

# Transport for the North Board Minutes

**Wednesday 18 November 2020  
MS Teams**

**Present:**

John Cridland (Chairman)

**Attendee**

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

Cllr Gary Wareing  
Cllr Michael Green  
Mayor Steve Rotheram  
Cllr Carl Marshall  
Cllr Stewart Swinburn  
Cllr Richard Hannigan  
Cllr Nick Forbes  
Mayor Dan Jarvis  
Cllr Heather Scott  
Cllr Hans Mundry  
Cllr Judith Blake  
Cllr Andy D'Agorne

**Local Authority**

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

**Rail North Authorities Attendees**

Councillor Trevor Ainsworth  
Councillor Chris Brewis  
Councillor John Ogle

Derbyshire  
Lincolnshire  
Nottinghamshire

**Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Attendees**

Steve Curl  
Stephen Parnaby  
Mark Rawstron  
Mark Roberts  
Lucy Winskell  
Matthew Lamb  
Peter Kennan

Cumbria LEP  
Hull & Humber LEP  
Lancashire LEP  
Leeds LEP  
North East LEP  
North Yorkshire LEP  
Sheffield City Region LEP

**Partners in Attendance:**

Jim O'Sullivan	Highways England
Lorna Pimlott	HS2
Sir Peter Hendy	Network Rail
Nick Bisson	DfT
Ben Smith	Department for Transport

**Officers in Attendance:**

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

**Also in Attendance**

Chris Melling	Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee
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**Item No: Item****1. Welcome & Apologies**

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed Members and apologies were noted. A welcome was extended to new member Lucy Winskell who is representing the North East LEP. Chris Melling of the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee was also welcomed.
- 1.2 The Chairman noted that Barry White intended to step down from the role of Chief Executive in the new year, and the Chairman, Mayor Burnham, Cllr Gittins and Mark Roberts paid warm tribute to Barry White for his contribution and steadfast services to Transport for the North. Following a discussion on the process for recruitment of a successor, it was concluded that discussions would take place after the meeting to agree a process, to allow timely progress to be made.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

### **3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Transport for the North Board held on 17 September 2020 were considered.
- 3.2 Cllr Gittins asked for confirmation as to whether the Mid Cheshire Line had been included in the Transport for the North Integrated Rail Plan following Cllr Shore's request during the conversation on it at the last Board meeting.
- 3.3 The Chairman requested that Officers update Cllr Gittins on this query.

#### **Resolved:**

That the minutes of the Transport for the North Board held on 17 September 2020 be approved as a correct record.

### **4. Annual Governance Statement, Statement of Accounts and Audit Opinion 2019/20**

- 4.1 Members received the report from the Finance Controller who highlighted the key parts of the report.

The Finance Controller explained that the statutory deadline of 31 July 2020 for approving the accounts had been extended to 30 November this year due to the pandemic. Whilst TfN had largely finalised its accounts by 31 July, delays to the pension fund audit caused by the pandemic meant that this extension had been utilised. The draft accounts had been scrutinised and approval by the Audit and Governance Committee for submission to the Board for its consideration and approval.

He further explained that the external audit had been conducted remotely and this process had worked well. The external auditors have agreed to provide a clean report from a value for money and accounts perspective.

- 4.2 The Board then received the report of the Audit and Governance Committee from the Chair of the Committee, Chris Melling. He stated that having reviewed the findings of internal audit and the submissions of officers, the Committee can provide assurance to the Board that in the areas reviewed by the Committee, TfN has implemented a sound control framework that appropriately manages risk. He also stated that having reviewed the Statement of Accounts and received representation from officers and external audit, the Committee commends to the Board the Statement of Accounts.
- 4.3 The Chairman thanked the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee and the Committee Members for the hard work undertaken throughout the year. He also thanked the Finance Controller, the Finance Director and the officer team for all the hard work in preparing the accounts.

**Resolved:**

- 1) That the corporate governance review and the Annual Governance Statement be approved.
- 2) That the Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 be approved.

**5. Year To Date / Budget Revision 2 and Mid-Year Treasury Management Update**

- 5.1 Members received the report from the Finance Director which was taken as read.

**Resolved:**

That the proposed revision 2 budget be approved.

**6. Exclusion of Press and Public**

**Resolved:** That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Items [7 & 8] 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 information.

**7. Part 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

- 7.1 The private minutes of the meeting of the Transport for the North Board held on 17 September 2020 were considered.

**Resolved:**

That the private minutes of the Transport for the North Board held on 17 September 2020 be approved as a correct record.

**8. Northern Powerhouse Rail Preferred Way Forward and Phasing**

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

**Resolved:**

- 1) That the report from the NPR Director be noted.
- 2) That the discussed recommendations be agreed.