
Meeting: Transport for the North Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review Refresh Programme Update

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1. Purpose of the Report:

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the development of the Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review (NPIER) programme, specifically detailing the work on the ongoing refresh element of the programme.

2. Recommendations:

2.1 The Committee is asked to note this update on the NPIER.

3. Main Issues:

- 3.1 The NPIER was first published in 2016, and a refresh of the work is being undertaken in the context of the changes in the near and longer-term outlook since that publication, and changes in the political landscape.
- 3.2 The refresh work is taking place in collaboration with Northern Partners.
- 3.3 This work will provide critical evidence to inform the development of the Strategic Transport Plan vision and objectives.
- 3.4 The current refresh programme has been split into two commissions, the first of which is complete and now informs the direction of the second commission, the "NPIER Economic Scenario Development".
- 3.5 The emerging scenario framework developed by the external consultants will be presented. The baseline economic scenario has been provided by the consultants, and they will present this and explain the differences in this work and previous NPIER work.
- 3.6 The refresh work being undertaken will retain the 2016 work's ambition of closing the productivity gap between the North and the rest of England less London.

4. Corporate Considerations:

4.1 ***Financial Implications.***

The current commission has been fully budgeted for as part of TfN's Business Plan 2022/23.

4.2 ***Resource Implications.***

Internal project management for the commission is fully resourced.

4.3 ***Legal Implications.***

There are no apparent legal implications as a result of this report.

4.4 ***Risk Management and Key Issues.***

Risks related to the commission have been recorded in "Predict!" as part of TfN's internal processes.

4.5 ***Environmental Implications.***

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. Commentary on the sustainability characteristics of the different scenarios will be detailed in the presentation.

4.6 ***Equality and Diversity.***

Equality and diversity impact is detailed in the presentation.

4.7 ***Consultations.***

This is detailed in the presentation.

5. Background Papers:

5.1 There are no background papers to be included with this update.

6. Appendices:

6.1 Presentation slide pack, NPIER Programme Scrutiny

Glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used (<i>if applicable</i>)	
a) NPIER	Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review
b) TfN	Transport for the North