

North East Combined Authority
Transport North East Committee

29 July 2014

Meeting held: Committee Room, Newcastle Civic Centre, NE1 8QH

Present:

Councillor: Forbes (Chair)

Councillors: Allen, Foster, M Green, S Green, Hobson, Lott, McElroy, Speding,
Watson and West

7 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors McCarty, Ledger and Swithenbank.

8 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor West declared a personal interest in all relevant agenda items due to holding a concessionary travel pass.

9 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 May 2014 subject to the inclusion of Councillors McElroy, M Green and S Green's declarations of personal interests due to holding a concessionary travel pass and Councillor M Green's declaration of a personal interest due to holding the Metro Gold Card were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

10 BUS STRATEGY DELIVERY PROJECT UPDATE

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

Members considered the report which provided a background briefing on the Bus Strategy Delivery Project and informed Members of the process that was intended to take place over coming months to determine a way forward. During the ensuing discussion, Members noted the Durham and Northumberland position.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The background information contained in the report be noted; and

- ii. The Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee would receive a report containing more detailed information as relevant to the Tyne and Wear area.

11 **ADOPTION OF THE ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK**

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

Members considered the report which set out the process for updating the Assurance Framework that had been previously developed in partnership with the Department for Transport to ensure value for money and deliverability of transport major schemes. It was noted that the use of the Assurance Framework had been formally agreed by the North East Leadership Board.

RESOLVED – That:

- I. Part one of the Assurance Framework be replaced with the constitution for the North East Combined Authority; and
- II. Parts two and three of the Assurance Framework be formally adopted.

12 **NORTH EAST COMBINED AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO THE NORTHERN AND TRANSPENNINE EXPRESS PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

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

Members considered the report which sought Members' approval for the submission of the proposed response that had been prepared on behalf of the North East Combined Authority, and attached at Appendix 1 of the report, in response to the Department for Transport and Rail North consultation on the TransPennine Express rail franchise and Northern rail franchise, which were due for renewal in February 2016. The ensuing discussion included matters such as the importance of connection between Newcastle, Chester-Le-Street and Manchester Airport, clarification of the methodology used for grading rail schemes, importance of inclusion of taxis in references to public transport, importance of promotion of rail services and the benefits of local marketing and service management, importance of the extension of smart ticketing across the heavy rail and taxis, importance of having a clear understanding of the efficiencies required and using arguments to strengthen the case for the North East in order to protect local employment and reduce any consequential impact on the quality and safety of services and importance of a franchise that focused on local needs.

RESOLVED – That:

- I. The content of the response, attached at Appendix 1, with the addition of the comments raised at the meeting be approved for submission to the Department for Transport ahead of the closing date of the consultation on 18 August 2014; and
- II. Data be provided to Members on the journeys per purpose and the revenue generated.

13 **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 provided an update on the joint working that was taking place between Local Transport Authorities in the North of England and the Department for Transport (DfT), aimed at securing efficient local rail services to support economic growth and to increase the influence of the North of England over the Northern and TransPennine rail franchises.

RESOLVED – That:

- I. The progress of the development of Rail North be noted;
- II. Officers from Nexus and the Transport Team of the North East Combined Authority and North East Local Enterprise Partnership be authorised to continue to work proactively with Rail North, the Department for Transport and other Local Transport Authorities on behalf of the North East Combined Authority to further develop proposals;
- III. The Committee recommend to the North East Leadership Board that the Combined Authority participate in the Rail North Special Purpose Vehicle (subject to the provision of further advice from the Monitoring Officer, Head of Paid Service and Chief Finance Officer on risks or costs arising which may affect the Combined Authority); and
- IV. The Chair of the Transport North East Committee would represent the North East Combined Authority on the Association of Local Transport Authorities and the Rail North Special Purpose Vehicle and would continue to develop the partnership structures with the Department for Transport.

14 **CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014/15 - MONITORING REPORT**

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

Members considered the report which provided a progress update in relation to the delivery of the transport-related capital programme for 2014/15, in line with the requirement of the North East Combined Authority's constitution and the function

delegated to the Committee. The ensuing discussion included matters such as the completion timescale of the Metro refurbishment programme and the responsibility for overseeing the progress of the works to the Tyne Pedestrian and Cyclist Tunnels, including financial implications, which was now with the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED – That:

- I. The report be noted; and
- II. Discussion about the responsibility of the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee for the overseeing the progress of the works to the Tyne Pedestrian and Cyclist Tunnels, including financial implications, be held at today's meeting of the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee.

15 **REVENUE BUDGET 2014/15 - MONITORING REPORT**

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

Members considered the report which provided a progress update in relation to how the transport-related budgets for the delivery agencies for 2014/15 were being managed, as required by the North East Combined Authority's constitution and in line with the functions delegated to the Committee.

RESOLVED – That:

- I. The report be noted; and
- II. A policy report be provided to a future meeting on concessionary fares and the report be inclusive of the national picture and the discretionary elements that were currently applied locally.

16 **APPOINTMENT OF THE 3RD VICE-CHAIR (FROM THE TYNE AND WEAR COUNCILS)**

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

Members considered the report which invited them to appoint the third Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2014/15, from the Tyne and Wear Local Authorities.

RESOLVED – That:

- I. The third Vice-Chair from the Tyne and Wear Authorities would rotate in alphabetical order, annually, commencing with North Tyneside Council and

the third Vice-Chair be appointed from the Members who are Members of the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee;

- II. Councillor Lott from North Tyneside Council be appointed as the third Vice-Chair of the Committee for the Municipal Year 2014/15;
- III. The Committee noted the Chair of the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee was to be the third Vice-Chair of the Transport North East Committee, from the Tyne and Wear Local Authorities;
- IV. The Vice-Chair of the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee be the Member of the Tyne and Wear Local Authority next in alphabetical order, being South Tyneside Council;
- V. Councillor West from South Tyneside Council be appointed as the Vice-Chair of the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee for the Municipal Year 2014/15.

17 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, 9 October 2014 at 2pm at North Tyneside Council.