

THE ASSOCIATION OF RAIL NORTH PARTNER AUTHORITIES

Minutes of the meeting of the Association held at the offices of West Yorkshire Combined Authority, Leeds on 9 June 2016.

PRESENT:

Sir Richard Leese	Greater Manchester Combined Authority
Keith Wakefield	West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Fred Jackson	Blackpool Council
Brian Clarke	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Bill Dixon	Darlington Borough Council
Dean Collins	Derbyshire County Council
Liam Robinson	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
Neil Foster	North East Combined Authority
Corall Jenkins	Nottingham City Council
Bob Cook	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Jack Brereton	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Terry O'Neill	Warrington Borough Council

APOLOGIES:

David Brown	Cheshire East Council
Martin Mancey	Hull City Council
Sam Dixon	Cheshire West and Chester Council
Nick Forbes	North East Combined Authority
Baroness Redfern	North Lincolnshire Council
Mark Winnington	Staffordshire County Council
Ian Gillies	City of York Council
Ray Oxby	North East Lincolnshire Council

IN ATTENDANCE:

David Hoggarth	Rail North Ltd
Richard Hibbert	Cheshire East Council
Neil Ferris	City of York Council
Kevin Williams	Derbyshire County Council
Mike Ibbotson	Hull City Council
Officer	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Matt Oxby	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Lucy Hudson	North East Lincolnshire Council
Leo Goodwin	TransPennine Express
Graham Micklejohn	TransPennine Express
Alex Hynes	Northern Rail

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and explained that the main purpose was to receive update presentations from Northern and TransPennine Express.

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

- 2.1 The Chair reminded members to make appropriate declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2016

- 3.1 These were agreed with one correction to the spelling of a name on the attendance list.

4. TRAIN OPERATORS' UPDATES

- 4.1 A presentation was made by Alex Hynes, Managing Director of the Arriva Trains Northern franchise. The presentation set out the main features and benefits of the new Northern franchise including:

- 4 key transformations in 44 months
- More front-line jobs, the headcount rises steeply
- The introduction of Regional Directors providing a 1 stop shop for Local Transport Authorities.
- Refurbishment of existing trains is happening now
- There will be 37% more capacity by 2019

- 4.2 Members asked a number of questions covering:

- Targets for increased customer satisfaction
- The level of devolved responsibility to Regional Directors
- Incentives for employment seekers
- The new Quality Incentive Regime (measuring the quality of stations)
- A suggestion for a performance dashboard

4.3 A presentation was made by Leo Goodwin, Managing Director Designate for TransPennine Express. The presentation set out the main features and benefits of the new TransPennine Express franchise including,

- TPE have 383 specific contractual obligations
- 56 have been delivered already, 29% will be delivered in the first year
- The 221 new vehicles ordered will start to be delivered in 2018
- Class 185 units will be refurbished from later in the year
- Five route studies (looking at enhanced services) will be commencing this year.

4.4 Members asked a number of questions covering:

- The desire to see more bus/rail through ticketing
- Potential collaboration with other operators on feeder routes to their network

4.5 Sir Richard Leese thanked Leo and Alex for their presentations

5. RAIL NORTH UPDATE

5.1 Members were updated on a number of issues including franchise mobilisation, transition of commercial management of the franchises from the DfT, rolling stock changes and smart ticketing initiatives.

5.2 The ongoing Competition and Markets Authority's investigation into Arriva's Northern franchise was noted. It was also noted that not all authorities has been asked to contribute to the review.

5.3 An update on Community Rail was also provided. It was noted that Northern had provided a sum of £500k per annum to support the core work of Community Rail Partnerships.

6. TFN GOVERNANCE AND POWERS PROPOSAL

6.1 The Association considered a report setting out TfN's proposals for powers associated with the establishment of the sub-national transport body.

6.2 Members agreed that the approach set out in the paper was sensible and recognised that whilst the detailed arrangements had yet to be developed, the Association would effectively become part of TfN and represented an opportunity for members to have a broader remit. The proposal includes for Rail

North members that aren't full members of TfN to be Associate Members. It was recognised that they would also wish to have a voice in other relevant sub-regions.

- 6.3 The proposals were noted and a report to the TfN Partnership Board (meeting on the same day) was circulated.

7. LONG TERM RAIL STRATEGY REVIEW

- 7.1 The paper set out a proposal to undertake the annual review of the Long Term Rail Strategy (LTRS) in collaboration with TfN – so that the rail strategy becomes part of the overall TfN strategy and ultimately the statutory plan. In the meantime, it was agreed that the existing LTRS should be used to the 'Initial Industry Advice' seeking investment in the period 2019-2024.

- 7.2 Members asked about specific projects within the plan and how schemes would be funded if they are no on the 'list'. Sir Richard said it was important that we have a strategy, not just a list of projects and that we consider how individual schemes support the broader objectives including contributions to economic growth.

- 7.3 The Association endorsed the proposed approach to the refresh of the Long Term Rail Strategy.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1 Fergus Robertson-Howard was thanked for his contribution as Rail North Partnership Director and wished well in his future career.

9. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSE

- 7.1 The next meeting of the Association is to take place on 22 September 2016.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

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Chairman