

Transport for the North Board

Item 9, Appendix 3

TfN Business Plan 2021/22 text on key NTC activities

“As the first full year since the Charter’s adoption, 2021/22 will see us embed the objectives within our programmes and services. Initially, this will focus on activities that add value and accelerate investment, while at the same time building the capability and evidence for increased pan-Northern devolved powers over time.

Our activities will include:

- Co-managing, with DfT, the North’s two train operating contracts with a focus on rebuilding passenger numbers over time and improving reliability.
- Providing evidence-based statutory advice on rail investment and passenger services in the North, including the difficult trade-offs required to deliver reliable train services through central Manchester.
- Responding to the Williams Review and further developing an enhanced role for TfN in overseeing and inputting into the operation of the North’s railways.
- Providing statutory advice on the approach to prioritise roads investment for the next Roads Investment Strategy (RIS3).
- Consulting on and adopting a Decarbonisation Strategy for the North, championing a sustainable future for our region that delivers a zero-carbon network.
- Developing and adopting our innovative analytical tools to target investments that, as well as supporting economic growth, address the need to deliver environmental, social and health benefits.
- Taking forward a developed Northern Investment Programme to lead strategic planning for the North, underpinned by compelling evidence.
- Developing how an Investment Committee would work, including what would be retained as Board investment decisions and which steps in the investment process could be delegated.
- Forming an Independent Advisory Group, initially in shadow form to support Board decision-making.
- Continuing to co-sponsor transformational investment programmes for the North of England, including Northern Powerhouse Rail.
- Making a submission to the Spending Review to secure a multi-year funding settlement for TfN that supports future ambitions.
- Scoping out the methodology and possible areas or questions for a Citizen’s Assembly to support decision-making on key strategic issues.