
Rail North Committee Meeting – Minutes

Meeting: Rail North Committee
Date: Thursday 20th June 2019 – 10.00 – 12.00
Venue: Council Chamber, Bradford City Hall, Bradford

Attendees:

Cllr Liam Robinson (Chair)	Liverpool City Region
Mayor Andy Burnham	Greater Manchester
Cllr Trevor Ainsworth	East Midlands
Cllr Carl Marshall	North East
Cllr Judith Blake	West Yorkshire & York

Also in Attendance:

David Hoggarth	TfN Strategic Rail Director
Gary Bogan	Rail North Partnership Director
Tom Davidson	TfN Transport Planner
Dawn Madin	TfN
Sasha Wayne	TfN
Deborah Dimock	TfN
Barry White	TfN
Jim Bamford	TfN
Sam Caughey	DfT

Apologies:

Cllr Carl Les	North Yorkshire
Mayor Dan Jarvis	Sheffield City Region
Cllr Rob Waltham	Humber Authorities
Cllr Don Mackenzie	North Yorkshire

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

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2019 were considered.

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 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 of the Rail North Partnership Director, including an update on commercial franchise matters, was considered.

5.2 A detailed discussion took place which also included presentations from Gary Bogan on the next steps and from Sam Caughey from the Department for Transport. Gary Bogan also updated the meeting on the position on rolling stock provision.

5.3 Members noted the report and the presentations and requested a further report back to the July 2019 meeting.

RESOLVED:

- I. The report was **noted**.
- II. To agree a further update at the next meeting in July 2019.
- III. To agree actions as discussed.

6.0 Timetable Planning

6.1 A report by the Transport Planner providing an update on timetable planning issues including the December 2019 timetable was considered.

6.2 David Hoggarth stated that he will update the July 2019 meeting on Richard George's investment plans as previously reported.

6.3 The Central Manchester Capacity Study was discussed. It was agreed to raise the matter at the TfN Partnership Board that afternoon.

RESOLVED: I. The report was **noted**.
II. To agree a further update at the next meeting in July 2019.

The public were invited back into the meeting.

7.0 Rolling Stock Update

7.1 A report by the Strategic Rail Director was considered. David Hoggarth informed the meeting of the update from the train operators, highlighting the of innovation in rolling stock.

7.2 David Hoggarth informed the meeting that there are two proposals both at business case stage that he wished the Members to be aware of:

- Hydrogen trains in the Tees Valley.
- Hybrid electric/battery trains for Cumbria.

RESOLVED: I. The report was **noted**.
II. To **endorse** the rolling stock innovation proposals.

8.0 Performance Update

8.1 A report by the Transport Planner including the regular monthly performance update was considered.

8.2 Tom Davidson stated that recent results show Public Performance Measure (PPM) scores in the 80s. These appear to have declined slightly since the first few weeks of the new May 2019 timetable.

8.3 The content of the report is still in development and more detail is being sought from train operators on the crowding issues (specifically from TPE).

8.4 Northern's capacity calculations show that it is estimated that (for the 4 weekly period reported) 150 people each day may have been unable to board a train due to overcrowding.

-
- 8.5 Cllr Blake stated that the information provided so far was a good start, but further analysis is required. This should be a top priority, with more accurate information becoming available as new rolling stock (with automatic counting equipment) is introduced.
- 8.6 She stressed the real problems that all passengers, disabled and otherwise, experience due to crowding issues. She felt that some passengers had even been put off travelling by train.
- 8.7 Mayor Burnham echoed Cllr Blake's point and appreciated the latest work. He questioned the meaning of the statistics provided, including the 472 passenger spaces not provided into Manchester. Tom Davidson explained that this number equates to the number of passenger spaces (seated or standing) which are required each day but were not delivered.
- 8.8 Mayor Burnham accepted the explanation but stated that the position of overcrowding and people being unable to board trains should not be accepted by Members. His own observations suggest the number of people being unable to board are far greater, due to the unacceptable levels of short formations.
- 8.9 Various members noted that the statistics rely on accurate passenger count data being included in the train plan, and there is a need to ensure that this reflects actual passenger loadings.
- 8.10 Cllr Blake stated that the pressure must be kept up and questioned whether the figures stated were just for Leeds and Manchester, as Stockport has issues too. Tom Davidson responded that the measure uses the key centres identified in Northern's Train Service Requirement, but the methodology could be expanded if required.
- 8.11 David Hoggarth reported that Hull City Council had requested that an issue at the Hull Paragon was raised. It was reported that the side entrance to the station has been closed for a trial 3 months due to antisocial behaviour. The Council have raised concerns about the proposal and consultation.
- 8.12 It was reported that TPE have provided information on the reasons for this closure and a meeting has been arranged on 28 June 2019 with the Council.

8.13 Cllr Robinson suggested it would be preferable to deal with this type of matter outside of the formal meeting.

RESOLVED: The report was **noted**.

9.0 Date of the Next Meeting

RESOLVED: That the next Committee will be held on Wednesday 31 July 2019 from 10.00 until 12.00 at Wellington House, Leeds – Committee Room A.