

North East Combined Authority, Transport North East Committee

13 July 2017

Approved Minutes

Meeting held Committee Room, North Tyneside Council, Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY

Present:

Councillor: J Harrison (Chair for the Meeting)

Councillors: A Ainsley, J McCarty, M Green, Cllr M Brain, S Green, G Hobson, A West, M Mordey, M Speding, Cllr J Riddle, C Marshall and K Shaw

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

Cllr J Harrison was appointed as Chair for this meeting.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Forbes (Newcastle) and Cllr Sanderson (Northumberland).

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 20 APRIL 2017

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 April 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR FROM THE TYNE AND WEAR CONSTITUENT LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Submitted: A report of the Monitoring Officer (previously circulated and copy attached to the Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which invited the Committee to appoint the Vice-Chair from the Tyne and Wear constituent authorities for the municipal year 2017/18, who would be the Chair of the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee (TWSC), and also to appoint the Vice-Chair of TWSC.

RESOLVED that -

- i. Councillor John Harrison from North Tyneside Council be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Committee from the Tyne and Wear area and the Chair of the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2017/18.
- ii. Councillor Gladys Hobson be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2017/18.

6 **TRANSPORT FOR THE NORTH (TFN) - INCORPORATION AS A SUB-NATIONAL TRANSPORT BODY**

Submitted: Report of the Thematic Lead for Transport and Digital Connectivity (previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which provided details on developments in the process to enable Transport for the North (TfN) to become a Sub-National Transport Body. If approved this will enable TfN to develop a statutory Strategic Transport Plan and to formally influence the development of transport arrangements by national bodies.

During discussion the following issues emerged:

- Assurances were sought that there would not be any duplication of services.
- A request that members of TNEC are given sight of all relevant agendas and minutes. Some members expressed the view that TNEC and should be involved in development of all transport policies before they are considered by the Leadership Board.
- The advantages and importance of Transport for the North (TfN) for the North East Combined Authority (NECA) area, and its influence on Network Rail and Highways England in relation to TNEC priorities.
- The Chair suggested and it was agreed that TNEC receive quarterly reports in respect of Transport for the North.
- Members requested that their comments be related back to the Leadership Board at its meeting on 18 July 2017. The Managing Director (Transport Operations) to collate all comments and provide a verbal update at Leadership Board.

RESOLVED - that the Transport North East Committee considered the report and recommended that the Leadership Board at its meeting on 18 July 2017 provisionally consent to:

- i) The making by the Secretary of State of Regulations under section 102E of the Local Transport Act 2008 to establish Transport for the North as a Sub-National Body.
- ii) The transfer of Rail North Limited to Transport for the North so that it can be subsumed within Transport for the North.

- iii) The signing of a new Rail Franchise Management Agreement with Transport for the North replicating as far as possible the current Rail North Limited Members Agreement.
- iv) Continuation of the payment of the current funding for Rail North Limited to Transport for the North after its inauguration.

The Leadership Board will be further recommended to agree that:

- v) Delegated authority is given to the Head of Paid Service to fully consent to items (1) to (iv) on the Leadership Board's behalf, provided that she is satisfied, in consultation with the Chair of the Leadership Board and the Monitoring Officer, that the final draft Regulations serve only to give Transport for the North the statutory powers to carry out the functions set out in paragraph 1.3.
- vi) That the Thematic Lead for Transport be designated as NECA's main representative and that Councillor Carl Marshall be designated as NECA's alternative representative on Transport for the North.

7 **NORTHERN POWERHOUSE RAIL (NPR) - NECA POSITION**

Submitted: Report of the Lead Chief Executive for Transport (previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes).

Members considered the report the purpose of which was to seek to establish a common NECA position as regards the development of railway infrastructure and stations required to support high speed rail services to the North East. The report also included issues of capacity and resilience on the East Coast Main Line (ECML), an updated position in respect of HS2 and progress in relation to Northern Powerhouse Rail and its work including increased journey times to strategic destinations; upgrading the ECML and capacity and reliability

Members were further advised that Northern Powerhouse Rail will be reviewed by Transport for the North. Two major pieces of work were underway which were of direct relevance:

- HS2 which is constructing a new high-speed line between London, the Midlands and the North of England.
- The Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) Workstream of Transport for the North (TfN) which aims to develop a network of fast services linking the major conurbations of the North of England.

Members welcomed the report, in particular the proposal to continue the regional approach ensuring that the North East is included as an integral part of the scope of any further NPR work.

The ensuing discussion included matters such as TfN's forthcoming Strategic Transport Plan which will include plans to improve the wider rail network in the North

East, the needs of rural communities, and the importance of quicker journey times to London.

RESOLVED that the Transport North East Committee agreed to –

- i) Note the development work carried out to date on Northern Powerhouse Rail, and endorse its focus on upgrading the East Coast Mainline corridor in relation to services to and from the North East.
- ii) Endorse the development of collaborative work to promote a wholly new high-speed line from the North East to connect with both the HS2 network and with Scotland.
- iii) Note officers' intention to commission work regarding long-term options for principal station locations and service patterns within the area, for high-speed services.

8 **NORTH EAST RAIL PROJECTS UPDATE**

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 inform Committee on the current state of play with the various rail schemes being progressed in the North East.

Members noted the position of the following rail projects: Sunderland Station; Horden Peterlee Station; Ashington, Blyth and Tyne Line; Newcastle Central Station; Cramlington Station; Gilsland Station and Bolden and Tile Sheds Level Crossings (Bridge proposal).

RESOLVED – The Transport North East Committee gave their continued support to the progress of the schemes aimed at improving the short and medium term rail services in the North East.

9 **METRO FUTURES UPDATE AND FLEET PROCUREMENT STRATEGY**

Submitted: Report of the Lead Chief Executive for Transport (previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes).

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the Metro Futures programme including the proposed fleet specification and depot strategy associated with the rolling stock replacement on the Tyne and Wear Metro.

Amongst the matters discussed during the ensuing discussion were the following:

Since the last TNEC meeting in April further discussions had taken place with the DfT as to whether they accepted the proposals regarding the investment in a new fleet of Metrocars, the continuation of the Essential Renewals programme and a continuation of the ongoing subsidy for the Tyne and Wear Metro beyond 2019 could be achieved. The DfT's Board Investment and Commercial Committee (BICC)

had accepted the urgent need to replace the Metrocars, but had requested further analysis of the options for financing the investment.

The need for continued lobbying to secure the necessary investment for fleet replacement and essential renewals i.e. rolling stock and future maintenance.

The type of linear style seating proposed in the fleet specification; this continued to be of some concern for some members of Committee. A member referred to the seating style new trams in operation in South Yorkshire, and indicated a preference for the number of seats in each carriage to be maintained or increased.

RESOLVED that the Transport North East Committee –

- i) Noted Nexus' intention to procure a fleet of Metrocars in accordance with the specification identified within the report, save for the proposed seating layout which would be further investigated and additional information brought to members before a final decision is made.
- ii) Noted the preferred strategy for the depot facilities for the maintenance of the new trains.
- iii) Agreed to provide relevant feedback to the Leadership Board to aid its decision-making in respect of Nexus' proposed procurement process for new rolling stock, rolling stock maintenance and new rolling stock maintenance facilities.

10 **BUS FARES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE - WORK STREAM UPDATE**

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

The intention of the report was to update committee on the work of the Task and Finish group looking into bus fares for young people. This follows on from a previous report to Committee in November 2016 which endorsed the formation of the Group to explore the issues around fares for young people in more detail.

Cllr McCarty addressed the meeting explaining that the group had met on three occasions with all seven authorities represented. Young people were present at the meetings contributing their views and problems encountered with public transport. With the contributions and assistance given by bus operators' huge progress had been made. Further work was to be undertaken in relation to apprenticeships and young people on low wages.

Members welcomed the work undertaken specifically in the rural areas where bus fares for young people had been reduced enabling them to afford to travel greater distances.

Attention was drawn to the next steps and timetable for implementation as set out in section 5 of the report.

RESOLVED – that the Transport North East Committee noted the progress that has been made and the next steps in the process.

11 **AIR QUALITY ISSUES IN THE NECA AREA**

Submitted: Report of the Lead Chief Executive for Transport (previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes)

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the government's recently published Plan for improving air quality in the UK and the response submitted by the North East Combined Authority.

The published Air Quality Plan was accompanied by online consultation; details of NECA's response was set out in section 3 of the report. Future measures to improve air quality were also noted.

During discussion members commented on local plans already in place to improve air quality and prioritisation of transport arrangements such as bus lanes, cycle and priority lanes. Reference was made to particulate matter which once inhaled, can affect the heart and lungs and cause serious health effects. Members were also of the view that whilst local government should be involved in this important health debate central government had a more significant part to play.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

12 **ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE**

Submitted: Report of the Lead Chief Executive for Transport (previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes).

Members gave consideration to the update report on progress which is being made with the Go Ultra Glow (GUL) Programme and work being carried out to streamline and make best use of existing local government based Electric Vehicle (EV) charging resources in the North East Combined Authority (NECA) area.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

13 **THE GO SMARTER PROGRAMME**

Submitted: Report of the Lead Chief Executive for Transport (previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes).

Consideration was given to the report which outlined how elements of the Go Smarter programme were being maintained across the NECA area without Access Fund. The committee was asked to note the Go Smarter legacy programme that can be accommodated within existing resources.

Members received advice in relation to the next steps and the timetable for implementation as follows:

At least 3 months prior to each existing funding streaming ending a critical review will be undertaken by the Regional Transport Team (RTT) and a recommendation put forward to Heads of Transport as to whether it should be continued and if so, how it should be funded. A report will be brought back to TNEC for a decision.

If a bidding opportunity arises specifically for the promotion of sustainable travel, then the RTT will draft on behalf of NECA, a submission in line with the specific objectives of the bid. In such an event it was proposed that the TRR would consult with the Sustainable Transport Group and the Heads of Transport members in drafting a submission with a report being presented to TNEC at the earliest opportunity.

RESOLVED – that the Transport North East Committee noted the Go Smarter legacy programme that can be implemented within existing resources.

14 **TRANSPORT PLAN FOR THE NORTH EAST**

Submitted: Report of the Lead Chief Executive for Transport (previously circulated and a copy attached to the Official Minutes)

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update to the report considered by Committee in April regarding the next steps for the Transport Plan.

Members were apprised of the proposed next steps:

- An update report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11 July.
- Briefings for Leaders and Elected Mayors, Chief Executives and Economic Directors between now and September (a workshop for Members of TNEC had been held on 11 July).
- A future workshop for Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- The Transport Plan to be included in the transport thematic lead update report to 14 December Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Incorporation of comments from all of the above into the draft Plan.
- Member approval will be sought in due course for a full public consultation. Normally the consultation period would be 12 weeks in line with Central Government best practice.
- Incorporation of all comments from the public consultation into a final version for Member approval and publication.
- Produce and publish a consultation feedback report.

RESOLVED – that the contents of the report were noted.

15 **CITY REGIONS TRANSPORT NETWORK**

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

Committee noted the establishment of a City Regions Transport Network Group the purpose of which was to have specialist politicians involved in Transport policy and representatives from the Urban Transport Group in attendance. Nominations were being sought from within the Combined Authorities to join the group.

The Chair proposed that Northumberland and Durham should each nominate one member with the third member nominated from the Tyne and Wear Authorities.

RESOLVED – that Democratic Services seek nominations from the seven Combined Authorities.

16 **CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016/17 OUTTURN AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/18 UPDATE**

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

Consideration was given to the final outturn position in relation to the 2016/17 capital programme and the first monitoring update on the 2017/18 programme.

RESOLVED – that the contents of the report be noted.

17 **REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17 OUTTURN AND REVENUE BUDGET 2017/18 UPDATE**

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

The Chief Finance Officer briefly outlined the report which provided an update in relation to the final outturn position in respect of the 2016/17 revenue budget and the first monitoring update on the 2017/18 programme.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

18 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

16 November 2017 at 2.00pm at the Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH

19 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – that by virtue of paragraph 3 of part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the confidential document in respect of agenda item 5 (appendix 2).