

**Meeting:** Transport for the North Board Chief Executive Consultation Call

**Subject:** Governance

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**Meeting Date:** Wednesday 23 February 2022

**1. Purpose of the Report:**

- 1.1 To provide Board with updated information on arrangements for future meetings including the first meeting of the General Purposes Committee, to review Membership of General Purposes Committee and appoint to the remaining vacancies.

**2. Recommendations:**

- 2.1 That Board supports the Calendar of Meetings at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 That Board supports, subject to ratification at the next in-person Board meeting, to allow two Members on the General Purposes Committee for the Humber region, one for the north of the Humber and one for the south of the Humber in order to mirror the position on Rail North Committee, and to delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to make the consequential changes to the Constitution and receives nominations for the remaining seats on General Purposes Committee.

**3. Main Issues:**

**3.1 Revised Calendar of Meetings**

Following Board's decision in principle at its meeting on 24 November 2021 to move to have 4 meetings per annum (with additional meetings in case of urgency) the Calendar of Meetings needs to be agreed, both for Board and other Committees which impact on the business dealt with by Board. Officers have considered practicable dates, taking into account the relationships between Board and other Committees and a revised Calendar of Meetings for the forthcoming year is presented at Appendix 1 for Board's approval.

**3.2 Legal position on holding of meetings**

Members have previously been provided with updates on the legal position relating to the holding of meetings in-person and virtually, following expiry on 7 May 2021 of temporary legislation enacted in response to the pandemic. The Local Government Association, Lawyers in Local Government and the Association of Democratic Services Officers have continued to urge central government to enact legislation providing public bodies with the ability to legally hold decision-making meetings virtually. Members will be kept informed if any proposed changes to the law arise.

**3.3 General Purposes Committee**

Following Board's approval of the appointees to the General Purposes Committee (GPC), arrangements have been made for the inaugural meeting of this committee on 23rd February.

- 3.4 On 24 November, Board resolved that following a request from the four Leaders of the Humber authorities, to agree to amend the membership of the Rail North

Committee to allow the Humber Region two representatives, one from the two authorities which are north of the Humber and one from the two authorities which are south of the Humber, each holding the weighted votes currently attributable to those areas in the event of a vote taking place. The Membership arrangements applicable to General Purposes Committee were based on the Rail North Committee model, but at this stage, the General Purposes Committee model has not been amended. In order to resolve and allow full membership on the General Purposes Committee, it is recommended that Board agrees to also allow two representatives from the Humber region on the same basis as for Rail North Committee and that nominees and substitutes are put forward for formal approval at the next in-person meeting of Board. To fill the final vacancy, the nominee and substitute for the Tees Valley region are also sought.

#### **4. Corporate Considerations**

##### ***Financial Implications***

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications for the current financial year.

##### ***Resource Implications***

- 4.2 There are no direct resourcing implications as result of this report.

##### ***Legal Implications***

- 4.3 Legal implications are addressed within the report.

##### ***Risk Management and Key Issues***

- 4.4 There are no additional risks associated with the contents of this report.

##### ***Environmental Implications***

- 4.5 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 A full impact assessment has not been carried out as it is not required for this report.

##### ***Consultations***

- 4.7 Owing to the limited timescales involved, it has not been feasible to consult Scrutiny Committee on the matters addressed in this report.

#### **5. Background Papers**

- 5.1 There are no background papers to this report.

#### **6. Appendices**

- 6.1 Appendix 1 – Calendar of Meetings (to follow)