

**Meeting:** Transport for the North Board

**Subject:** IRP Review and Response Plan

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**Meeting Date:** 24 November 2021

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**1. Purpose of the Report:**

1.1 This report sets out the arrangements for consideration of the Integrated Rail Plan (IRP) if it is published prior to House of Commons rising for Christmas recess.

**2. Recommendations:**

2.1 The Board is invited to:

- Note the arrangements for consideration of the IRP
- If published, consider the implications of the IRP and agree on next steps in response to the IRP.

**3. Main Issues:**

3.1 We continue to await publication of the Government's Integrated Rail Plan, originally due to be published before the end of 2020.

3.2 Allowing for parliamentary recess periods, the next window for publication is between 15 November and 16 December 2021.

3.3 At the time of the publication of the TfN Board papers, there remains no confirmed publication date, but Ministers have indicated that the IRP may be published very soon.

3.4 If publication occurs prior to the Board considering this paper, then the TfN Executive team will present their initial read out on the IRP to the Board as a presentation on the day of the Board followed by a discussion agreeing next steps.

3.5 If publication occurs following this Board meeting, we will convene an additional Board meeting to discuss our response to the IRP.

**4. Corporate Considerations**

***Financial Implications***

4.1 Budget revision 2 has captured the decrease in the committed budget and removal of contingency as a consequence of delay in publication of the IRP. The financial impacts of further delay will be addressed in the Revision 3 Budget that will be compiled in the final quarter of this financial year.

***Resource Implications***

4.2 Following the publication of the IRP resource implications will be fully worked through and considered. The organisation recognises UNISON, should changes to our delivery model subsequently be required, full and proper consultation will be undertaken with UNISON and any employees potentially affected.

***Legal Implications***

4.3 There are no apparent legal implications arising from this report.

***Risk Management and Key Issues***

4.4 The risk implications are included within the report.

***Environmental Implications***

4.5 There are no apparent environmental implications arising from this report and this report does not constitute or influence a plan or programme which sets the framework for future development consents of projects listed in the EIA Directive and therefore does stimulate the need for SEA or EIA.

***Equality and Diversity***

4.6 There are no equality and diversity issues to consider at this point.

***Consultations***

4.7 There are no consultations required at this point.

**Glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used**

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|---------------|--------------------------------|
| a) <i>IRP</i> | <i>Integrated Rail Plan</i>    |
| b) <i>TfN</i> | <i>Transport for the North</i> |