



## **Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee**

### **APPROVED MINUTES** 14 September 2017

(2.00 - 2.50 pm)

Meeting held Committee Room, Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH

#### **Present:**

Councillor: J Harrison (Chair)

Councillors: J McCarty and M Mordey

#### **15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Monitoring Officer informed the Sub-Committee of membership changes from the Gateshead constituency; Cllr J McElroy has replaced Cllr M Brain.

Apologies were received from Cllr J McElroy (Gateshead), Cllr G Hobson (South Tyneside) and Cllr M Brain (Gateshead)

#### **16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

#### **17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 July 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the following amendment:

Minute 4 refers - Metro Transition Project Completion Update. Amend the last sentence shown as "35 DBTW staff were transferred....." to read "535 DBTW staff were transferred"

#### **18 MONITORING NEXUS' PERFORMANCE**

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

Members considered the report in relation to the Monitoring of Nexus' Performance and the report in respect of the Metro Performance Update together.

It was noted that Nexus was on target to deliver the majority of objectives in its Corporate Business Plan for 2017/18.

During discussion the comments made by Members included:

The Sub Committee commended all of those involved in the works for the replacement of the Killingworth Road Bridge. Joint working had ensured effective community engagement, road closures were well sign posted and the road network effectively managed.

- The Sub Committee confirmed their continued support for all of those involved in the discussions for the investment in the Metro fleet replacement.

Points noted by the Sub Committee were:

- A successful Great North Run for Metro, who had worked jointly with Northumbria Police, the event organisers and the councils involved; the vast number of passengers were well managed with no reported problems and the longest passenger waiting time was about one hour.
- Two significant incidents had recently disrupted Metro service delivery during the periods being reported on; the overhead line came down at Benton and a major train failure at Walkergate. It was noted that passenger information and bus replacements could have been improved upon and this would form part of the review of the incident, however, maintenance crews worked through the night to restore the service.
- Performance and punctuality had improved overall. There had only been one period when the target had not been met and this was a direct result of a major burst water main.

Members received an update on investment in the fleet and the continued dialogue with Ministers. There were two finance options being considered by the government: grant funding and private finance.

**RESOLVED** – that the Tyne and Wear Sub Committee noted –

- 1) The report and details of Nexus' corporate performance in delivering services and projects over the sixteen weeks to 22 July 2017/18
- 2) Noted the Metro Performance Update.

## 19 **UPDATE ON NEXUS' CORPORATE RISK REGISTER 2017/18**

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

Members considered the report the purpose of which was to provide an update on Nexus' Corporate Risk Register for 2017/18.

It was noted that there had been a change in one risk status which had improved from being assessed as Amber to Green (Bus Strategy delivery arrangements). Members also noted the change in risk status for Replacement of the Metrocar fleet and putting a new contract in place.

A brief discussion took place in relation to the fleet replacement regarding any actions that will need to be taken should investment be refused by central government. Officers advised that government had been made aware of the full impact of the delay or refusal of funding in all parts of the business case. This included the impact at peak journey times, when the anticipated worsening condition of the fleet would lead to timetable reductions at peak hours by around 2022. Consequently the system would not be able to meet demands, leading to additional pressures on the road network and the consequential problems in travel arrangements.

**RESOLVED** – that the report be noted.

## 20 **TYNE AND WEAR BUDGET PROCESS AND TIMETABLE 2018/19**

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

Consideration was given to the report which set out the process and timetable for the preparation, consultation and approval of the 2018/19 budget and indicative medium term financial strategy, including consultation with the Tyne and Wear Sub-Committee.

Officers were currently in discussion with colleagues at Durham County Council and Northumberland County Council to ensure that their processes meet the timetable set out for the North East Combined Authority.

Members noted that Nexus was making good progress with the implementation of savings in both 2017/18 and 2018/1, budget pressures had lessened and Nexus had not had to use reserves to the degree originally anticipated. It was also noted that a Policy Seminar will be held in December enabling members of the Tyne and Wear Sub-Committee to discuss the details of the Tyne and Wear transport budget and levy proposals.

**RESOLVED** – that the report and proposed and proposed timetable were noted.

## 21 **TYNE TUNNELS - UPDATE**

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

Members considered the report which provided an update on issues at the Tyne Tunnel in relation to the operation of the new Tyne Crossing vehicle tunnels and the refurbishment of the Tyne Pedestrian and Cyclist Tunnels.

Members welcomed the progress made in relation to the Pedestrian and Cyclist tunnels. However, with regards to the New Tyne Crossing and the continued decline in traffic movements, officers were urged to closely monitor vehicle numbers. A Member also commented that the planned road works at the Testo roundabout in South Tyneside could further impact on the New Crossing.

**RESOLVED** that the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub Committee –

- 1) Noted the contents of the report relating to the operation of the New Tyne Crossing vehicle tunnels.
- 2) Noted the contents of the report relating to the refurbishment of the Tyne Pedestrian and cyclist tunnels.

22 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 16 November 2017 at 3.00pm