

North East Combined Authority

North East Leadership Board

16 September 2014

Meeting held: Town Hall and Civic Offices, Westoe Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear, NE33 2RL

Present:

Councillor Henig (Chair)

Councillors Forbes, Henry, Ledger, Malcolm and Watson, Mayor Redfearn and Ms Hall

46 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Davey and Mr Woolston.

47 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

48 **RAIL NORTH: INFLUENCING THE FUTURE OF NORTHERN AND TRANSPENNINE RAIL SERVICES**

Submitted: A report of the Lead Chief Executive - Transport (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which set out the proposed governance arrangements for Rail North Ltd and the Association of Northern Transport Authorities, and sought the approval of the Leadership Board to become members of both bodies.

The ensuing discussion included matters such as the voting arrangements of the Leaders' Committee of the Association of Northern Transport Authorities, inclusion of a North East Business Unit in the specification for the new Northern franchise, importance of seeking clarification and developing a more resilient proposal on behalf of the North East Combined Authority (NECA) to avoid a disproportionate impact arising from the franchise on the NECA area, importance of a cautious approach by the NECA before proceeding to ensure all issues had been resolved, a general lack of understanding of the North East, lack of consideration for the North East and also the importance of having a seat on the board of the Association of Rail North partner authorities in order to be part of discussions and have a stronger voice.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. the Board noted the proposed governance arrangements for Rail North Ltd (RNL) and the Association of Rail North Partner Authorities (“The Association”);
- ii. Agreement be given in principle that the NECA should become a member of both the RNL and the Association;
- iii. the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make the appropriate arrangements to enable the NECA to be admitted to membership, by entering into the RNL Members Agreement, following consultation with the Chair, Thematic Lead for Transport, Head of Paid Service and Chief Finance Officer;
- iv. the Thematic Lead for Transport be appointed to the Leaders’ Committee of the Association and become a director of RNL;
- v. a designated Vice-Chair of the Transport North East Committee be appointed as substitute member of the Leader’s Committee of the Association and alternate director of RNL; and
- vi. the Board noted that a further report would be presented to the Transport North East Committee when the Heads of Terms for the DFT/RNL Partnership had been finalised.