

## North East Combined Authority

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

20 April 2015

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

**Present:**

Councillor: F Lott (Chair)

Councillors: J McCarty, J McElroy, P Watson and A West

48 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

49 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

50 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2015**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 February 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

51 **MONITORING NEXUS' PERFORMANCE**

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

Members considered the report which provided information on Nexus' corporate performance in delivering services and projects.

Amongst the points noted during the ensuing discussion were the following:

- In relation to the bus service contracts renewal, as in paragraph 8 of the report, it was confirmed that South Tyneside was also included.
- A Member commented on the importance of developing a full understanding of Rail North by the Sub-Committee, including the Tyne and Wear picture, and the importance in protecting the Tyne and Wear position in respect of the entitlement to funding. A member also commented on the importance of the Sub-Committee being kept informed about any developments. It was proposed that Rail North could be discussed at a future policy seminar held in

the new municipal year. The seminar should be organised at the start of the municipal year.

- A Member welcomed the report.
- A Member welcomed the successful rolling out of the Pop Card and suggested that consideration should be given to developing more pilots.
- A Member suggested that future reports should include more detail.
- A Member commented on the slow journey times in respect of the proposed rail service from London to Sunderland via Newcastle. It was noted that the proposal had been developed by the franchisee.

**RESOLVED** – That:

- (i) the report be noted; and
- (ii) a policy seminar be organised for Members early in the new municipal year.

## 52 **NEXUS' CORPORATE BUSINESS PLAN 2015/16**

Submitted: A joint report of the Chief Executive Officer for Transport and the Managing Director (Transport Operations) (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which provided information on Nexus' Corporate Business Plan (CBP) for 2015/16.

Amongst the points noted during the ensuing discussion were the following:

- A Member welcomed the report and the quality and comprehensiveness of the CBP.
- In welcoming the report, a Member suggested that a CBP should set out plans for three years.
- A Member queried the arrangements for the interaction between the North East Business Unit and Nexus and also partners like Tees Valley, Durham, Northumberland and Darlington. A Member commented on the importance of political leadership, from early stages. A Member also commented on the importance of a good understanding of the proposals.
- A Member spoke about the importance of a good understanding of the governance structure around Rail North and also the resources and risks involved. A Member suggested that no rush decisions should be made.
- A Member commented on the importance of working to ensure effective transport links across the North East.

- In relation to the Business Unit and the rail franchises, it was noted that not all matters would be devolved to the North and that stakeholders included North Yorkshire and Cumbria. The role of Nexus was also discussed.
- In relation to growing the number of public transport journeys, it was noted that, despite the increase in disruptions on the Metro system when compared to the last year, patronage had grown.
- The current Metro concession arrangements were in place until April 2017 with an option to extend these arrangements for a period of two years. The extension would be decided in consultation with Members. A Member requested further information on this matter for consideration by the Sub-Committee. A Member expressed concern about the current concessionaire and indicated that Members should be provided with information on options.

**RESOLVED** – That:

- (i) Nexus' Corporate Business Plan for 2015/16 be noted; and
- (ii) Information be brought to the Sub-Committee on the Metro concession arrangements, including information on options following the expiration of the current concession.

### 53 **NEXUS' STRATEGIC RISKS 2015/16**

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

Members considered the report which provided information on the strategic risks identified by Nexus.

**RESOLVED** – That the strategic business risks identified by Nexus for 2015/16 be noted.

### 54 **METRO PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

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

Members considered the report which provided an update on the current performance issues with regard to DBTW.

Amongst the points noted during the ensuing discussion were the following:

- It was confirmed that measures had been put in place in relation to monitoring and working to address the Metro cars power problems.
- A Member emphasised the importance of working to lobby the government for renewal of the rolling stock.

- It was confirmed that DBTW were penalised at a relatively high level for the non-performance under the contractual agreement, and this was one of the issues that needed to be taken into consideration when considering options in relation to the future concession.

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

55      **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, 9 July 2015 at 2pm (subject to confirmation at the Annual Meeting).

56      **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** – That by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting during the consideration of agenda item 10 - Tyne Tunnels Update and agenda item 11 - Tyne and Wear Schools Go Smarter Programme because exempt information was likely to be disclosed and the public interest test against the disclosure was satisfied.