

Rail North Committee – Minutes

Meeting: Rail North Committee
Date: 9th October 2018
Venue: Committee Room A, Wellington House, Leeds

Attendees:

Cllr. Liam Robinson (Chair)	Liverpool City Region
Mayor Andy Burnham	Greater Manchester
Cllr. Harold Davenport	Cheshire & Potteries
Cllr. Richard Hannigan	Humber Authorities
Cllr. Stephen Harker	Tees Valley
Cllr. Nick Forbes	North East Combined Authority
Cllr. Keith Little	Lancashire & Cumbria

Apologies:

Cllr. Trevor Ainsworth	East Midlands
Cllr. Carl Les	North Yorkshire
Mayor Ben Houchen	Tees Valley
Mayor Dan Jarvis	Sheffield City Region
Cllr. Rob Waltham	Humber Authorities
Cllr. Judith Blake	West Yorkshire & York

Industry Representatives:

Anna-Jane Hunter (Items 1-5)	Network Rail
Richard George (Items 1-5)	SNC - Lavalin

Officers in Attendance:

Barry White	Transport for the North
David Hoggarth	Transport for the North
Gary Bogan	Rail North Partnership
Tom Davidson	Transport for the North
Simon Shrouder	Transport for the North

1.0 Welcome and Apologies

Action

- 1.1 Colleagues were welcomed to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2.0 Declaration of Interests

- 2.1 No personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests were noted.

3.0 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2018 were **agreed** as an accurate record.

4.0 Rail Performance and Compensation Update

- 4.1 Richard George (RG) updated the meeting on his objectives and work plan. He will not produce reports or be adding meetings to the schedule of meetings already in place. He will be initially looking at resources and readiness for Dec 18/May 19.
- 4.2 Anna-Jane Hunter (AJH) outlined the approach to the May 19 timetable. The aim was to have a more resilient timetable in place.
- 4.3 Mayor Andy Burnham (AB) thanked RG for taking on this role saying it was hugely welcomed. He also recognises slow improvements from the industry but questioned was this now the 'new normal' on the northern railway system as we are stabilising well below last year's figures. RG agreed that something is wrong and the correct building blocks are not in place, but there are problems country-wide. The targets quoted are a measure of failure, not success.
- 4.4 RG noted that performance was dropping before the May 18 timetable change issues.
- 4.5 AB questioned the Sunday working issue – is this a 'new normal' too. RG agreed to examine this issue as part of his work.
- 4.6 Cllr Keith Little (KL) commented that no one stepped up to take responsibility for the timetable change problems and people in Cumbria are forced to use other methods of transport due to unreliability. Brand new trains are available but cannot be used yet for various reasons and the old trains are breaking down causing further issues.

- 4.7 RG said the accountability issue is difficult with so many partnerships involved.
- 4.8 Cllr Nick Forbes (NF) questioned when we will see some impetus.
- 4.9 AB mentioned the lack of leadership for the system, as exposed in the Glaister Review.
- 4.10 AJH again discussed step-changes and the timings of timetable changes and the need to be realistic as they are national changes, not just local.
- 4.11 AB said that he does not agree with this and stressed that pressure should be kept up on them as there is frustration over accountability for timetable changes.
- 4.12 AJH explained some of the causes and the links to the timetable changes. RG agreed that they were both correct.
- 4.13 Cllr Liam Robinson (LR) closed the item, accepting that there was palpable frustration with the poor performance and wider damage was being done for example to the local economy and with Christmas approaching.

RESOLVED: The Committee **noted** the latest performance monitoring information.

The Committee **noted** progress on the industry compensation scheme.

5.0 Train Service Planning Report

- 5.1 Tom Davidson (TD) updated the meeting on timetable changes and going forward how timetables will drive performance changes. AJH and RG need to use industry analysis and look at pinch points.
- 5.2 TD then mentioned Section 4 TPE Route Upgrade along with the risks/issues and delivery options.

- 5.3 HD stated that Cheshire were unhappy losing the extra Macclesfield service. TD mentioned that the operator is still contracted to provide this service; TfN expects Northern and Network Rail to do all it can to run the service as contracted .
- 5.4 David Hoggarth (DH) stated that what will be produced in May 19 was set originally for May 18, as stated in the franchise agreements.
- 5.5 NF mentioned the lack of joined-up thinking and the capacity of the network.
- 5.6 AB raised issues about the franchise process.
- 5.7 DH suggested TfN should send a clear message back to the industry that timely input to the December 2019 timetable is required so that informed choices can be made.
- 5.8 TD then informed the meeting how and at which meetings decisions had been made. AB questioned this process. LR explained that consistent with guidance, the Officer Group was informed. AJH mentioned the very tight timescale for any immediate changes to be made. She also stated that she was not aware that her contractual amendments needed permission from this meeting, she did not intend to keep members in the dark.
- 5.9 RG stated that the PMO office has draconian rules and due to these rules, it has compressed timescales.
- 5.10 AB questioned clear constraints around Sunday Services.
- 5.11 Cllr Stephen Harker (SH) sought re-assurances on Darlington calls in TPE services. TD said there is an anticipated call at Darlington in the new timetable. TD explained that TPE had said that the planned calls should be deliverable once the new trains are in service.

RESOLVED: The Committee **noted** the train service changes planned for upcoming timetable changes, the Industry Planning Process milestones and the work being undertaken to review the risks, opportunities and priorities associated with the operators' contracted timetables.

A list of Northern schemes suggested for service development work has been drawn up by the Train Service Advisory Group. The Committee **endorsed** this list for further development and refinement to develop a shortlist.

6.0 Update on Industry Reviews

6.1 The meeting was updated on the ORR Inquiry into the May 2018 timetable report. It was noted that there is an opportunity to feed into Stage 2 of the review.

RESOLVED: The report was **noted**.

7.0 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED: That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business because it is likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, there will be disclosure of confidential information as defined in s100A(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and/or exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972.

8.0 Franchise Update – Commercial Matters

8.1 A presentation was given by Gary Bogan (GB) updating the meeting on a number of commercial matters. Members discussed the presentation.

RESOLVED: That the commercial update be **noted**.

9.0 Any Other Business

9.1 The Committee discussed the planned frequency of meetings for 2019, and members were happy with monthly.

RESOLVED: That Committee meetings continue to be held monthly for at least the first half of 2019.

10.0 Dates of the next meetings

10.1 The next meeting will be held on **13 November 2018, 3.30 pm**