

Transport for the North Board – Minutes

Meeting: Transport for the North Board
Date: Wednesday 31 July 2019, 12.30 – 14.30
Location: Wellington House, 40-50 Wellington Street, Leeds, LS1 2DE

Chairman:

John Cridland

Chairman

Constituent Authority Attendees:

Councillor Phil Riley	Blackburn with Darwen
Councillor Craig Browne	Cheshire East
Councillor Louise Gittins	Cheshire West & Chester
Councillor Michael Green	Lancashire
Mayor Andy Burnham	Greater Manchester
Cllr Darren Hale	Hull
Mayor Steve Rotheram	Liverpool City Region
Councillor Rob Waltham	North Lincolnshire
Councillor Don Mackenzie	North Yorkshire
Councillor Hans Mundry	Warrington
Councillor Judith Blake	West Yorkshire
Mayor Ben Houchen	Tees Valley
Councillor Keith Aspden	York

Rail North Authority Attendees:

Councillor Trevor Ainsworth	Derbyshire
Councillor Chris Brewis	Lincolnshire

Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Attendees:

Jim Jackson	Cumbria
Mark Rawstron	Lancashire
Lord Haskins	Humber
Mark Whitworth	Liverpool City Region
Mark Roberts	Leeds City Region
Matthew Lamb	North Yorkshire
Peter Kennan	Sheffield City Region
Jerry Hopkinson	Tees Valley

Delivery Partners:

Ben Smith	Department of Transport
Jim O'Sullivan	Highways England
Lorna Pimlott	HS2
Tim Smith	HS2
Graham Botham	Network Rail

Transport for the North Officers in Attendance:

Barry White	Chief Executive
Gary Rich	Democratic Services Officer
Iain Craven	Finance Director
Dawn Madin	Director of Business Capabilities
Peter Molyneux	Major Roads Director
Tim Wood	Northern Powerhouse Rail Director
David Hoggarth	Strategic Rail Director
Julie Openshaw	Head of Legal
Deborah Dimock	Solicitor
David Innis	Strategic & Programme Director
Rosemary Lyon	Legal and Democratic Services Officer
Jim Bamford	Head of Investment Planning, Rail North
Lewis Jones	Head of Stakeholder Engagement and Communication
James Mills	Corporate Engagement Lead
Kevin Willans	Head of IT and Information

Apologies:

Councillor Simon Blackburn	Blackpool
Christine Gaskell	Cheshire and Warrington LEP
Councillor Keith Little	Cumbria
Councillor Chris Matthews	East Riding of Yorkshire
Mike Blackburn	Greater Manchester LEP
Asif Hamid	Liverpool City Region LEP
Councillor Carl Marshall	North East Combined Authority
Councillor Graeme Miller	North East Combined Authority
Councillor Nick Forbes	North of Tyne Combined Authority
Councillor Peter Jackson	North of Tyne Combined Authority
Councillor Jon Collins	Nottingham
Councillor Daniel Jellyman	Stoke-on-Trent

1.0 Welcome and Apologies**Action**

- 1.1 Members of the Board were welcomed to the meeting.

-
- 1.2 The Chairman invited Members to take part in a photo opportunity relating to the Northern Budget campaign.
 - 1.3 Apologies for absence were noted.
 - 1.4 The Chairman reminded Members of the significant number of changes that had taken place in the membership of the Board in recent months.
 - 1.5 The Chairman welcomed Mark Roberts, from Leeds City Region LEP, Tim Smart from HS2 and Cllr Adele Williams from Nottingham. Councillor Williams is new to the Board but was not in attendance. It was noted that this would be the last meeting attended by Jim Jackson from Cumbria LEP and he was thanked for his past contribution to Transport for the North. It was noted that from September Jim will be replaced by Steve Curl.
 - 1.6 The Chairman informed the Board that he has written to the new Secretary of State for Transport congratulating him on his appointment and requesting a meeting.
 - 1.7 The Chief Executive updated the Board following the recent visit of the new Prime Minister to the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester. The Chief Executive welcomed the Prime Minister's commitment to accelerating the Leeds to Manchester new line but didn't want to lose impetus around the connectivity to the other four city regions and Manchester International Airport.
 - 1.8 Mayor Steve Rotheram expressed the view that it is important that the Board ensures that projects are not being done piecemeal.
 - 1.9 Mayor Andy Burnham stated that now is not the time to lower our ambitions at the time when there is a focus on the North and that the Board needs to be looking for the best deal for Northern cities
 - 1.10 Cllr Judith Blake emphasised that the focus of Transport for the North was the whole of the North and that integration of HS2 with NPR is crucial and that there is not a case of choosing one or the other. Councillor Blake invited the Board to reaffirm this.
 - 1.11 Mayor Ben Houchen referred to the Prime Minister's commitment to the Leeds Manchester new line part of NPR and felt this was a signal of his willingness to tackle the whole of NPR.
 - 1.12 The Chairman confirmed the re-affirmation of the ambition of Transport for the North was coast to coast and the integration of NPR with HS2. The Board mandated the Chief Executive and the Executive of Transport for the North to pursue coast to coast and HS2 to the North in full. Responsibility for setting the work planning programme was also given to the Chief Executive and Executive of Transport for the North.

2.0 Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3.0 Minutes

3.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Transport for the North Board held on 20 June 2019 were considered.

3.2 Cllr Stewart Swinburn confirmed that he had sent his apologies for the previous meeting and they had not been recorded in the minutes.

3.3 Cllr Craig Browne referred to Minute 3.3 and noted that he is still awaiting a response in relation to his query as to who had confirmed that Crewe North Junction would be part of the HS2 Phase 2B Hybrid Bill.

TW

3.4 Mayor Andy Burnham referred to Minute 3.2 and questioned why this item had not been included on the agenda for this meeting.

3.5 The Chairman explained that the issue will be discussed at the Partnership Board, as a full update is unavailable because of changes in central Government, and because there was a relevant Network Rail Board meeting taking place today. The Chairman proposed that a full update would be provided to the September Board meeting. Mayor Andy Burnham reiterated his concerns which were noted by the Chairman.

3.6 Peter Kennan noted the need to set a direction for Rail North going forward to 2033

3.7 The Chairman suggested that the Rail Strategy should be circulated to the Board in order to raise awareness. Following the circulation, if Members would like an agenda item on this this can then be arranged.

3.8 Mayor Ben Houchen questioned why the press and public were excluded from the item on IST. The Chief Executive of Transport for the North explained that there is information contained within the report that is commercially confidential. Mayor Houchen questioned if there are any elements that could be discussed in public and it was explained that this would be difficult as it would mean that only a partial update could be provided.

The Chairman indicated that consideration would be given to the extent to which an agenda item for the September Board meeting, could be open to the press and public.

RESOLVED: 1. That the minutes of the Transport for the North Board held on 20 June 2019 be approved as a correct record.

2. That the NPR Director would write to Councillor Brown to confirm that the Department for Transport had confirmed that Crewe North Junction was part of the HS2 Phase 2B Hybrid Bill.

4.0 Governance Report

4.1 Deborah Dimock presented the Governance Report. The purpose of the report was to appoint a Chair, a Majority Vice Chair and a Minority Vice Chair for the forthcoming year. The Board was also invited to note the membership of the Transport for the North Board and the various Committees of Transport for the North and to adopt the Constitution, which had been approved on 20 June and had now been amended accordingly, for the forthcoming year.

4.2 Cllr Judith Blake asked for the appointment of the Majority Vice Chairperson to the Board to be deferred until the next Board meeting due to a number of Members not being in attendance.

4.3 Nominations were invited from the minority parties for the position of minority Vice Chairperson for the forthcoming year. Councillor Rob Waltham proposed Mayor Ben Houchen and this was approved by members of the minority party.

4.4 Deborah Dimock proposed that Members approve the constitution. No changes have been made to the constitution other than those agreed by Members at the previous meeting.

RESOLVED:

1. That John Cridland be re-appointed Chairman of the Transport for the North Board.
2. That the appointment of the Majority Vice Chairperson be deferred until the September meeting.
3. That Mayor Ben Houchen be appointed Minority Vice Chairman of the board for the forthcoming year.
4. That the Constitution be adopted for the forthcoming year.

5.0 Approval of the Accounts and Annual Governance Statement

5.1 Deborah Dimock presented the Transport for the North's Annual Governance Statement for approval.

5.2 The Board resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement. Chris Melling, the Independent Chairman of Transport for the North's Audit and Governance Committee presented the Audit and Governance Committee annual report for approval.

5.3 Since its inception elected and independent members have been appointed to the Committee which has met formally five times. The Committee's principal purpose is to provide independent review and assurance to Members on governance, risk management and control frameworks.

- 5.4 During the year Mazars have been appointed via the Public Sector Audit Appointment process to conduct audit activity.
- 5.5 Chris Melling commended the Statement of Accounts to the Board and sought their approval.
- 5.6 The Board questioned Chris Melling on what was being done on the issue of cyber security which was the only area of the six being audited to have a reasonable assurance level. Chris explained this is something that will continued to be examined.
- 5.7 The Chairman thanked Chris and his colleagues in the Audit Committee for their hard work.

Approval of the Annual Statement of Accounts

Iain Craven presented Transport for the North's first set of Annual accounts.

Iain thanked Gareth Sutton and the Finance Team for their work in helping to produce the report.

Iain also presented the Budget Revision 1 report, noting the following:

- Slightly behind budget at end of 1st quarter.
- Underspend on IST Phase 3 which will be addressed later.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Board approved the Annual Governance Statement
2. The Board received the Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report
3. The Board approved the Annual Statement of Accounts
4. The Board noted and approved the Budget Revision 1.

6.0 Active Travel

- 6.1 Following a previous presentation by Chris Boardman, Peter Molyneux provided an update presentation on the current position on Active Travel. Peter talked the Board through aspects of his presentation which was noted.
- 6.2 Cllr Judith Blake suggested that active travel and sustainability should be woven through everything that the Board does she further commented that major engineering schemes are not needed in order to bring this into being and suggested that if sufficient imagination is used achievements can be made without massive financial input.

- 6.3 It was suggested that an attempt should be made to standardise some of the processes and allow for best practice to be shared and exchanged. PM
- 6.4 The possible role that local businesses could play in this was discussed and the Chairman suggested that an additional column on entrepreneurial activity be added to the presentation. PM
- 6.5 Mayor Andy Burnham referred back to Chris Boardman's presentation and stressed that it is crucial for there to be a design standard and separate segregated infrastructure, as painting white lines in the roads as segregation is not safe as it encouraged motorists to drive closer to them.
- RESOLVED:**
1. That the Active Travel presentation be noted.
 2. That like sustainability, active travel, climate change and air quality should all be cross cutting issues to be considered in every report.
 3. That Transport for the North look at the issue of bikes on trains and a standard for physical infrastructure that can be used by all Members of the Board.
 4. That the Chief Executive should consider inviting the Climate Change Committee to speak to the Board.

7.0 Hull Paragon Interchange

- 7.1 Cllr Darren Hale provided background on the situation at Hull Paragon Interchange. The Interchange has three gates and currently a key access gate has been closed whilst TransPennine Express, who run the station undertake a 12 week trial in a bid to reduce Anti-Social Behaviour.
- As a result of this gate being closed passengers no longer have easy access to private hire taxis which are stationed outside this gate, with a detour around the Interchange being necessary in order to access them. A bell has been installed which allows disabled passengers to use this gate but staff are questioning these passengers regarding their disability before allowing them through.
- 7.2 A petition has been put together that currently has 48,000 signatures on it and this number is rising.
- 7.3 The Chairman raised the point that TransPennine Express have been spoken to and they are acting on the advice of the British Transport Police
- 7.4 Members were supportive of Councillor Hale raising the matter on behalf of the public and some suggested that Network Rail and some partners who are operating railway stations are not listening to Local Authorities and not learning lessons and putting passengers first.

RESOLVED: That Transport for the North writes a letter to TransPennine Express to express its disquiet with the current situation and to ask them to enter into proper consultation with Hull City Council on this issue.

8.0 Blake Jones Action Plan

- 8.1 Councillor Judith Blake updated the Board regarding the Blake Jones Action Plan.
- 8.2 Councillor Blake explained that she was pleased that the report is being taken seriously; however concern was expressed that companies were still not putting passengers at the heart of what they do when decision making.
- 8.3 The May 2018 timetable issues had demonstrated a lack of governance in the rail industry.
- 8.4 It was explained that the paper on governance to the Rail North Committee meeting was deferred as Members felt too many decisions were being made outside of Board and were only being referred to Board for approval after a decision had already been made elsewhere.
- 8.5 The Chairman thanked Councillor Blake for the work she has done and explained that more would be known in the autumn when the Williams review is published. It is hoped that this will allow Transport for the North to play a more extensive part in decision making within the industry.
- 8.6 The Chief Executive of Transport for the North thanked Councillor Blake and drew particular attention to the emphasis that was put on the resource element. The Chief Executive explained that the core budget is under challenge from Department for Transport and there is uncertainty as to what the settlement may be in the autumn.
- 8.7 Mayor Ben Houchen expressed his keenness to see the recommendations of the report implemented.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and endorsed.

9.0 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 Section

100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and/or exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

The Chairman thanked the public and the press for their attendance.

10.0 IST Phase 3

10.1 The Chief Executive presented the report in which the current position was outlined for the programme and options presented for the way forward on phase 3 for the delivery of central, back-office ticketing. A number of options were presented to the Board for discussion.

10.2 The Chief executive explained that making public transport easier to use and pay for remained the ambition. Phases 1 and 2 are progressing well. After discussing the options to take phase 3 forward the Board requested that more work be done on the options and a report brought to the next Board.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That a further report be presented to Board at its meeting in September

11.0 Northern Powerhouse Rail: HS2 Phase 2b interfaces

11.1 The Chief Executive updated members on the development of Northern Powerhouse Rail, focusing on the outstanding design issues for HS2 Ltd at Piccadilly in Manchester and Stourton Junction to the south of Leeds.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. To withdraw the recommendations set out in the paper
3. That Transport for the North continue to work with Greater Manchester Combined Authority and West Yorkshire Combined Authority in order to resolve the issues presented in the paper and discussed in the meeting.