

# Rail North Committee Minutes

**Meeting:** Rail North Committee  
**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018 – 11.00am - 12.30pm  
**Venue:** Committee Room A, Wellington House, Wellington Street,  
Leeds, LS1 2DE

## Attendees:

Cllr. Rob Waltham (Chair from item 3)	Humber Authorities
Cllr. Keith Little (by phone)	Lancashire & Cumbria
Cllr. Liam Robinson (by phone)	Liverpool City Region
Mayor Andy Burnham	Greater Manchester
Cllr. Harold Davenport	Cheshire & Potteries
Mayor Dan Jarvis	Sheffield City Region
Cllr. Judith Blake	West Yorkshire and York
Cllr. Trevor Ainsworth	East Midlands Authorities

## Officers in attendance:

Barry White	Transport for the North
David Hoggarth	Transport for the North
Adam Timewell	Rail North Partnership
Tom Davidson	Transport for the North
Darren Precious	Transport for the North
Clare Cocken	Transport for the North
Deborah Dimmock	Transport for the North
Sasha Wayne	Transport for the North
Rosemary Lyon	Transport for the North

## Apologies:

Cllr. Michael Green	Lancashire & Cumbria
Cllr. Carl Les	North Yorkshire County
Mayor Ben Houchen	Tees Valley Combined Authority
Cllr. Nick Forbes	North East Combined Authority

## 1.0 Welcome and Apologies

## Action

- 1.1 Members were welcomed to the meeting by Barry White, Chief Executive of Transport for the North.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence were noted above.

## **2.0 Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair**

- 2.1 Cllr Liam Robinson was nominated as Chair and this was agreed by members
- 2.2 Cllr Rob Waltham was nominated as Vice Chair and this was agreed by members. As Cllr Robinson had joined by phone it was that Cllr Waltham should take the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

**Resolved: That Cllr Robinson be appointed Chair of the Committee and Cllr Waltham Vice Chair.**

## **3.0 Terms of Reference for the Committee**

- 3.1 There were a number of membership updates to Appendix 1. West Yorkshire & York - Cllr Judith Blake as the member, Cheshire and Potteries - Cllr. Harold Davenport as member with substitute Cllr. Brian Clarke. East Midlands substitute Cllr Chris Brewis.
- 3.2 Cllr Blake, said that due to what has unfolded over the past few weeks, there needs to be more substantial information provided to Committee members in order to have a greater ability to fulfil the role.
- 3.3 Mayor Burnham stated what seems to be clear is failure of early warning and not having the foresight into changes. It was suggested that the committee need to be interrogating performance and monitoring franchise delivery and he asked if this is adequately reflected in the Terms of Reference. It was also suggested that Transport for the North's status as a partner with DfT needs to be adequately reflected.

**Resolved: To note the report and comments on the Terms of Reference which can be fed into the Blake-Johnson Review**

## **4.0 Presentation on Franchise Management and Readiness for Timetable Changes**

- 4.1 Adam Timewell (Rail North Partnership) gave a presentation on issues around the timetable and

the readiness for the next change on 30 July. The presentation covered:

- Timetable timeline – Lakes Line Shuttle commenced on 2 July, (12 in each direction). There is still a rail replacement presence to support this service.
- The planned end of Northern’s Interim Timetable is due on 29<sup>th</sup> July in parallel with the end of the Liverpool Lime Street blockade.
- Network Rail’s readiness review for 29<sup>th</sup> July. The Liverpool Lime Street project is currently 68% complete and is on track, the final phase of the blockade will be started on the 13<sup>th</sup> July to finish the wiring and signalling. Driver training in relation to the project is being regularly monitored across all train operators.
- Leeds Station platform working – it was reported that a lot of work been done to date with more still to be done.
- Castlefield Corridor Capacity Review – there is a review being undertaken on capacity requirements in the short and medium terms.
- TransPennine Express (TPE) – Liverpool Lime Street blockade. It was reported that TPE are planning to run their full timetable from the end of the blockade and driver training is progressing well.
- It was reported that TPE’s most significant issue is the congestion into Manchester. They are looking at some station management practices

4.2 There were a number of comments and questions from members on the presentation:

- Members were concerned that performance seems to be getting worse.

- Concern about TransPennine Express performance including short-formations and structured timetable issues.
- Mayor Andy Burnham questioned as to whether Castlefield corridor can cope with the volume of trains in the plan and where the review of the corridor will report to.
- Adam said there is a separate working group within Rail North Partnership looking at performance which is supported by Officers from Transport for Greater Manchester and working with the train operators and Network Rail.
- Members said that there is a need for a clear explanation of why the interim timetable is not working before a decision can be made.
- Request that the committee needs to have the bigger picture and to know the full facts on performance.
- Cllr Blake asked a question about which organisation is ultimately able to take decisions about the re-introduction of services.

**Resolved: Adam Timewell to provide feedback to the industry meeting later that day reviewing performance plans and readiness for 30 July.**

## **5.0 May 2018 Timetable Update**

- 5.1 Cllr Robinson requested a separate discussion to understand in more detail what the December 2018 may or may not mean. It was also suggested that there may need to have a reprofiled delivery plan for all of the franchise enhancements that were meant to be delivered not just in this year but also for future years.
- 5.2 Cllr Robinson made another point about the assumption that in January fares are due to go up in line with RPI and because of the chaos in the last few weeks a fares freeze would be desirable.

- 5.3 Mayor Andy Burnham suggested that the Committee should take a view as to what timetable changes should be delivered in December.

**RESOLVED: That the report be noted.**

## **6.0 Future Work Plan for the Committee**

- 6.1 This item was deferred until a future meeting (August).

## **7.0 Summary**

- 7.1 The Chair summarised the views of the Committee:
- Information on current performance available to the Committee to shape decisions is limited and the Committee needs to be provided with a greater level of intelligence.
  - Strong views that current performance levels have not 'stabilised' based on the information available and feedback from passengers – so the case for full re-instatement of services from 30 July is not made as set out today.
  - Concerns about infrastructure and network capacity impacts on performance e.g. Castlefield corridor in Manchester.
  - There needs to be an industry view on the 'sum of the parts', not just those of individual operators
  - The industry needs to make responsible decisions understanding the passenger impact.
  - For December 2018, need to understand what 'roll-over' means and think there is a desire for some enhancements being brought in (e.g. additional Sunday services).