

Transport for the North Board – Minutes

Meeting: Transport for the North Board
Date: Thursday 20 June 2019, 15.00 – 16.15
Location: Council Chamber, City Hall, Bradford, BD1 1HY

Chairman:

John Cridland

Chairman

Constituent Authority Attendees:

Councillor Phil Riley	Blackburn with Darwen
Councillor Craig Browne	Cheshire East
Councillor Louise Gittins	Cheshire West & Chester
Councillor Keith Little	Cumbria
Councillor Michael Green	Lancashire
Mayor Andy Burnham	Greater Manchester
Councillor Liam Robinson	Liverpool City Region
Councillor Rob Waltham	North Lincolnshire
Councillor Don Mackenzie	North Yorkshire
Mayor Dan Jarvis	Sheffield City Region
Councillor Nick Forbes	North East Combined Authority
Councillor Judith Blake	West Yorkshire
Councillor Don Mackenzie	North Yorkshire
Councillor Keith Aspden	York

Rail North Authority Attendees:

Councillor Trevor Ainsworth	Derbyshire
Councillor Chris Brewis	Lincolnshire

Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Attendees:

Mark Rawstron	Lancashire
Jim Jackson	Cumbria
Mark Whitworth	Liverpool City Region
Ian Cherry	Leeds City Region
Matthew Lamb	North Yorkshire
Peter Kennan	Sheffield City Region

Delivery Partners:

Ben Smith

Department of Transport

Jim O’Sullivan
Michael Bradley
Sir Peter Hendy

Highways England
HS2
Network Rail

Transport for the North Officers in Attendance:

Barry White	Chief Executive
Iain Craven	Finance Director
Dawn Madin	Director of Business Capabilities
Peter Molyneux	Major Roads Director
Tim Wood	Northern Powerhouse Rail Director
David Hoggarth	Strategic Rail Director
Sasha Wayne	Head of Legal
Deborah Dimock	Solicitor
Rosemary Lyon	Legal and Democratic Services Officer
Jim Bamford	Head of Investment Planning, Rail North
Lewis Jones	Head of Stakeholder Engagement and Communication
James Mills	Corporate Engagement Lead
Kevin Willans	Head of IT and Information

Apologies:

Mayor Steve Rotheram	Liverpool City Region
Councillor Simon Blackburn	Blackpool
Councillor Daren Hale	Hull
Mayor Steve Rotheram	Liverpool
Asif Hamid	Liverpool City Region LEP
Mike Blackburn	Greater Manchester LEP
Councillor Michael Green	Lancashire
Councillor Carl Marshall	North East Combined Authority
Councillor Rob Waltham	North Lincolnshire
Councillor Jon Collins	Nottingham
Councillor Daniel Jellyman	Stoke-on-Trent

1.0 Welcome and Apologies Action

- 1.1 Members of the Board were welcomed to the meeting.
- 1.2 The Chairman noted that the two Vice Chairmen, Ian Gillies from York and Samantha Dixon from Cheshire West, had both stepped down and the Chairman put on record his thanks to them for their service.

- 1.3 The Chairman noted the recent changes to the membership of the Board:

Cllr Craig Browne (Cheshire East),
Cllr Louise Gittins (Cheshire West),
Cllr Richard Burton (East Riding)
Cllr Stewart Swinburn (North East Lincolnshire)
Cllr Keith Aspden (York)

- 1.4 Apologies for absence were noted.

2.0 Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3.0 Minutes

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Transport for the North Board held on 7 February 2019 were considered.

- 3.2 Mayor Andy Burnham raised the issue of the TransPennine Route Upgrade (TRU) and asked for another discussion about what is planned and the phasing of the project. It was agreed that TRU would be added to the July meeting agenda.

- 3.3 Cllr Craig Browne referred to Minute 8.4 and asked who had confirmed that Crewe North Junction would be part of the HS2 Phase 2B Hybrid Bill. It was agreed that Transport for the North would come back to Cllr Browne on that issue. TW

- 3.4 Cllr Brewis confirmed that he had attended the meeting of the Board on 7 February.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Transport for the North Board held on 7 February 2019 be approved as a correct record subject to the amendment in 3.4

4.0 Governance Report

- 4.1 Deborah Dimock (DD) delivered the Governance Report. The purpose of the report was to notify Members on recent changes to the membership of the Board and Scrutiny Committee (as set out in 3.1 and 3.2) which had resulted from the May elections and other changes reported to Transport for the North by the Constituent Authorities.

- 4.2 DD recommended that the appointment of new Vice-Chairmen be deferred to the Annual Meeting of the Board on 31 July. The Chairman confirmed that he had written to both Cllr Gillies and Cllr Dixon thanking them for their service.
- 4.3 Members were asked to consent to the co-option of new LEP Members to the Board as set out in 3.4.
- 4.4 Following the resignation of Sasha Wayne as Head of Legal, Julie Openshaw had been appointed as the new Head of Legal. Members were asked to designate Julie Openshaw as the Monitoring Officer from the date of commencement of her employment and to designate Dawn Madin, Business Capabilities Director as Interim Monitoring Officer for the period from 4 July 2019 until Ms Openshaw takes up her appointment. The Chairman indicated that Ms Openshaw was present at the meeting.
- 4.5 Cllr Gittins queried the names of appointments to Scrutiny Committee from Cheshire West and asked that these be checked. RAL

RESOLVED:

1. To note the appointment of new Members to the Transport for the North Board.
2. To defer appointment of new Vice Chairmen of the Board to the Annual Meeting on 31 July.
3. To agree to co-opt Mark Rawstron and Michael Bradley to the Transport for the North board and Alison Kinna as a Substitute Member.
4. To designate Julie Openshaw as Monitoring Officer from the commencement of her employment and to designate Dawn Madin as the Interim Monitoring Officer for the period from 4 July until Ms Openshaw takes up her post.

5.0 Constitution Paper

- 5.1 DD delivered the Constitution Paper. It was proposed that Members should be able to give consent in principle to the co-option of LEP representatives as a class of co-optees without having to consent singularly.
- 5.2 Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 attendance at decision-making meetings must be by a Member in person. It was proposed that provisions should be

included in the Constitution for the Chief Executive or an appropriate Director to be able to consult with Members either by telephone or e-mail before taking delegated decisions.

- 5.3 It was proposed that the Constitution should be amended to provided that public speaking will not normally be allowed at Board Meetings but that provision for public meetings shall be made at Scrutiny Committee Meetings.
- 5.4 It was not proposed that the membership of the Audit and Governance Committee should be widened further.
- 5.5 A paper will be brought forward to a future meeting in respect of the development of the role of the Partnership Board. DD
- 5.6 It was proposed that the Constitution should be amended to make it clear that the Rail North Committee is a Committee of the Transport for the North Board and that only Transport for the North Board or Substitute Board members are eligible to be Members of the Committee.
- 5.7 DD referred to the issue of having a quorum at the meetings of the Rail North Committee, the Scrutiny Committee and the Audit and Governance Committee. It was proposed that the quorum should be reduced to 25% from 50% in respect of these Committees. Mayor Burnham (AB) disputed that there had been a problem with quorum at the Rail North Committee and stated that if the Rail North Committee was reduced to a quorum of 25% that a representative of at least one of the core cities of the North should be present. Judith Blake referred to going through a period when quorum had been waived at the Scrutiny Committee.
- 5.8 Mayor Dan Jarvis referred to the very large geographic area covered by Transport for the North and the need to ensure transparency at public meetings. He referred to webcasting. Dawn Madin (DB) indicated that webcasting was planned from September.
- 5.9 The Chairman referred to the first meeting of the Board in April 2018 when it had been agreed that the Constitution would be reviewed after 6 months. He also referred to the very good points raised by AB about the Rail North Committee. The Chairman suggested adopting a quorum of 25% in respect of the Audit and Governance and Scrutiny Committees but that the quorum in respect of the Rail North Committee should remain at 50%.
- RESOLVED:** It is recommended that the Board approve the proposed amendments to the Constitution

set out in the Schedule of amendments at Schedule 2, save that in respect of the quorum at Rail North Committee that should remain at 50%.

6.0 Williams Review & Blake Jones Action Plan

DH

- 6.1 David Hoggarth(DH) stated that the Blake Jones Review was nearly complete and would be launched in the next few weeks. The Action Plan would be brought to the Board for endorsement at the next meeting.
- 6.2 The report provided an update on the Williams Review and Transport for the North's input to the call for evidence. Appendices 1 and 2 set out the evidence in response to questions from the review team. Transport for the North now plan to develop this further into an Outline Business Case., including a scoping paper so that Transport for the North can respond to emerging conclusions from the Williams Review.
- 6.3 DH referred to the golden thread of accountability requiring national co-ordination with the sub-national transport body acting as a guiding mind with locally specified arrangements. Vertical and longer arrangements to drive investment and better partnerships, which includes flexibility on procurement for local powers.
- 6.4 Cllr Liam Robinson strongly endorsed the need to do the business case in respect of further devolution. He referred to the need to be wary of what comes out of the Williams Review and not wanting 'to be done to'. AB referred to this work being critical for Transport for the North. He referred to there being potentially different views of devolution and mentioned the Greater Manchester Tram/Train and how did that fit with the sub-national body. There was scope for a workshop on these issues and that a business case should not be brought forward too early.
- 6.5 The Chairman referred to the principle of subsidiarity. Transport for the North has a strategic planning function. DH noted that the initial work being planned was scoping work that could lead to a business case.
- 6.6 Sir Peter Hendy indicated that it would be helpful if Transport for the North and the Constituent Authorities consider how they would deal with trade -offs when short of railway capacity. The Chairman referred to the report setting out key principles. Judith Blake stated that it was critical that the bodies the Members engage in this work and make a full contribution.

RESOLVED: The Board noted the update provided on the Williams Review, and the Blake Jones Report and that a business case be brought forward at the appropriate time.

7.0 Outturn Report

7.1 Iain Craven(IC) presented his report noting slippage in respect of the IST project (£9 million). This related to slippage in Phase 3 of the project. The variance in respect of NPR (£4 million) the bulk of which variance related to HS2. The management accounts are on trek for approval by 31 July.

RESOLVED: The Board noted the report

8.0 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED: that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business because it is likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, there will be disclosure of confidential information as defined in Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and/or exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

9.0 IST Update

9.1 The Chief Executive presented the report, as the IST Director was still on leave of absence. He explained that no decision was required by the Board today and that a further report would be presented to the July meeting. An update was given to the Board in respect of the procurement process in respect of Phase 3 of the IST project. The report highlighted the challenges faced in securing commitment from major bus operators to IST Phase 3 and that letters of commitment from them had been requested by 24 June. Following this the viability of ABBOT Phase 3 would be assessed.

RESOLVED: The Board noted the report