

1. Chief Executives Update

- 1.1. To provide the opportunity for the Chief Executive to update the Board on matters arising from the previous meeting, as well as any other significant issues not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

2. Quarterly Operating Report

- 2.1. Board members will recall that the purpose of the Quarterly Operating Report is to report progress against the milestones set out in the Business Plan. It is presented to and discussed at the Audit and Governance Committee as part of their regular cycle of meetings. It is also provided to this meeting for information.
- 2.2. As reported to the previous meeting of this Board, the activities associated with each of the milestones have been reviewed, and where appropriate, updated to reflect the priorities of the new Government, and particularly its 5 Missions.
- 2.3. The Government has emphasised the importance of investing in the capacity and capability available to support MCAs/LTAs. Take-up of the 'TfN Offer' continues to grow as individual authorities move forward with their work, with authorities right across the North drawing on the 'offer'.

3. Convention of the North

- 3.1. The TfN executive continue to work closely in support of the work of the Convention of the North, including through the work we undertook on the Northern Powerhouse Independent Review (NPIER) and in support of the Convention's transport theme. There will be a specific transport-focused event as part of the 2025 Convention hosted by Lancashire in Preston.

4. Business Planning

- 4.1. Over the course of the summer and into early autumn, the TfN executive has been in 'listening mode'. The clarity and focus that the Government's Missions bring has been used to assess how our work adds value to their delivery. This has shown that the outcome focused, placed-based, user-centred approach that underpins the revised Strategic Transport Plan is consistent with the Government's Missions.
- 4.2. Engagement with TfN's constituent authorities – at both Member and officer level – has provided the TfN executive with an initial steer on where they see TfN adding greatest value. With the King's Speech committing the Government to bringing forward legislative change in several key areas of transport policy, the steer provided by TfN's constituent authorities has been that TfN should continue to focus on those activities that are of pan-regional significance, are related to its analytical capability in support of partner authorities, and which supports partners with the acceleration of scheme delivery.
- 4.3. The paper on Business Planning elsewhere on this agenda presents the latest position in terms of that process, with the Board invited to provide a

further steer ahead of preparing the final draft of the Business Plan to the Board at its March meeting for consideration and approval.

- 4.4. The TfN executive continues to work closely with the DfT regional sponsorship team following the October Budget on funding for the 2025/26 financial year. In the meantime, business planning work is guided by a set of reasonable planning assumptions on the likely level of funding. A decision on funding is expected early in the new year, enabling the TfN Budget to be presented for consideration and approval in March.

5. Spending Review

- 5.1. The October Budget reaffirmed support for some key transport investments for the North, including the Trans-Pennine Route Upgrade (TRU) and continuing momentum on Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR), as well as strategic road infrastructure like the A57 corridor. More recently the legal challenge to the A66 scheme has been addressed, delivery of which is a priority for the North as a collective.
- 5.2. We know that the Department's capital programme is under review as part of the input into the Spending Review. And given the pressures on public finances in the short term, this review will be challenging. The evidence base underpinning the Strategic Transport Plan shows the critical role that investment in the North's transport system plays in unlocking economic opportunity, improving social inclusion and reducing the environmental impact of our transport system.
- 5.3. Later on this agenda, the Board is invited to consider what input it might wish to make in respect of the Spending Review.

6. Other Related Updates

- 6.1. The Chief Executive was in Leeds to attend the Secretary of State's vision for the Integrated National Transport Strategy. The focus on placing the user at the heart of our approach to investing in the transport offer is one supported by the Strategic Transport Plan and its associated evidence base. The TfN executive is working to support the DfT team as they make arrangements for the regional roadshows that form part of the engagement process associated with the development of the INTS.
- 6.2. The Chief Executive, along with the Chief Executives of the non-statutory Sub-national Transport Bodies, took part in a briefing session for the Transport Select Committee prior to it beginning its work.
- 6.3. The TfN executive has responded to a request from the London Assembly Transport Committee for information on TfN's work on accessibility. The request is related to the Committee's current work on accessibility and inclusion in transport planning.

December 2024