

Transport for the North Board – Item 4.4

Subject: Northern Powerhouse Rail Update

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Sponsor: Barry White, Chief Executive

Meeting Date: Thursday 12 September 2019

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Key programme developments since the Transport for the North Board in July.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 Following the discussion at the July Transport for the North Board on the remaining interfaces between Northern Powerhouse Rail and HS2 at Piccadilly station and Stourton Junction, members agreed that further work should be undertaken before the issue can be considered by members.
- 2.2 Transport for the North proposes appointing an independent expert to work with Manchester partners, DfT and HS2 Ltd to review the technical and economic evidence for both the surface and underground options at Piccadilly. Transport for the North will work with West Yorkshire Combined Authority, Network Rail and DfT to assess the wider strategic benefits of Stourton and alternatives as part of a wider strategic plan for rail connectivity for Leeds City Region.

3. Considerations

- 3.1 The design of High Speed 2 (HS2) Phase 2b is close to being finalised and submitted to parliament for consideration. The government is due to deposit the HS2 2b bill in June 2020. After the deposit, major changes to 2b bill are via an Additional Provision (AP) with long lead in times. The government has not yet said if the timetable for the bill will change as a result of the current review of HS2 announced at the end of August.
- 3.2 HS2 plans currently assume a surface station at Manchester Piccadilly and a 6th platform at Leeds HS station (in place of Stourton). At the July 2019 meeting, the Board asked for further work before any changes to the design can be agreed. Government has advised that

based on the current bill timetable, the end of 2019 is the latest that the AP process could commence to avoid delaying the bill. The next meeting of the Transport for the North Board is on the 5th of December.

- 3.3 Transport for the North therefore proposes that the further work should be carried out before the December meeting of the Board as follows:
- 3.3.1 An independent expert should be appointed to work closely with Manchester partners, Transport for the North, DfT and HS2 with a clear, agreed remit to urgently review the technical and economic evidence for both the surface and underground options at Piccadilly, including the implications for the resilience and performance of the wider network. The expert advisor would be remitted to resolve any outstanding issues and would then provide independent advice to the Board on how to best achieve the transformational outcome for Northern Powerhouse Rail at Piccadilly.
- 3.3.2 A programme of work led by West Yorkshire Combined Authority and supported by Transport for the North, Network Rail and DfT will address the wider strategic issues around Leeds City Region. As part of a strategic rail plan for West Yorkshire, an equivalent to Stourton may still be needed to increase flexibility in the face of uncertain futures and times of disruption, including the enabling of new direct connectivity opportunities for West and South Yorkshire.
- 3.4 Transport for the North will ensure that members are kept informed of progress on both elements through the autumn.
- 3.5 In parallel to the activity to resolve the issues at Stourton and Piccadilly there is ongoing work to accelerate aspects of the NPR programme to achieve the 'Autumn Deal' on NPR. The deal was proposed by the Prime Minister on the 27 July in his speech at the Museum of Science and Industry. While aspects of the work are being accelerated the key driver is to maintain NPR as a network for all of the North and to maintain the £39bn transformational vision set out in the Statutory Advice accompanying the submission of the NPR SOBC.

4 Recommendation

- 4.1 Members are asked to **note** that the further work has been jointly commissioned to assess Stourton junction as part of a wider West Yorkshire rail strategy.
- 4.2 Members are asked to **agree** that an independent expert should be asked to review the evidence on Piccadilly with Manchester partners and remitted to advise the December Board on the way forward.

ENDS

List of Background Documents:

None

Required Considerations

Equalities:

Age	Yes	No
Disability	Yes	No
Gender Reassignment	Yes	No
Pregnancy and Maternity	Yes	No
Race	Yes	No
Religion or Belief	Yes	No
Sex	Yes	No
Sexual Orientation	Yes	No

Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Equalities	A full Impact assessment has not been carried out at this stage of development.	Head of Economic Advice	NPR Director

Environment and Sustainability

Yes	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Sustainability / Environment – including considerations regarding Active Travel and Wellbeing	A full impact assessment has not been carried out at this stage of development.	Head of Economic Advice	NPR Director

Legal

Yes	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Legal	Compliance with procurement law and Transport for the North's internal procurement governance will need to be ensured in the proposed appointment of an independent expert	Head of Legal	Director of Business Capabilities

Finance

Yes	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Finance	The NPR Programme operates within a fixed budget envelope. Any changes in approach will need to be managed within that total budget, and may require resources to be redeployed.	Financial Controller	Finance Director

Resource

Yes	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Resource	There are no direct resourcing implications as a result of the recommendations within this report	Head of HR	Business Capabilities Director

Risk

Yes	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Risk	Risk assessments continue to be carried out and can be found in the risk register	Risk Portfolio Manager	Finance Director

Consultation

Yes	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Consultation	A suitable consultation has been carried out with Transport for the North partners.	Head of Economic Advice	NPR Director