

# Rail North Committee Meeting – Minutes

**Meeting:** Rail North Committee  
**Date:** Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019, 10.00 – 12.00  
**Venue:** Committee Room A, Wellington House, Leeds, LS1 2DE  
**Attendees:**

Cllr Liam Robinson (Chair)  
 Mayor Andy Burnham  
 Mayor Ben Houchen  
 Cllr Chris Brewis  
 Cllr Judith Blake  
 Cllr Rob Waltham

Liverpool City Region  
 Greater Manchester  
 Tees Valley  
 East Midlands Authorities  
 West Yorkshire and York  
 Humber Authorities  
 North Yorkshire

Cllr Hans Mundry (as an observer)

Warrington

**Also in Attendance:**

Barry White  
 David Hoggarth  
 Tom Davidson  
 Jane Cornthwaite

TfN Chief Executive  
 TfN Strategic Rail Director  
 TfN Transport Planner  
 TfN Rail North Partnership Board  
 Representative  
 TfN Head of Investment Planning

Jim Bamford

**Apologies:**

Cllr Trevor Ainsworth  
 Cllr Keith Little  
 Cllr Carl Marshall  
 Cllr Keith Iddon  
 Mayor Dan Jarvis

East Midlands Authorities  
 Lancashire and Cumbria  
 North East Authorities  
 Lancashire and Cumbria  
 Sheffield City Region

**1.0 Welcome and Apologies**

**Action**

- 1.1 The chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and there were self-introductions.

**2.0 Declaration of Interest**

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

**3.0 Minutes of the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were considered.

Mayor Houchen asked for an update on the potential timescales in relation to the proposed hydrogen trains trial in the Tees Valley, which was referenced in the minutes.

David Hoggarth confirmed that no update had been provided by the DfT but would seek an update for the Committee.

**ACTION**

**RESOLVED:** To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019 as a correct record.

#### **4.0 Exclusion of Press and Public**

**RESOLVED:** That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items 5.0 and 6.0 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).

#### **5.0 Franchise Strategy**

- 5.1 A report from the Rail North Partnership was considered together with the detailed franchise dashboards. The report was discussed and noted.

**RESOLVED:**

- I. To **note** the report.
- II. To agree actions as discussed.

#### **6.0 Franchise Investment Plan**

- 6.1 The Franchise Investment Plan Report was discussed and noted.
- 6.2 Cllr Blake stated that there were some inaccuracies in the paper in relation to the new platform 0 at Leeds station and asked the Committee to acknowledge and requested it be amended.

**RESOLVED:**

- I. To **note** the report.

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II. To amend the report as discussed.

The public were invited back into the meeting.

**7.0 Performance Update**

- 7.1 A report by the Transport Planner, including the regular monthly performance update, was considered.
- 7.2 Tom Davidson stated that recent results show the Public Performance Measure (PPM) scored in the mid to low 80s. These figures have declined since May 2019.
- 7.3 Mayor Burnham questioned why these figures had fallen, querying if there was a combination of issues or a principal cause.
- 7.4 Tom Davidson stated there could be numerous factors. For instance, the resource utilised to ensure the May 2019 timetable changes did not mirror those of May 2018. In addition, there has been an increase in cancellations due to environment factors. (Flooding/Heat etc.)
- 7.5 Cllr Blake welcomed the details within the report, stating that it highlighted a stark position which is a real concern.
- 7.6 Cllr Blake continued, stating she believed the data was underestimating passenger crowding on Northern & TPE services. The impact overcrowded trains have on the ability of those with disabilities was stressed, with, for example, some people not attempting to travel on peak time services at all.
- 7.7 The major concern was the extent of overcrowding on TPE services, currently there is a 6-hour period of the traveling day that is experiencing overcrowding.
- 7.8 The Committee also remained concerned regarding the forthcoming Autumn period as passenger numbers will likely increase.
- 7.9 Tom Davidson considered that the data TfN are receiving from Northern and TPE significantly underestimates the number of passengers. Therefore, officers asked to engage with Northern and TPE to

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request the raw data for analytical purposes. The raw data would improve accuracy and in turn would feed into the train plan.

7.10 Cllr Blake stated the Committee has continually asked for the raw data but to no avail.

7.11 Mayor Burnham suggested the Committee conducts a survey of its own, by liaising with the Local Transport Authorities.

7.12 The Chair agreed, stating that an action for the Committee would be to assess the possibility of conducting an independent survey with Local Transport Authorities.

**ACTION**

7.13 The discussion then moved on to the residual Network Rail funds from CP5 (allocated to passenger benefits), with Mayor Burnham asking the Committee if it has been spent.

7.14 Jim Bamford then agreed to get a written update from Network Rail and then produce a report for September Rail North Committee.

**ACTION**

7.15 Mayor Burnham stated it was unacceptable if the funding had not been spent, stating that money left over should have been spent on operational resilience as agreed by the Committee.

7.16 David Hoggarth confirmed that Network Rail would be contacted in relation to the CP5 funding and a report would be brought to the September Committee meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

- I. To **note** the report.
- II. To agree the actions as set out above.

## **8.0 Rail Reviews and Governance**

- 8.1 Cllr Blake proposed that the paper on Rail Reviews and Governance be deferred.  
It was felt that deferring the paper would provide an opportunity to assess the Partnership & Committee functions.
- 8.2 Mayor Houchen agreed, acknowledging the work Cllr Blake had done in relation to the Committees governance functions.
- 8.3 The Chair agreed and the Committee agreed to defer the paper on Rail Reviews and Governance.

**RESOLVED:** The item was deferred.

## **9.0 Date of the Next Meeting**

**RESOLVED:** That the next Committee will be held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019 from 10.00 until 12.00 – venue to be confirmed.