
Transport for the North Board Minutes

**Thursday 17 September 2020
Microsoft Teams**

Present:

John Cridland (Chairman)

Attendee

Cllr Phil Riley
Cllr Lynn Williams
Cllr Craig Browne
Cllr Gittins
Cllr Shore
Cllr Keith Little
Mayor Andy Burnham

Cllr Matthews
Cllr Daren Hale
Michael Green
Mayor Steve Rotheram
Cllr Carl Marshall
Cllr Stewart Swinburn
Cllr Don Mackenzie
Mayor Dan Jarvis
Cllr Heather Scott
Cllr Hans Mundry
Cllr Judith Blake

Local Authority

Blackburn with Darwen;
Blackpool;
Cheshire East;
Cheshire West & Chester;
Cheshire West & Chester;
Cumbria;
Greater Manchester Combined
Authority;
East Riding of Yorkshire;
Hull;
Lancashire;
Liverpool City Region;
North East Combined Authority;
North East Lincolnshire;
North Yorkshire;
Sheffield City Region;
Tees Valley;
Warrington;
West Yorkshire Combined Authority;

Rail North Authorities Attendees

Councillor Trevor Ainsworth
Councillor Chris Brewis
Councillor David Williams

Derbyshire
Lincolnshire
Staffordshire

Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Attendees

Graeme Bristow
Steve Curl
Mark Roberts
Matthew Lamb
Peter Kennan

Cheshire & Warrington LEP
Cumbria LEP
Leeds LEP
North Yorkshire LEP
Sheffield City Region LEP

Partners in Attendance:

Nick Bisson	DfT
Ben Smith	Department for Transport
Lorna Pimlott	HS2
Graham Botham	Network Rail

Officers in Attendance:

Name	Job Title
Iain Craven	Finance Director
Deborah Dimock	Solicitor
Tim Foster	Head of Economic Advice
David Hoggarth	Strategic Rail Director
David Hughes	Programme and Strategy Director
Dawn Madin	Director of Capabilities
Peter Molyneux	Major Roads Director
Julie Openshaw	Head of Legal
Gary Rich	Democratic Services Officer
Barry White	Chief Executive
Tim Wood	Northern Powerhouse Rail Director
Jeremy Acklam	IST Director

Item No:**1. Welcome & Apologies**

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed Members and apologies were received from Cllr Waltham, Cllr Hannigan and Mark Rawstron.

2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.
- 2.2 Cllr Gittins asked the Chairman to comment on his new role as President of the Northern Transport Acceleration Council (NTAC) and what it will involve.

The Chairman explained that the meeting that has taken place was a founding meeting of the Council. He explained to Members that he believed that the position would enable him to help to bring the views of northern leaders to NTAC meetings and link into Transport for the North. He explained that by accepting the position he believed it was the best way for TfN to have influence.

The Chairman stated that if required to do so he would update his register of interests following the discussion in item 8.

3. Exclusion of Press and Public

To resolve that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Items 4 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 item(s), 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) it / they involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in the Paragraphs [where necessary listed below] 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

4. Northern Powerhouse Rail Preferred Phasing Scenario

4.1 The report was received by Members and they were invited to ask questions and make comments.

Resolved:

- 1) That the report from Rail North Partnership be noted.
- 2) That the discussed recommendations be agreed.

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

5.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Transport for the North Board held on 29 July 2020 were considered.

5.2 Cllr Scott stated that both she and Mayor Houchen had offered their apologies for the last meeting.

5.3 Cllr Shore noted that a response had been provided in relation to membership of Rail North Committee, but requested that the minute 4.1 record the fact that Cllr Gittens had asked whether the membership of Rail North Committee needed to be reviewed to allow for substitute members to attend.

5.4 Referring to the minute on the Northern Transport Charter Cllr Little sought clarity on the report Members were due to receive in August and whether this had been circulated. The Chairman explained that the minuted agreement on the Northern Transport Charter was that the work would be taken forward under the Comprehensive Spending Review. The paper was circulated for draft comment to the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee and Executive Board. He explained that as the report needed

to be with the DfT for the 28 August copies were circulated to Board Members at the time of it being submitted.

- 5.5 The Chairman highlighted minute 6.2 which related to Mayor Burnham's comment on risk assessment and he requested that the Chief Executive send a note to Mayor Burnham on this matter.

Resolved:

That subject to the above changes the minutes of the Transport for the North Board held on 29 July 2020 be approved as a correct record.

6. Governance

- 6.1 The Governance report was received by Members.
- 6.2 The Head of Legal explained that three matters needed to be resolved, namely the election of the minority parties Vice Chair, the election of two new Members to the Audit and Governance Committee and the approval of the calendar of meetings.
- 6.3 Cllr Scott nominated Mayor Houchen to be the minority parties Vice Chair. There were no further nominations.
- 6.4 Cllr Little nominated Cllr Brett and Cllr Scott to become the new Members of the Audit and Governance Committee.
- 6.5 Mayor Burnham noted that the Partnership Board had not recently met and suggested that whilst Board and Partnership Board continue to meet virtually during the current crisis then the two meetings could be held on different dates.

The Chairman explained that for the next meeting more time may be needed to discuss NPR which was why there may be no Partnership Board; however he acknowledged Mayor Burnham's thoughts on this matter.

- 6.6 Cllr Hale asked whether meetings would continue to be virtual. The Chairman confirmed that this is likely to be the case.
- 6.7 Cllr Green highlighted that some Rail North Committee meetings are due to take place following Board meetings.

The Strategic Rail Director explained that these dates were set earlier in the year but he is happy to review them and respond to Cllr Green.

Resolved:

- 1) That Mayor Houchen be elected as the minority parties Vice Chair;
- 2) That Cllrs Allen Brett and Heather Scott be elected to the Transport for the North Audit and Governance Committee;
- 3) That the Calendar of meetings be approved.

7. Integrated Rail Plan Update

- 7.1 The report was received by Members and the Head of Policy, Strategy, Economics and Research highlighted key areas of the report before Members were able to make comments and ask questions.
- 7.2 Mayor Burnham sought reassurance that the Board's discussions on NPR would be reflected in the papers to the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) and circulated to Members before anything is submitted.
- The Chairman confirmed that this would be the case.
- 7.3 Cllr Scott requested that clarification on Darlington station be included as it is seen as a priority for TfN early investment.
- 7.4 Cllr Swinburn stated that the plan should not include anything that will cause detriment to existing services and should include the wider growth areas such as North East Lincolnshire. He stressed the importance of aligning HS2 and NPR and the issue of freight.
- 7.5 Cllr Shore requested that the outstanding improvements to the mid-Cheshire line be included.
- 7.6 Referring to Annex A, point 1.5, Cllr Green expressed disappointment that the East Lancashire Calder Valley route and the reinstatement of the line between Colne and Skipton had been omitted and he requested that these schemes be included.
- 7.7 Cllr Hale emphasised the need to act as one North, and emphasised the importance of planning for freight. He highlighted the need for electrification between Hull and Sheffield and Hull-Leeds ensuring connectivity for the whole north so it can rival the economy in the South East of the country.
- 7.8 The Chairman stated that whilst NPR is an important project, it is not the only part of TfN's long term rail strategy. TfN is also working on other important areas, which includes freight which he stated is "in the DNA" of the organisation.

Resolved:

That the paper be noted.

8. Comprehensive Spending Review

- 8.1 Members received the report and were updated by the Chairman on the current position.
- 8.2 The Chairman stated that he believed that progress has been made since the last Board meeting in delivering the mandate from that meeting with Transport for the North having positive engagements with the new transport initiatives.

Members were informed that the Chairman together with a delegation of Members including; Mayor Burnham, Cllr Blake, Cllr Gittins, Cllr Green and Mr Mark Roberts had had a positive meeting with the Secretary of State.

During the meeting a number of issues were discussed including: the role of TfN alongside the Northern Transport Acceleration Council (NTAC), the Integrated Rail Plan, the work TfN is doing on Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) and wider work linked to the forthcoming Devolution White Paper. The Chairman confirmed that the Secretary of State had stated that there was a role for TfN going forward and that it was complementary to the role of NTAC. It was stated that both organisations have their own distinctive roles, but there were also some areas of overlap.

He further explained that the Secretary of State was complimentary about Transport for the North but he wanted the organisation to focus in on key priorities. He also wants to strengthen the relationships between the Department and Transport for the North and requested that representations be made directly to him rather than being lobbied in public.

The Chairman stated that he believed that the Secretary of State is being supportive of Transport for the North. Members were informed that the Chief Executive will write to the Secretary of State on the Northern Transport Charter, outlining the proposals and how things can move forward.

The Chairman stated that the meeting reduced concern about the role of TfN going forward and he believed it was a positive sign that he had been asked to be President of NTAC and felt that this is the best way to sustain the TfN mission. He said he had a dozen messages of support from Members and no messages to the contrary. There had been an anonymous negative but factually inaccurate comment in the Yorkshire Post.

- 8.3 Cllr Swinburn looked for assurances for North East Lincolnshire that that any capital investment from TfN won't exclude them from bidding for any further funding.

The Finance Director explained that there is nothing that stops localities asking for money.

- 8.4 Cllr Mundry asked about funding for programmes and where the money should come from, as he believed that it should not be out of core funding.

The Chairman explained that this issue would be considered as he believes it isn't right or possible that core funding should be used for programmes and that this should be part of the debate with the department about further roles TfN wants to do which would have programme funding implications.

- 8.5 Mayor Burnham provided Members with his perspective following the meeting with the Secretary of State. He informed them that progress has been made following the uncertainty about TfN over the last few months. He explained that he highlighted the importance of TfN to the Secretary of State and specifically the work done during the 2018 timetable issues. Members were told that TfN needs to be defended as an organisation.

He then spoke about NTAC, TfN and the role of the Chairman. He explained that the North needs more than just speeded up delivery but needs to be acceleration of right thing. He believed that it is the role of TfN to "put the brakes on" if what is being offered is not correct for the North. He emphasised the fact that there may not always be alignment between NTAC and TfN and that would be where the Chairman would need to be involved to ensure that the balance between acceleration and ambition is achieved.

He informed Members that the Chairman needs to be supported in his role as President of NTAC and balancing these two aims so the right ambition is achieved. Cllr Brewis also fully supported the Chairman's actions.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.