

Transport for the North Board Minutes

Wednesday 24 March 2021

Present:

John Cridland (Chairman)

Attendee

Cllr Lynn Williams
Cllr Craig Browne
Cllr Gittins
Cllr Keith Little
Cllr Matthews
Mayor Andy Burnham

Cllr Daren Hale
Cllr Michael Green
Cllr Liam Robinson
Cllr Carl Marshall
Cllr Richard Hannigan
Cllr Don Mackenzie
Cllr Heather Scott
Cllr Hans Mundry
Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe
Cllr Andy D'Agorne

Local Authority

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

Rail North Authorities Attendees

Councillor Chris Brewis

Lincolnshire

Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Attendees

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

Cumbria LEP
Lancashire LEP
Leeds LEP
North East LEP
North Yorkshire LEP
Sheffield City Region LEP

Partners in Attendance:

Nick Harris
Lorna Pimlott
Sir Peter Hendy
Ben Smith

Highways England
HS2
Network Rail
Department for Transport

Officers in Attendance:

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

Item No:

1. Welcome & Apologies

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed Members and apologies were noted.
- 1.2 The Chairman noted that this was the Chief Executive's final TfN Board Meeting. He highlighted the attributes that he has brought to the post and his achievements during his three years as Chief Executive. On behalf of the Board the Chairman thanked him for all his hard work and wished him well for the future.
- 1.3 The Chief Executive thanked the Chairman for his kind words as well as highlighting other larger and smaller projects that he and the TfN Team have been involved in during his time as Chief Executive. He expressed thanks to both the Chairman and the Board for their support and challenge during his time in the job and wished the Board and TfN great success in the future.
- 1.4 Mayor Burnham thanked the Chief Executive and stated that he has been true to the Board during his time as Chief Executive. He added that the voice of the North has become louder on the issue of transport under his leadership.
- 1.5 Sir Peter Hendy updated that Board on the interim report of his United Kingdom Connectivity Review. He explained that one of the key points that he will make in his final report is the need for wider economic appraisal which is the basis for bringing forward transport investment which will help the levelling up agenda and economic growth for the United Kingdom as a whole.

He also stated that there is widespread interest in exploring a UK network to replace the EU Trans European Network which was designed to identify routes across the union to create EU wide jobs, growth, housing and social cohesion.

The final report will be complete by August 2021.

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 18 February 2021 were considered.

3.2 The Chairman explained that the Chief Executive has followed up on all the action points from the previous Board meeting.

Members were also informed that the Secretary of State had made positive comments at the Acceleration Council meeting on 23 March about HS2 and that the plan would sequence HS2 with NPR.

3.3 Cllr Hale questioned when the IRP would be published. The Chairman stated it would not before the election period.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Transport for the North Board held on 18 February 2021 be approved as a correct record.

4. Business Plan

4.1 Members received the Business Plan from the Finance Director and the Interim Strategy Manager and Programme Director. The Chief Executive highlighted the key parts of the report. He explained that it had been a truncated business planning process and thanked the Members' working group and the Finance Director and his team for their work in pulling the plan together. The Chief Executive stated that this is an ambitious work programme for the year ahead.

4.2 Members raised a number of issues relating to the business plan, including accessibility of transport for disabled users, the National Bus Strategy, Freight, and the Northern Transport Charter.

- 4.3 Mr. Mark Rawstron requested that recognition be given to local schemes which are embedded in the programmes and can have a disproportionate economic benefit in areas and emphasised the importance of this message not being lost. He also requested that the plan should be written in clear and understandable language with a succinct Executive Summary.
- 4.4 Cllr Gittins suggested that it should be called a recovery and renewal plan rather than a business plan.
- 4.5 In response to the issue of inclusion the Interim Strategy and Programme Director explained that this is an important part of Strategic Transport plan. He further explained that work has been commissioned on a pan-Northern study on how transport can enable/exclude people from opportunities. It is anticipated that a report on this will be presented to TfN Board in the late summer.

Regarding Freight, he explained that the Freight Strategy will be pivotal and that post Integrated Rail Plan (IRP) this strategy will also be presented to the Board.

- 4.6 The Chief Executive committed to bringing back to Board and the Rail North Committee information on the accessibility of stations and the intended future investment programme.

He also expressed concern regarding a “patchwork quilt” of ticketing schemes. He explained that he hoped that rail reform will create a platform that will allow multi-mode to be developed across local authority areas.

Addressing the issue of local schemes, the Chief Executive said that he would ensure that the smaller schemes are highlighted within the business plan.

He explained that there is a legal duty to publish a Business Plan however TfN will explore how to bring out the recovery and renewal element.

Resolved:

That the Board approves the 2021/22 Business Plan, and delegates to the Chief Executive responsibility for the finalisation of the document as required.

5. Budget

- 5.1 Members received the Budget and Reserve Strategy report from the Finance Director. The Finance Director then highlighted the key parts of the report before taking comments and questions from Members.

- 5.2 Cllr Hinchcliffe asked how TfN will deliver against the budget and at pace. She also raised the issue of mechanisms that can be used in order to move the budget around if required.

In response the Finance Director explained that there is a specific issue around NPR and how that budget is set and controlled. This is because it is a co-cliented project with discrete processes that need to be undertaken with DfT in order to draw down the funds. He also stated that the Integrated Rail Plan is a risk which may impact on the NPR business plan and the budget.

On the issue of delivering Core funded activity to budget, he noted that the issue raised by Cllr Hinchcliffe is recognised and that additional processes are being implemented to allow TfN to act quickly in moving funding between priorities. He also stated that there are reserve activities, consistent with the priorities in the business plan, that can be brought in should activities fall behind.

- 5.3 Cllr Gittins raised the issue of ethical investments.

The Finance Director explained that TfN has a very straightforward set of cash deposit arrangements based on its Treasury management Strategy and uses a narrow range of institutions including DMADF and Barclays, However, TfN will explore the issue of ethical investment when it carries out the annual review of its TMS.

Resolved:

- 1) That TfN Board approves the revenue budget and capital programme as presented in the paper and Appendix 5.1.
- 2) That TfN Board approves the reserve strategy as presented in the report
- 3) That TfN Board notes the Outturn Report included at Appendix 5.2.
- 4) That TfN Board approves the Annual Treasury Management Strategy as presented in Appendix 5.3 & 5.4.

6. Corporate Risk Register

- 6.1 The report of the Risk Manager was received by Members and the report was taken as read.

Resolved:

- 1) That the report and the Corporate Risk Register be noted.

- 2) That subject to any required amendments the content of the Corporate Risk Register as a reflection of the current position be approved.

7. Decarbonisation Strategy Approval

- 7.1 Members received the report and presentation on the Decarbonisation Strategy from the Principal Environmental and Sustainability Officer who highlighted the key points in the report and presentation.
- 7.2 The Chairman stated that he had received a supportive letter from Mr. Anthony Rae on behalf of a number of environmental organisations.
- 7.3 Members were supportive of the strategy and endorsed both the strategy and the trajectory.
- 7.4 Cllr Hale requested some additions in relation to the freight section in the decarbonising rail section of the strategy.

The Principal Environmental and Sustainability Officer agreed to tighten up the wording within the strategy in order to recognise Cllr Hale's comment.

- 7.5 Mayor Burnham requested that decarbonisation should not be seen as separate to competing priorities to improving public transport across the North of England.

He also requested that the 2045 date be a backstop date.

The Principal Environmental and Sustainability Officer stated that in order to have a 2045 trajectory it would require many of the areas to move quicker than 2045.

- 7.6 Mark Rawstron stated that decarbonisation is an opportunity to drive economic growth in the north.
- 7.7 Cllr Gittins highlighted the importance of removing freight from the roads and made a number of suggestions including rail heads, canals and a hydrogen refuelling network.
- 7.8 Cllr Hinchcliffe suggested that key messages from across the North should be combined at COP26.
- 7.9 Mr. Steve Curl highlighted the importance of recognising the importance of this on rural economies.
- 7.10 The Chairman highlighted that the biggest progress on achieving climate change has been made in the energy field on generation of electricity, with transport being seen as a "hard to reach" sector. He stated that the date set by TfN was an ambitious and achievable target, however it

will still require transformational change, including mode shift and moving to electric heavy goods vehicles. He also stated that there would be faster progress in different parts of the North and hoped that the target could be reached sooner than 2045.

Resolved:

That the Board agree TfN's Decarbonisation Strategy for public consultation, utilising the recommended Decarbonisation Trajectory, incorporating a close to zero date of 2045.

8. Governance Report

- 8.1 Members received the report of the Head of Legal Services who highlighted the key issues in the report.
- 8.2 Mr. Peter Kennan stated that the General Purposes Committee should be representative of the membership of the board and involve LEPs as well.
- 8.3 The Chairman supported Peter Kennan's view that the committee should reflect balance of Board Membership.

Resolved:

- 1) That the Board agrees to:
 - a) Extend the appointment of the Independent Members of the Audit and Governance Committee for further 3 years;
 - b) To increase the number of Independent Members of the Audit and Governance Committee to 4 and make the appropriate Constitutional amendments;
 - c) To recruit a new Independent Member of the Committee with a 3-year term.
- 2) That the Board receives the report on the General Purposes Committee and in accordance with Part 4 of the report agrees to the consultation exercise with Board Members on future decision-making structures and to set up a Members' Working Group to review the arrangements for the Committee with a view to recommendations being reported to a future Board meeting for approval.
- 3) That the Board notes the position in relation to virtual Board and Committee meetings and requests that the position be kept under review and a further report be brought to a future meeting should the legal position change.

9. Any Business Which the Chair is Satisfied is Urgent

- 9.1 There was no urgent business that needed to be discussed.

10. Exclusion of Press and Public

To resolve that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Items 11 and 12 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.

11. Part 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 11.1 That the private minutes of the meeting of the Transport for the North Board held on 18 February 2021 were considered.

Resolved:

That the private minutes of the Transport for the North Board held on 18 February 2021 be approved as a correct record

12. Any Business Which the Chair is Satisfied is Urgent**Chief Executive Recruitment Update**

- 12.1 The report was received by Members who were then invited to ask questions and make comments.

Resolved:

That the report of the Director of Business Capabilities be noted.