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**Meeting:** Transport for the North Board  
**Subject:** Governance Report  
**Author:** Julie Openshaw, Head of Legal Services  
**Sponsor:** Martin Tugwell, Chief Executive  
**Meeting Date:** Wednesday 30 March 2022

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**1. Purpose of the Report:**

- 1.1 For Board to formally ratify approvals made at the Board Consultation Call on 23 February 2022.
- 1.2 To report to Board on the outcomes of the General Purposes Consultation Call on 23 February 2022.
- 1.3 For Board to note and accept the outcome of the recent Scrutiny Committee review, and the Committee's conclusions.

**2. Recommendations:**

- 2.1 That Board confirms the Humber region shall be permitted to have two Members on General Purposes Committee, one for the North of the Humber and the other for the South of the Humber.
- 2.2 That Board receives nominations and appoints Members and Substitute Members for the remaining seats on General Purpose Committee;
- 2.3 That Board confirms the Terms of Reference for the General Purposes Committee Consultation as set out in paragraph 3.2;
- 2.4 That Board notes the Review of the Scrutiny Committee and accepts its conclusions.

**3. Main Issues:**

**Decisions from Board Consultation Call 23 February 2022**

- 3.1 At its Consultation Call on 23 February 2022, Board approved in principle allowing the Humber Region to have two Members on General Purposes Committee, subject to formal ratification at an in-person meeting. This report invites Board to formally resolve to that effect. Board is also invited to receive nominations and appoint to the remaining seats on General Purposes Committee to enable it to be fully populated.

**Consultation Call of General Purposes Committee 23 February 2022**

- 3.2 At its inaugural Consultation Call on 23 February 2022, General Purposes Committee (GPC) was invited to consider arrangements for its future work and its relationship with the work of Board.
- 3.3 One of the primary objectives behind the creation of the General Purposes Committee was to create a forum in which Constituent Authority Members can look in detail at issues relating to TfN work programmes. The objective was to enable full Board to concentrate on more strategic matters and decisions.
- 3.4 For this reason, the GPC's draft Terms of Reference were cast widely
  - "The General Purposes Committee shall determine any matter which is not reserved to the Transport for the North Board nor delegated to the Rail

North Committee and which is not decided by the Chief Executive under his delegated authority.”

- 3.5 In reflecting on the draft Terms of Reference the Committee considered:
- Whether GPC should be involved in staff appointments and/or disciplinary proceedings for statutory officers. The meeting was advised that it was possible for the Committee to establish sub-committee(s) to be set up to handle such matters. Members noted the past value of ad-hoc Members’ Working Groups and expressed the view that these should continue to be considered where they would add value, but also supported the principle of having one or more sub-committees to deal with the staffing matters discussed. Officers were asked to further consider arrangements and report back at a suitable juncture with more detailed proposals.
  - The potential role of GPC in considering Constitutional amendments and recommending to Board as necessary. In this the GPC noted that it must not duplicate or usurp the role of the Audit and Governance Committee
  - The issue of in-person meetings compared to Consultation Calls was discussed, with Members noting that any formal decisions would need to be made in-person, but that Consultation Calls would be possible in other instances.
- 3.6 On the basis of the discussion held, the meeting concluded that there were no proposed amendments to the draft Terms of Reference that it wished the Board to consider. The Board is therefore invited to confirm the Terms of Reference.

### **Review of the Scrutiny Function**

- 3.7 In accordance with the TfN Constitution and an action identified in the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21, a review of the Scrutiny Function has been undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee. The review looked at the key functions of the Committee with focus on the principle of Scrutiny First as well as Committee considering the need for Scrutiny Panels, calling of experts to the Committee, Committee’s resources and holding of future meetings.
- 3.8 Over the period of the review from June 2021, the Committee considered reports on the scrutiny review function with background information on the establishment of the Committee and the adoption of the policy of Scrutiny First, approved at TfN’s Shadow Board meeting in February 2018.
- 3.9 During the review Members acknowledged that Scrutiny First has allowed the Committee to input and scrutinise proposals before they are decided by Board as well as allowing the Committee an opportunity to influence the decisions of the Board before any decisions are taken. During the course of the review, the Committee set up a small Task and Finish Group to explore each of the areas of the review in detail, the outcomes from which informed a wider debate at its Committee meeting in January 2022 at which consensus was gained from Members. The scrutiny review concluded that:
- Members are content that the Committee continues to work on a Scrutiny First basis as this allows them to express their views, input and scrutinise matters before any decisions are taken by Board.
  - Going forward, to allow the work of the Task and Finish Group and calling of experts to explore and provide information on specific areas of work, and that a small budget is sought to aid this work.
  - The Committee continues to meet six times a year, four of which would take place prior to the TfN Board meetings and the remaining two meetings being used flexibly.
  - Two of the Committee meetings be held in person alternating at venues between Manchester and Leeds with the remaining two meetings being held virtually.

3.10 There is no need for the Scrutiny Committee to have considered any of the matters in this report.

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

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

4.1 There are no significant financial implications which arise directly from this report.

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

4.2 The resourcing implications are detailed within the report.

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

4.3 Legal implications are contained within the report.

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

4.4 There are no significant risk implications arising from 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 not 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 A consultation has not been carried out because it is not necessary for this report.

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

5.1 There are no background papers to this report.

#### **6. Appendices**

6.1 There are no appendices to this report.