
Meeting: Transport for the North Board
Subject: Chief Executive's Update on Matters Arising
Author: Martin Tugwell, Chief Executive
Meeting Date: Wednesday 27 September 2023

1. Purpose of the Report:

1.1 For the Chief Executive to update the Board on matters arising.

2. Update

2.1 Whilst there are no substantive matters arising from the previous meeting, the Board should be aware of the following:

- **HS2/NPR** – there has been considerable speculation in recent days about the future of HS2. TfN's agreed position has been that transformation of the North and realisation of its economic potential is contingent upon investment in its transport infrastructure. The draft Strategic Transport Plan restates the agreed Board position: namely the importance of delivering both HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail in full.
- **TfN 'Offer'** – the TfN executive has been working with partners across the North and nationally to develop what has become known as the 'TfN Offer'. Our funding settlement letter this year identified a few areas where the Department for Transport asked us to develop ways of sharing the technical work and tools developed by TfN more widely. This also included developing tools that could be shared with other STBs. The 'TfN Offer' sets out the material and tools that is available from TfN. It has been shared with TfN partners, national bodies (including the DfT) and the other STBs. Reaction has been positive (as it was throughout its development).
- **Engagement with DHLUC** – the TfN Strategy team is working with DHLUC to showcase the capabilities and capacity of TfN's evidence base. Reaction from DHLUC has been very encouraging and discussions continue.
- **House of Commons Transport Select Committee** – after having attended the Committee's Inquiry into the new National Networks National Policy Statement just prior to the summer recess, submissions have been made to the next two Committee Inquiries: the Future of Data, and Strategic Transport Objectives
- **Buses** – following the positive discussion at the September Partnership Board, the TfN executive is developing a more substantive paper for this Board's consideration: the ambition is to have this ready for the December meeting.
- **Party Conferences** – TfN will be in attendance at the Liberal Democrat, Conservative and Labour conferences this autumn.

3. Quarterly Operating Report

3.1 The TfN Executive produce a Quarterly Operating Report (QOR) the purpose of which is to provide an update on progress against the milestones set out in the Business Plan. The QOR is presented to and discussed at the Audit and Governance Committee as part of their regular cycle of meetings. It is also being provided to this meeting for information, having previously been circulated to members separately. It is attached to this update as Annex 1 to provide greater visibility and allow the Board to ask questions of the Chief Executive.