

Rail North Committee Meeting – Minutes

Meeting: Rail North Committee Meeting
Date: Thursday 6 December 2018
Venue: Preston County Hall, Lancashire County Council, Preston, PR1 8RE

Attendees:

CLlr Liam Robinson (Chair)
CLlr Keith Iddon
Mayor Andy Burnham

CLlr Rob Waltham
CLlr Judith Blake
CLlr Harold Davenport
CLlr Chris Brewis

Liverpool City Region
Lancashire and Cumbria
Greater Manchester Combined
Authority
Humber Authorities
West Yorkshire and York
Cheshire and The Potteries
East Midlands Authorities

Officers in Attendance:

Barry White
David Hoggarth
Gary Bogan
Tom Davidson
Anna-Jane Hunter
Rob Warnes
Louise Ebbs
Richard George

TfN, Chief Executive
TfN, Strategic Rail Director
Rail North Partnership Director
TfN, Transport Planner
Network Rail (Items 1-8)
Northern (Items 1-8)
TPE (Items 1-8)
SNC-Lavalin

Apologies:

CLlr Carl Les
CLlr Trevor Ainsworth
Mayor Ben Houchen
Mayor Dan Jarvis

North Yorkshire County Council
East Midlands Authorities
Tees Valley Combined Authority
Sheffield City Region

1.0 Welcome and Apologies

Action

- 1.1 Members of the Board / Committee were welcomed to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence were noted.
- 1.3 Members expressed concern that Managing Directors from TPE and Northern were not

attending this meeting. Mayor Andy Burnham (AB) questioned why not as they should be held to account. He stated that there must be a very significant reason why they had not attended this meeting today.

2.0 Declaration of Interest

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3.0 Minutes

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting of the meeting held on 13 November 2018 were considered and agreed.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the meeting held on 13 November 2018 be approved as a correct record.

4.0 Rail Performance Update

4.1 Consideration was given to a report of TfN's Transport Planner containing recent train performance information.

4.2 Anna-Jane Hunter (AJH) gave a presentation on behalf of the industry in relation to the Rail Performance Update. Cllr Blake (JB) requested that copies of presentations be sent out prior to meetings.

4.3 AB stated that the meeting has been informed that there would be a marked improvement by December. AJH clarified that this would take place from the date of the December timetable change (9 December), and she apologised if this had not been made clear. AB stated that this is not acceptable as commitments have been made to the public that performance will improve. Cllr Davenport (HD) stated that this was not an exact science, but he lacked confidence in the industry delivering the improvement.

4.4 A discussion took place about the commitment previously made by the industry to a significant uplift in performance from the December timetable change. The minutes from the meeting on 13 September 2018 in Sheffield state that "Leo Goodwin (TPE) noted that punctuality

performance prior to the timetable change [in May] was around 86-87%; it was expected to achieve this figure in December.”

- 4.5 Louise Ebbs (LE) responded that PPM in the autumn had been around 68% and TPE were expecting benefits from the Dec 18 timetable to move PPM into the 80s (percentage). LE said that Leo had stated that performance would return to closer to pre May 18 levels at December 18 with an expected return to pre-May 18 levels at May 19. Performance could still be affected by other elements and other operators, but coupled with the end of the autumn period, this would represent a marked improvement. There would be further improvements from the May 2019 timetable. (For the minutes – it was expressly noted that the May 19 timetable will not change from 1 May 2019. It will be from the date of the new May 19 timetable.)
- 4.6 Cllr Brewis (CB) stated that passengers have now chosen to buy cars and will not use the train again due to the huge problems faced and the industry should be worried by this situation as it will take a whole generation to rectify.
- 4.7 HD also mentioned the confusion over TPE’s September information and their 86-87% PPM expectations.
- 4.8 AB stated that different people must give the same information. AB stated that his information must be correct as he then informed members of the public.
- 4.9 Committee members stressed their severe disappointment at the lack of attendance by the Managing Directors at this meeting and insisted that they be present at future meetings. It was agreed to invite them, in writing, to the next meetings. DH
- 4.10 Ongoing Sunday cancellations on Northern (in the North West) were noted with great concern. It was questioned by AB if this is due to Northern not being prepared to pay drivers extra to work on Sundays. Rob Warnes (RW) agreed to speak to AB privately outside the meeting, but stated that drivers are not contractually obliged to work

Sundays. AB requested a date for the full restoration of Sunday services.

- 4.11 Cllr Davenport (HD) questioned whether Northern were actually in breach of the franchise by not running Sunday Services.
- 4.12 RW asked the Committee to note that Northern is attempting to put a business case together for funding for Wheel Slide Protection kit which would assist with autumn performance.
- 4.13 Richard George provided an update on his analysis of performance and proposed Action Plan. He highlighted the historic under-investment and the complex governance in the North of England. A full update and Action Plan would be presented in the New year.
- 4.14 AB asked whether the industry was trying to operate the 'wrong timetable' and whether the pre-May 2018 would be better. Richard George said the focus should be on making the timetable work better and capping the number of trains through central Manchester at current levels until further infrastructure improvements have been made.

- RESOLVED:** It was resolved that:
- (1) The performance information set out in the report and presentation be noted.
 - (2) The TOC Managing Directors be asked to attend the next and subsequent Committee Meetings.

5.0 Northern and Network Rail Review of May 2018.

- 5.1 AJH updated the meeting on the joint Northern and Network Rail Review of the May 2018 timetabling issues. The review had been undertaken by industry expert, Vernon Barker and had not been published in the way that ORR had published their review as it was more internal to Northern and Network Rail.
- 5.2 The Committee noted the main points of the report and thanked AJH for her presentation.

- RESOLVED:** That the presentation be noted.

6.0 Business Plan 2018/2019 Update

- 6.1 The Committee received a report from the Strategic Rail Director updating them on the current position regarding the Business Plan 2018/2019.
- 6.2 The Board was advised that TfN will be asked to approve members' financial contributions (as set out in the report) at the meeting on 7 February 2019.

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) The preferred option to leave member contributions for 2019/20 at the same level as 2018/19 (plus indexation) be endorsed.
- (2) A further report (seeking approval) be submitted to the TfN Board meeting in February 2019.

7.0 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED: That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items 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).

8.0 Train Service Development

- 8.1 The Committee considered a report which provided an update on progress with the planning process for the December 2019 Timetable.
- 8.2 Rob Warnes gave a presentation to the meeting setting out the constraints relating to the development of Northern's December 2019 timetable. The overall approach was to facilitate the introduction of new trains and services, but

this had to be set alongside the expected infrastructure availability and known constraints. The proposed approach to developing timetable options was discussed. RW indicated that further information would be available at the January meeting of the Committee.

8.3 Louise Ebbs set out TPE's approach to December 2019 which was focussed on completing the expanded service network and accommodating the new trains and additional capacity. Following a formal request from Rail North Partnership, TPE were also developing a costed proposal for further enhancements on the North TransPennine Route. Further information on this would be available at the January meeting.

8.4 Members were advised that TfN proposes a response that accepts the proposal for inclusion in the TPE December 2019 timetable bid to Network Rail, on the basis that the increase in service on a new route must not be at the expense of delivering contracted reliability and capacity on existing services.

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) The train operators' initial approach to the December 2019 timetable be noted and further information be provided to January meeting of the Committee including any options for consideration.
- (2) TPE's proposed service extension to Edinburgh be endorsed subjective to it not being at the expense of contracted reliability and capacity on existing services.

9.0 Rail Passenger Compensation Update

9.1 The Strategic Rail Director updated the Committee members on the special Rail Passenger Compensation scheme following the problems with the May 2018 timetable and the potential next steps.

9.2 The Committee considered a number of options for further phases of passenger compensation as set out in the report. Cllr. Robinson asked that consideration be given to assisting young people

and that this be included in a further report to the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Committee **notes** progress on compensating those affected by the May 18 timetable issues and requested that a further report be prepared for the January meeting of the Committee on further phases of compensation.

10. Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED: That the next meeting of the Committee be held on Tuesday 15 January 2019.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 GB provided an update on contractual compliance relating to performance. Members requested that further information be provided to the next meeting of the Committee.