

## Association of Rail North Partner Authorities

**Meeting date:** Thursday 09 June 2016

**Item:** 7

**Subject:** LTRS Review

**Author(s):** Jim Bamford

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### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To provide the Association with an update on the development of a set of metrics to enable progress on delivering the Long-Term Rail Strategy to be quantified; and
- 1.2. To set out an approach to the next update and refresh the Long-Term Rail Strategy.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Association endorses the proposed approach to refreshing the Long Term Rail Strategy.

### 3. Information

- 3.1. The Long-Term Rail Strategy (LTRS) was adopted at a Rail North Association meeting in September 2014.
- 3.2. An update on progress in achieving the LTRS outputs was presented to at the Association meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015, at which the key matters noted were the specification of the two franchises, the infrastructure programme (including electrification), and the need for further work around electrification, smart ticketing, and ensuring benefits extend to rural areas.
- 3.3. The 2015 progress report gave a qualitative report on the progress that had been achieved.
- 3.4. Work is now underway to develop a set of metrics that will allow progress to be better quantified in future reports. Details of these metrics will be presented to the next meeting of the Association (planned for September 2016).
- 3.5. Over the last year, there have been several significant developments, including the letting of the new Northern and TransPennine franchises, both of which contained commitments to substantial programmes of improvements to:
  - services,
  - rolling stock, and
  - station facilities.

- 3.6. In addition the Hendy Review set out a revised programme of infrastructure enhancements to be delivered by Network Rail in Control Period 5 (2014-19) and in some cases Control Period 6 (2019-24).
- 3.7. The other major change is the development of proposals to establish Transport for the North as a formal Sub-National Transport Body (see separate item on this agenda). Transport for the North will be developing a statutory transport plan covering all modes including rail.
- 3.8. It is therefore proposed that the annual refresh of the Long Term Rail Strategy be integrated into a programme (over the next 12-18 months) of developing a TfN Transport Strategy. This would give the LTRS a statutory basis and will therefore need to be accompanied by sufficiently detailed evidence gathering and analysis to support the plan. It is proposed that the key principles and objectives of the current LTRS are adopted as the starting point for the work given the strong buy-in they have from partner authorities.
- 3.9. In the meantime, it is proposed that the existing Long-Term Rail Strategy will be used to inform Rail North's submission to the 'Initial industry Advice' for investment for the next rail industry 'Control Period' (2019 – 2024).