

**North East Combined Authority, Transport North East Committee**

11 October 2018

Approved Minutes

Meeting held Committee Room, Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne

**Present:**

Councillor: N Forbes(Chair)

Councillors: J McCarty, S Green, J McElroy, Carl Johnson, J Harrison,  
Cllr Mark Walsh, G Hobson, Cllr Amy Wilson, M Mordey,  
Cllr G Sanderson, Cllr J Riddle and K Shaw

**61 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Marshall (Durham County Council).

**62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations.

**63 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 19 APRIL 2018**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 April 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**64 TRANSPORT FOR THE NORTH UPDATE INC. PRESENTATION BY BARRY WHITE, TFN CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Submitted: Report of the Managing Director, Transport Operations, previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes.

The purpose of the report was to update TNEC members on progress being made in four areas of TfN activity, namely; the Strategic Transport Plan the Strategic Development Corridors, Northern Powerhouse Rail and Strategic Rail (formerly Rail North).

Members received a presentation from the Chief Executive of TfN (B White) in respect of the work of TfN and progress to date. The presentation focussed on issues which included Strategic Development Corridors, Connecting the Energy Coasts, Northern Powerhouse Rail and Integrated and Smart Travel.

The ensuing discussion included the following matters:

- Assurances that steps that can be taken to address air quality.
- The importance of the A69 (East/West corridor) and recognition that transport links need to enable travel that stretches beyond Edinburgh.
- Whether the proposals to connect major cities included Sunderland.
- The relationship between Highways England and Transport for the North particularly in respect of highways schemes in Northumberland.
- TfN must remain focussed and deliver service user priorities such as using mobile phone technology to travel freely, similar to transport networks across Europe.
- A brief discussion in respect of HS2 and potential benefits to the region.
- Committee recognised that the North East region had been overlooked in respect of transport investment. However, the development of the Strategic Transport Plan has enabled the region's visions for commercial movements

**RESOLVED** that –

The Transport North East Committee noted and agreed the recommendation that the North East's representatives on the TfN Board should support the adoption of the revised Strategic Transport Plan.

65 **NORTH EAST TRANSPORT PLAN**

Submitted: Report of the Managing Director, Transport Operations, previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes.

The report discussed the future of the North East Transport Plan, in light of the upcoming governance changes for transport.

At present there is no Transport Plan in place for the North East as a single region. Instead the Plans remain in place that were inherited from the Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3) documents for Durham, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear published in 2011. These do not reflect the current or future governance structures of the region or its transport policies. A new Transport Plan for this region is therefore required. It was noted that the formation of the North of Tyne Combined Authority will amend the regional governance for transport matters. It was further noted that although the Transport Joint Committee will not be a Local Transport Authority, it will be required to prepare a single Transport Plan covering the areas of the two Combined Authorities.

Members noted the suggestion of a future workshop involving the Leaders of the 7 local authorities to discuss transport priorities.

Responding to a query regarding timescales Committee heard that this very much depended on Central Government's new transport arrangements coming into place; however, in the interim officers will be able to begin initial works on priorities.

**RESOLVED** that –

Transport North East Committee noted the status of the current draft North East Transport Plan and supported the potential workshop for Local Authority Leaders.

66 **THE FUTURE OF METRO AND LOCAL RAIL**

Submitted: Report of the Managing Director, Transport Operations, previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes.

Consideration was given to the report the purpose of which was to apprise members of a recent study which quantified the economic benefit of the Metro and Local Rail system.

The study identified that the Metro and local rail systems already contributed up to £437m to the regional economy each year and, should it be expanded, every additional passenger journey would add a further £8.50 of economic benefit. As just five of the proposed expansions have the potential to connect to a further 80,000 jobs and nearly 10,000 new homes, this represents a sizeable prize for the area to pursue as part of its ambitious economic aspirations

The report also provided an update on the next steps of the Metro Futures Expansions programme.

In considering the report Members spoke about possible difficulties linking the Leamside Line; how Smart Ticketing would work between the heavy rail network and the Metro; support for the rail and Metro network, however they queried if there was sufficient capacity in the future to meet supply and demand to travel through major urban areas; whether delivering a 10-minute frequency would add to the net subsidy of operating the system; and agreement that the study and report reinforced the importance of the Metro and Local Rail network in the region, enabling future economic growth.

**RESOLVED** that –

The Transport North East Committee reviewed and endorsed the contents of the study and the next steps of the Metro Futures Expansions programme.

## 67 **OFFICE FOR LOW EMISSIONS ULTRA-LOW EMISSION TAXI INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME**

Submitted: Report of the Managing Director, Transport Operations, previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes.

Members considered the report which provided information on a funding opportunity which has arisen through the Office for Low Emission (OLEV) Taxi scheme which is a £6million funding scheme to support the taxi trade's transition to ultra-low emission taxis.

It is intended that the North East will submit a bid by the closing date of 30th November 2018. Members noted that this is a purely capital fund aimed at providing funding for infrastructure, OLEV are looking for bids which include local measures which are either in place or planned to drive the transition to ULEV taxis this can include regulatory measures and local incentives.

It was noted that the scheme aimed to:

- Increase the uptake of ultra-low emission Hackney carriages and private hire taxis.
- Improve air quality in urban areas.
- Encourage investment and support jobs in the UK automotive industry.
- Influence the uptake of ULEV's

The Committee were of the view that the taxi industry was an important part of the transport network, therefore the bid should be supported.

**RESOLVED** that –

The Transport North East Committee noted the content of the report.

## 68 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR FROM THE TYNE AND WEAR CONSTITUENT LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

Submitted: Report of the Monitoring Officer, previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes.

The Transport North East Committee was invited to appoint its Vice-Chair from the Tyne and Wear constituent local authorities for the municipal year 2018/19. This Vice-Chair will also undertake the role of Chair of the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee (TWSC). Committee were also invited to appoint the Vice-Chair of TWSC or, alternatively, delegate the appointment of the Vice-Chair to TWSC.

**RESOLVED** that -

Councillor Gladys Hobson was appointed Vice-Chair from the Tyne and Wear constituent local authorities for the municipal year 2018/19, who will also undertake the role of Chair of the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee for the same municipal Year.

## 69 **CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING REPORT**

Submitted: Report of the Chief Finance Officer (previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes.

The purpose of the report was to provide the Transport North East Committee with an update on the 2018/19 Transport Capital programme at the second quarter of the year. This is a requirement of the NECA constitution and is a function delegated to TNEC.

**RESOLVED** that –

The Transport North East Committee noted the report.

## 70 **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

Submitted: Report of the Chief Finance Officer, previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes.

The purpose of the report was to provide the Transport North East Committee with an update on the 2018/19 revenue expenditure and budget to the end of August 2018. This is a requirement as set out in the NECA Constitution and is a function delegated to TNEC.

**RESOLVED** that –

The Transport North East Committee noted the position at the end of August and the forecast for the 2018/19 financial year.

71 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

20 November 2018 (tbc)