

# General Purposes Committee Consultation Call – Minutes

**Date of Meeting** Thursday 7 February 2023  
**Time of Meeting** 1.00 pm  
**Venue** Microsoft Teams

## Attendees

### Members:

Mayor Steve Rotheram	Liverpool City Region
Cllr Mike Ross	Hull
Peter Kennan	South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority LEP
Cllr Keith Little	Cumbria
CC Scott Smith	Lancashire
Cllr Laura Crane	Cheshire & Warrington
Cllr Martin Gannon	North East

### Officers in Attendance:

Lord McLoughlin	Chair
Martin Tugwell	Chief Executive
Darren Oldham	Rail and Roads Director
Julie Openshaw	Head of Legal
Stephen Hipwell	Head of HR
Ged Kavanagh	Senior Organisational Development Partner
James Mills	Head of Engagement and Comms
James Barber	Public Affairs and Eng. Assistant

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1 The members agreed that Peter Kennan (as the Vice-Chair) would Chair the meeting. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies were received from Mayor Burnham, Cllr Waltham, Cllr Duncan and Cllr Swinburn.

## 2. Declaration of Interest

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

## 3.0 Review of the Constitution

- 3.1 Members received the report from the Head of Legal who highlighted the key points within the report.
- 3.2 Cllr Little supported the Head of Legal's recommendations in relation to the proposed changes to the Audit and Governance Committee. He explained that prior to joining the Audit & Governance Committee it had met on three previous occasions and had been inquorate on each occasion and had been unable to do the work on behalf of the Board that

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it is designed to do. He highlighted the importance to TfN of having a strong Audit and Governance Committee and supported the recommendations going forward to Board.

The Chair was also supportive of these recommendations and expressed his support for the Committee, stating that this needs to be a strong function.

- 3.3 The Chief Executive highlighted the role of the Majority and Minority Vice Chairs for Board and stated that he and the Chair meet regularly with the Vice Chairs. He explained that these meetings are useful and that the role of the Vice Chairs, as representatives for the rest of the Board, is important moving forward. He therefore highlighted the proposal in the paper that the role should be made more explicit in the constitution and by doing so it will strengthen the Governance as well as his and the Chair's relationship with the rest of the Board.

The Chief Executive then highlighted some areas where TfN might evolve and develop (as set out in the paper before the Board); he explained that these are areas where the TfN Executive believes there will be a natural flow in evolution of the work that TfN is doing which may impact on the constitution. He further explained that the Executive was seeking to gain an understanding from the Committee as to whether these are the right areas of evolution for TfN. He stated that the areas highlighted in section 3.9 of the report are the key areas and if there are any Constitutional issues as a result then these will be brought before Board for their consideration with a view to developing specific recommendations for the main TfN Board.

The Chief Executive highlighted a number of areas in relation to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of implementation where he envisaged TfN would build on previous work. He noted that earlier work on the Northern Transport Charter had started to build the case for having an indicative financial framework within which TfN prepared its advice to the Secretary of State. The ability of TfN to provide better advice and improve alignment with investment with other areas of infrastructure would be important moving forward, He highlighted the work with the energy sector on EV charging as an example of such alignment.

- 3.4 The Chair requested that a sixth area be added to section 3.9, namely the evolution of LEPs and continuing to have a strong business input; the Chief Executive agreed that this should be added and included within the review.

- 3.5 On the extension of the Partnership Board Membership, the Chair expressed some surprise at the suggestion of the membership being extended to a representative from the Regional Chamber of Commerce, as the Partnership Board already has representatives for business from the eleven LEPs.

The Chief Executive explained that this would only be for the Partnership Board and would give an additional business perspective to that of the

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LEPs, thereby providing added value and perspective but stated he would be happy to be guided by the Board on this.

- 3.6 Mayor Rotheram stated that balance in terms of membership of the Partnership Board and equilibrium needs to be maintained in order not to disenfranchise certain groups.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the Committee notes the amendments to be made under the Monitoring Officer's delegated power
- 2) That the Committee noted the areas set out in paragraphs 3.8 and 3.9
- 3) That the proposed extension to the delegated power of the Monitoring Officer set out in paragraph 3.10 be supported and that this recommendation now be put to Board
- 4) That the proposed extended Membership of the Partnership Board be noted and be recommended accordingly to Board
- 5) To note paragraphs 3.15 and 3.16 and recommend to Board that the approach in 3.16 be adopted unless and until any other method is developed and preferred
- 6) That the proposal relating to process for the appointment of Statutory Officers in paragraph 3.18 be agreed and recommended accordingly to Board.

**4.0 Exclusion of the Press and Public**

- 4.1 Resolved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Item 5 and 6 on the grounds that:

They involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as set out in the Paragraphs 1 & 2 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**5.0 Private Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

- 5.1 The private minutes of the Consultation Call held on 14 December 2022 were considered for their accuracy.

**RESOLVED:**

That the private minutes of the Consultation Call held on 14 December 2022 be noted.

**6.0 Chair and Chief Executive Annual Objective Setting Process**

- 6.1 The draft objectives were considered and approved.

**Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 July 2023 at 1.00pm – 3.00pm on Microsoft Teams.