject.

11.0 Date of the Next Meeting

- 11.1 The next meeting will be held on 7 February in Chester at 2.30pm.