

Rail North Committee Meeting

Item 5.0

Subject: Williams Rail Review

Author: Matthew Oxby, Transport Planner

Sponsor: David Hoggarth, Strategic Rail Director

Meeting Date: Tuesday 14th May 2019

1. Purpose of the Report:

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the Williams Rail Review and the development of Transport for the North's input to the call for evidence.
- 1.2 The Committee is asked to consider the proposed input and provide guidance to the Strategic Rail Director to finalise the submission by 31 May 2019.

2. Executive Summary:

- 2.1 Transport for the North's response to the Williams Review call for evidence is being developed in consultation with lead officers from the North's local transport authorities.
- 2.2 Transport for the North has responded to the Review Team's four questions on the evidence papers, draft objectives and assessment criteria for the review.
- 2.3 Transport for the North's submission to the call for evidence is proposed to be an evidenced proposition to have greater control of the railway in the North to assist in delivery of the Strategic Transport Plan. Further details will be presented at the meeting.

3. Williams Rail Review Update and Transport for the North Input:

- 3.1 The Williams 'root and branch' review of rail is described as the most significant since privatisation and will consider ambitious recommendations for all aspects of the industry.
- 3.2 At the Transport for the North Board meeting in Chester on 7th February 2019, officers undertook to consult with members on the Transport for the North response to the Williams Review. Transport for the North Board and Rail North Committee have been informed that

Transport for the North will make a substantial contribution to the Williams Rail review based, in part, on the recommendations from “The Rail North Partnership Review”.

- 3.3 The Review of the Rail North Partnership is being finalised ready for a planned publication in May and will form part of the evidence base for the submission to the Williams Review. The Rail North Partnership review will make a series of short-term recommendations aimed at putting passengers at the heart of decision making in the industry and helping ensure the events around the May 2018 timetable change and the severe impact on people and businesses cannot happen again. The longer-term themes that are likely to be carried through into the Williams Review include:
- The need for a more effective ‘guiding mind’ for rail services in the North;
 - Greater integration of track and train through more accountability of the infrastructure provider;
 - Stronger alignment of infrastructure and train service planning and with the Strategic Transport Plan produced by Transport for the North; and
 - The potential for further devolution of rail responsibilities to the North.
- 3.4 Transport for the North Partnership Board on Thursday 4 April 2019 considered the Joint Review of the Rail North Partnership and Transport for the North’s input to the Williams Review. Partnership Board were informed how Transport for the North’s response to the Williams Review call for evidence will distil our evidence to the scope of the review and be developed through lead officers, for consultation with the Rail North Committee.
- 3.5 Transport for the North Partnership Board were also informed that Transport for the North will seek to work with the Williams Review team on a proposition for the North – an evidenced expression of governance and commercial arrangements for the rail industry in the North to assist in delivery of Transport for the North’s Strategic Transport Plan. The desired outcome being a model that puts customers at its heart, with the rail industry made accountable through a golden thread to local politicians.
- 3.6 On 19 March 2019 Keith Williams gave an update on progress of the Rail Review at Accelerate Rail 2019 conference, and announced draft objectives and assessment criteria for consultation, alongside further evidence papers. The review asked four questions on the evidence papers, draft objectives and assessment criteria. The Committee were consulted on the Transport for the North response which was developed in consultation with lead officers. The Transport for the

North response to the four questions provided to the review team by the 30 April deadline is attached at Appendix 1.

- 3.7 To develop Transport for the North's submission to the call for evidence that is open until the end of May, a workshop with nominated lead officers was held on 2 May 2019. The workshop provided a steer for the detail of the proposition.
- 3.8 A draft outline of Transport for the North's proposed submission to the call for evidence is attached at Appendix 2. Further details will be presented at the meeting to seek guidance on options for finalising the submission.

4. Conclusion:

- 4.1 The Williams Rail Review is a root and branch Review of the rail system in the UK and Transport for the North intends to make a substantive response, beginning with a response to the Review Teams' call for Evidence by 31 May 2019.
- 4.2 Transport for the North has responded to four questions on the evidence papers, draft objectives and assessment criteria for the Williams Review.
- 4.3 The next step is to finalise Transport for the North's input to the call for evidence, open until the end of May 2019.

5. Recommendations:

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the update on the Williams Rail Review and the development of Transport for the North's input to the call for evidence.
- 5.2 The Committee is asked to consider and discuss the proposed outline submission.
- 5.3 The Committee is asked to delegate authority to the Strategic Rail Director to finalise the submission to the Williams Review call for evidence.
- 5.4 It is recommended that Transport for the North member authorities are consulted on the proposed submission to the Review.

6. Appendices:

- 6.1 Appendix 1 – Transport for the North response to the four questions on the evidence papers, draft objectives and assessment criteria for the Williams Review
- 6.2 Appendix 2 – Outline of Transport for the North’s proposed submission to the call for evidence

List of Background Documents:

The following background papers were considered in preparation of this report –

Evidence Papers published on the Williams Review page on the Department for Transport website here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-williams-rail-review>

Required Considerations

Equalities:

Age	No
Disability	No
Gender Reassignment	No
Pregnancy and Maternity	No
Race	No
Religion or Belief	No
Sex	No
Sexual Orientation	No

Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Equalities	A full impact assessment has not been carried out because the report is to seek guidance on finalising submission to a call for evidence.	Transport Planner	Strategic Rail Director

Environment and Sustainability

	No
--	----

Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Sustainability / Environment – including considerations regarding Active Travel and Wellbeing	A full impact assessment has not been carried out because the report is to seek guidance on finalising submission to a call for evidence.	Transport Planner	Strategic Rail Director

Legal

	No
--	----

Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Legal	There are no legal implications in relation to this stage of work.	Transport Planner	Strategic Rail Director

Finance

	No
--	----

Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Finance	There are no direct financial implications associated with the submission to Williams Review. The financial implications would be established as part of the development of any detailed proposition.	Transport Planner	Finance

Resource

	No
--	----

Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Resource	The resource implications will be considered during the development of a more detailed proposition.	Transport Planner	Strategic Rail Director

Risk

	No
--	----

Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Risk	A risk assessment has not been carried out at this stage.	Transport Planner	Strategic Rail Director

Consultation

	No
--	----

Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Consultation	Consultation has been carried out with lead officers from partner authorities to develop the proposed submission to the call for evidence. Member authorities will be consulted on the proposition as it is developed further.	Transport Planner	Strategic Rail Director