
Meeting: General Purposes Committee Consultation Call
Subject: Forthcoming Combined Authority Changes
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Sponsor: Martin Tugwell Chief Executive
Meeting Date: Thursday, 8 February 2024

1. Purpose of the Report:

- 1.1 This report sights Members on forthcoming changes which will amend the number of Constituent Authorities on TfN's Board over the next two years and explains the background and implications.

2. Recommendations:

- 2.1 General Purposes Committee is invited:
- a) To note forthcoming changes to the Constituent Authorities on TfN's Board and the effective dates; and
 - b) To note that the necessary consequential amendments will be made to the Constitution under the delegated power of the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chief Executive and reported to Board on 20 March 2024.

3. Main Issues:

- 3.1 In accordance with the Sub-national Transport Body (Transport for the North) Regulations 2018/103 as amended, there are currently 21 Constituent Authorities represented on TfN's Board, comprising a mix of Mayoral Combined Authorities, non-Mayoral Combined Authorities and Unitary Councils. Since 2018, the total number has changed through 19 then 20, and now 21 due to reorganisation changes in the North of England, and the Regulations have been amended accordingly. As a result of pending changes, by 2025 it is expected that the number will reduce to 15. This report sets out the changes and the timescale for information.
- 3.2 There are two changes in 2024 which will affect TfN's membership. Firstly, the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority Order 2023 (which amends the Sub-national Transport Body (Transport for the North) Regulations 2018) came into force on 20 December 2023, establishes the new combined authority from 1 February 2024, and provides for a Mayoral election on 2 May 2024 with the directly elected Mayor taking office from 7 May 2024. The new Mayor will replace two existing authorities on TfN (City of York and North Yorkshire Councils). Because the Order has already effected the change of membership on TfN Board as from 20 December, but no Mayor has yet been elected, this means that for March Board, a representative of the Y&NYCA will replace the previous members from City of York and North Yorkshire. The representative will be either the interim leader of Y&NYCA, or the person with transport responsibility, and a meeting of Y&NYCA is being held in February to make these appointments. The previous Board representatives may still attend TfN's meetings if they wish to, though they would no longer command the voting share allocated to that area and would be in an observer capacity.

3.3 In the North East, the current two Combined Authorities, namely the North East Combined Authority (NECA), and The North of Tyne Combined Authority (NoTCA) will be replaced by a new North East Mayoral Combined Authority (NEMCA). On 2 May 2024 an election for a new directly elected Mayor will be held, with the Mayor's term of office commencing on 7 May 2024. The secondary legislation to effect changes to TfN's membership has yet to be made, but it is anticipated that the changes will not be effective until 7 May 2024. Accordingly, the existing members for the two combined authorities will represent their areas at TfN's 20 March Board meeting, and the new Mayor will take over from 7 May 2024.

3.4 The 2023 Autumn Statement as published on the Government website outlines further future changes to areas within England, with three of the four areas it refers to involving TfN, namely (i) Hull and East Yorkshire, (ii) Greater Lincolnshire, and (iii) Lancashire. The website information includes an explanation of historic deals (for context), and information on possible future devolution deals which may lead to further reorganisation. Hull and East Yorkshire, and Lincolnshire have been offered a "Level 3" deal, with first elections for Mayors in May 2025. Lancashire has been offered a "Level 2" deal, with the formation of a non-mayoral combined authority with Blackpool, and Blackburn with Darwen from 2025.

With regard to "Level 3", powers similar to devolution arrangements agreed in 2022 for York and North Yorkshire, and the North East are described as "broader than the Government's long standing focus on transport, skills and the economy" but will include these areas. The Hull & East Riding devolution includes funding for "transport, flood and coastal erosion programmes." This and the Greater Lincolnshire deal "anticipate the Mayor taking on roles around careers advice and resilience." They "feature a new collaborative partnership with the Department for Culture Media and Sport's national delivery bodies".

"Level 2" powers for the Lancashire deal involve fewer powers, as the Levelling Up White Paper and Devolution Framework anticipated. There is no annual investment fund, power to raise Council Tax, brownfield housing funding or a single transport fund but they will manage the Adult Education Budget and UK Shared Prosperity Fund for the areas (as mayoral areas do). Whilst there will be no transport fund, it is anticipated that the Regulations will be amended to provide the new authority is the relevant TfN Constituent Authority from the relevant date.

3.5 The following therefore summarises the expected effect on TfN Board and Partnership Board Membership:

- For York and North Yorkshire, The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority member replaces the two members for North Yorkshire and City of York from 20 December 2023;
- For the North East, the North East Mayoral Combined Authority member will replace the two members for NECA and NoTCA from 7 May 2024;
- From 2025, the two Hull, and East Riding of Yorkshire seats on Board will be replaced with the new single Mayor;
- For Greater Lincolnshire from 2025, the new Mayor will replace two North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire members;
- For the Lancashire non-mayoral combined authority, the Leader of that new authority will replace the three current members for Lancashire, Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen.

The current TfN Board membership of 21 is therefore due to reduce from 21 to 15 by 2025.

- 3.6 Pending more detailed future consideration of the Regional Groupings for Rail North Committee and General Purposes Committee when rail reform is more developed, the current changes raise the more immediate need to update the Regional Groupings tables for RNC and GPC in paragraphs 21.6 and 22.9 of the Constitution.
- 3.7 City of York has historically been grouped with WYCA, with voting allocations for each authority being combined for these purposes. WYCA will now be alone in its group, with the City of York voting allocation transferred to Y&NYCA. The Grouping which historically comprised solely of North Yorkshire will now be the sole authority in it amended to Y&NYCA, and the voting allocations for North Yorkshire and City of York combined.
- 3.8 NoTCA and NECA are already grouped together, so the new NEMCA will replace them in the Group and have both their voting allocations transferred to it. These amendments and any consequential ones arising can and will be made under the delegated authority of the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chief Executive.
- 3.9 Further reports will be brought to General Purposes Committee in due course.

4. Corporate Considerations

Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Resource Implications

- 4.2 There are no direct resourcing implications to TfN arising from this report.

Legal Implications

- 4.3 Legal implications are considered within the report.

Risk Management and Key Issues

- 4.4 ***There are no risk management implications as a result of this report.***

Environmental Implications

- 4.5 There are no environmental implications within, or resulting from, this report.

Equality and Diversity

- 4.6 There are no equality or diversity implications.

Consultations

- 4.7 None

5. Background Papers

- 5.1 None.

6. Appendices

- 6.1 None.

Glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used (if applicable)

Please include any technical abbreviations and acronyms used in the report in this section. (Please see examples below.) This will provide an easy reference point for the reader for any abbreviations and acronyms that are used in the report.

- a) NECA – North East Combined Authority

Glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used (*if applicable*)

- b) NEMCA – North East Mayoral Combined Authority
- c) NoTCA – North of Tyne Combined Authority
- d) TfN – Transport for the North
- e) Y&NYCA – York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority