

Item 3 - Scrutiny Committee – Minutes

Meeting: Scrutiny Committee

Date: 13 February 2020

Venue: Carriageworks - Leeds

Members:

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| Cllr Paul Haslam | North Yorkshire (Chair) |
| Cllr David O'Hara | Blackpool |
| Cllr Rod Fletcher | Cheshire East |
| Cllr Patrick McKinley | Liverpool City Region |
| Cllr John Davison | North Lincolnshire |
| Cllr Chris Lamb | Sheffield City Region |
| Cllr Ashley Waters | Tees Valley |
| Cllr Steve Parish* | Warrington |
| Cllr Dave Taylor | York |

Officers in Attendance:

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| Gary Rich | Democratic Services Officer |
| Iain Craven | Finance Director |
| Gareth Sutton | Financial Controller |
| Tim Foster | Head of Economic Advice |
| Steve Howes | Interim Strategic Director, IST |
| Rosemary Lyon | Legal and Democratic Services Officer |
| Tim Wood | NPR Director |
| Deborah Dimock | Solicitor |

Apologies:

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|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Cllr James Shorrock | Blackburn with Darwen |
| Cllr Andrew Cooper | Cheshire West and Chester |
| Cllr Neil Hughes | Cumbria |
| Cllr Mike Stathers | East Riding of Yorkshire |
| Cllr Jane Evison | East Riding of Yorkshire |
| Cllr Roger Jones | Greater Manchester |
| Cllr Sean Chaytor | Hull City Council |
| Cllr Matthew Salter | Lancashire |
| Cllr John McElroy | North East Combined Authority |
| Cllr Michael Mordey | North East Combined Authority |
| Cllr David Hasthorpe | North East Lincolnshire |
| Cllr Lia Nici | North East Lincolnshire |
| Cllr Carl Johnson | North of Tyne Combined Authority |
| Cllr Manisha Kaushik | West Yorkshire |

*Substitute Member in attendance

1.0 Welcome and Apologies and Declarations of Interest

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed Members and apologies were noted.

The Chair stated that he was delighted to see such a positive attendance at the meeting and that he understood that it can be difficult to attend when there are clashes with meetings in their own authorities. Members were invited, if they are unable to attend a meeting, to forward to the Chair any questions or clarifications that they may wish to be raised.

- 1.2 Members were informed of the recent death of the Cheshire East Member Cllr Roberts. The Chair asked that Cllr Fletcher accept the condolences of the Committee.

Cllr Fletcher informed the Committee that Cllr Laura Crane would now be the main Scrutiny Committee Member for Cheshire East.

1.3 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

2.0 Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee and Matters Arising – Part 1

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Transport for the North Scrutiny Committee held on 18 December 2019 were considered.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Transport for the North Scrutiny Committee held on 18 December 2019 be approved as a true and accurate record.

3.0 Feedback from the Transport for the North Board Meeting of the 8 January 2020-Part 1

- 3.1 Members received the report from the Transport for the North Solicitor who updated Members on the outcomes of the Partnership Board Membership discussed at Transport for the North Board.

The Solicitor outlined the proposal that was presented at the previous Scrutiny Committee meeting.

She explained that the Committee's recommendations were shared with the Board where they were taken into consideration. The Board resolved that the Partnership Board should be enlarged in line with the Committee's recommendations, but decided that the Partnership Board should continue to meet in private.

Members were informed that recommendations made by the Committee relating to amendments to the constitution regarding the Partnership Board will be addressed at a later date.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

4.0 Monthly Operating Report

- 4.1 The report was received by Members from the Finance Director and was taken as read.

Key parts of the report were highlighted and Members were informed that this new reporting format which will be shared across all Committees and Boards within Transport for the North.

Issues highlighted included the mismatch between spend and progress of projects, delays in installing equipment for ITSO Smart Cards and a small slip on phase one of the IST project which is due to finish in the middle of next year. Issues around some of the modelling were raised and it was noted that extra resources will be put in place next year to address this issue.

- 4.2 The Finance Director provided Members with further information on the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- 4.3 Members discussed the risks in the report and commented that it was difficult to see how the different projects Transport for the North are delivering are progressing.

The Finance Director explained that the January version of the report will include progress charts for each of the programmes. Members were also interested in exploring the programmes in greater detail were invited to do so at the Transport for the North Office in Manchester.

It was explained to Members that Transport for the North has cutting edge analytics as well as some of the best analytics experts in the field.

- 4.4 Members raised the issue of freight and gauging. Cllr McKinley asked about incoming freight following Brexit and the impact on this depending on possible trade deals with America.

The Head of Economic Advice advised that the Strategic Transport Plan sets out freight and international connectivity and some work is about to be published on this matter which he will share with Members.

Cllr Fletcher asked a question about 9ft 6 W10/12 containers and how they could travel East - West on a far quicker route. The NPR Director explained that as part of the Transpennine Route Upgrade (TRU), TfN had provided Statutory Advice to the Secretary of State to support this route being both gauge cleared (W10/12) and fully electrified for the full distance of the upgrade between Manchester and York via Leeds. He

explained that currently both gauge clearance and full electrification were not included within the scope of the Programme remitted to Network Rail. If the work did proceed with these two additional work streams it would not be ready until at least mid to late CP7 (2024-2029)

The Chair highlighted that there is no KPI on decarbonisation of transport and nothing on climate change and environment or making transport accessible to the entire community.

With regard to transport being accessible to all, the Finance Director explained that this is the remit of Local Transport Authorities (LTA). He explained that Transport for the North is working with the LTAs to ensure that strategy planning, and all work is multi modal.

He further explained that decarbonisation and climate change KPIs would be part of the next business plan. This issue has however been complicated by Local Authorities adopting different approaches to declaring climate emergencies and the applicable dates.

4.5 Members asked about policies on ethical and social investment.

Members were informed that this is something that TfN is conscious of and these are being developed.

The NPR Director stated that TfN is an advocate for people in the north. He highlighted the fact that he will be attending a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) event at Magma, where he is due to address 4000 young people about NPR, as these young people may be involved in the building of this project.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the report be noted;
- 2) That a report on freight post-Brexit be presented to the next Scrutiny meeting.

5.0 Draft Budget 2020/21

5.1 The report and presentation were received by Members and the report was taken as read.

5.2 The Finance Controller explained that this is the third time that Transport for the North has set a budget as a statutory authority. The budget for 2020/21 will be circa £85 million which is similar to previous budgets.

He explained that vast majority of Transport for the North funding comes from the DfT and that TfN operates to the same rules and regulations as Local Authorities and LTAs. Reserves must also be maintained at levels that are appropriate to risk.

A budget has been set aside for decarbonisation and climate change as these are Member priorities.

- 5.3 Cllr Taylor asked if Transport for the North can invest funds.

The Finance Controller explained that there is an approved Investment Strategy.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

6.0 Business Planning Update

- 6.1 The presentation and report on the Business Plan update were received by Members.

- 6.2 The Finance Director talked Members through the KPIs for next year and highlighted key ones.

He explained that there are currently 30 KPIs; however this will be reduced. KPI 4 on NPR is felt to be the most important.

- 6.3 Members requested that KPIs 16-19 should remain and not be rationalised with others as these are important.

Members highlighted the fact that accessibility had not been included in the current list of KPIs. The Finance Director stated that he would try to look at how this can be done.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The Committee adjourned for a break at 12:55 and resumed at 13:20.

7.0 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED: To resolve that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Items 8, 9 and 10 on the grounds that:

- (1) It is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during such items, confidential information as defined in S100A(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) would be disclosed to them in breach of the obligation of confidence; and/or
- (2) they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in Paragraph 3 and of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

8.0 Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee – Part 2

- 8.1 The part two minutes of the meeting of the Transport for the North Scrutiny Committee held on 18 December 2019 were considered. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- 8.2 The minutes were moved by Cllr Davison seconded by Cllr Parish.

RESOLVED: That the part two minutes of the meeting of the Transport for the North Scrutiny Committee held on 18 December 2019 be approved as a true and accurate record.

9.0 Feedback from the Transport for the North Board Meeting of the 8 January 2020 - Part 2 (r)

- 9.1 The report was received by Members.
- 9.2 The interim IST Director provided an update on the current position in relation to the Integrated and Smart Travel (IST) stages 3 and 4. Members were invited to ask questions and make comments.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted, and the recommendations approved.

10.0 Northern Powerhouse Rail Programme Update (r)

- 10.1 The presentation on Northern Powerhouse Rail was received by Members.
- 10.2 The report on the Northern Powerhouse Rail Programme update was noted and Members were invited to ask questions and make comments on the report.

RESOLVED: That the report and presentation be noted.