

North East Combined Authority

Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee

26 February 2015

Meeting held Gateshead Civic Centre, Regent Road, Gateshead, NE8 1HH

Present:

Councillor: Lott (Chair)

Councillors: J McCarty, McElroy, Watson and West

41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

43 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 January 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

44 METRO ASSET RENEWAL PROGRAMME - MANAGEMENT OF RISK

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

Members considered the report which provided an overview of the risk management processes applied in the delivery of the Metro Asset Renewal Plan (ARP). This is a summary of the matters raised during the ensuing discussion:

- In response to a Member's comment that it was the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee who should oversee all elements of the Metro ARP, including financial, it was noted that, under the current structure, the Transport North East Committee was responsible for overseeing the capital programme, whilst the Tyne and Wear Sub-Committee was responsible for overseeing its discharge.
- In response to a Member's requested for a more comprehensive financial picture of the Metro ARP over a longer period of time, it was noted that a report on the affordability of the eleven-year Metro ARP would be provided to a future meeting. Update reports would then be provided quarterly as programmed.

- Members noted the complex nature of the Metro ARP investment programme and, on advice from officers, agreed that in addition to the regular reporting arrangements at formal meetings, a policy seminar should be organised for Members after May 2015.
- A Member welcomed the report and its quality.
- In response to a Member's question, officers provided information on the approach taken, as part of the capital programme, to bring projects forward whenever necessary in order to achieve efficiency and maximise benefits.

RESOLVED – That:

- I. The approach taken by Nexus in risk management to ensure effective project control and governance be noted;
- II. A policy seminar be organised for Members after May 2015 on the Metro Asset Renewal Programme.

45 **METRO PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

Submitted:

(i) A covering report of the Managing Director (Transport Operations) (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes); and

(ii) A presentation of the Managing Director of DB Regio Tyne and Wear Ltd (with the Chair's permission, due to the timetables involved circulated at the meeting and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report and the presentation which provided an update on the recent performance of the Tyne and Wear Metro. The ensuing discussion included the following matters:

- the improved performance of Metro in recent weeks;
- the engineering works that had been undertaken on the Metro system, including the Metro cars, since the last report;
- the importance of continued communication with passengers and providing more information about in-journey delays, including the reasons for the delays and their approximate duration;
- the importance of Members receiving comprehensive information on the performance of Metro, including on any difficulties and their financial impact;
- the approach taken to forecast patronage taking into consideration various variables which included performance-related issues and the associated impact;
- the importance of assurances that the performance-related issues and their impact were understood, incorporated into risk management and actioned in accordance with the contractual obligations between Nexus and DB Regio Tyne and Wear Ltd;
- the importance of developing a business case for the fleet renewal, and communicating this matter to the public;

- the importance of further discussions on the priorities for investment in relation to different modes of public transport;
- the likely reasons for the current strong patronage and the commitment to continue to work to increase the patronage further;
- the more efficient, fast-track training programme for prospective drivers to address current issues with the ageing workforce.

Information was requested on the financial impact of the issues with the Metro car doors, including comparison with the last year's position.

RESOLVED – That the update on the recent performance of the Tyne and Wear Metro and Members' comments be noted.

46 GOVERNANCE OF NEXUS

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

Members considered the report on the current governance of Nexus and options for adjustments within the context of the combined authority. This is a summary of Members' comments on the proposals:

- The reference to the Leadership Board in the Recommendations, bullet point three, should be amended to read "...be submitted to the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee...";
- It was important to consult with all constituent local authorities;
- Proposals for reforms should be submitted to the annual meeting of the North East Combined Authority (NECA);
- This was the right time to start to think about any potential changes;
- If the provisions under the Transport Act 1968 were out of date and no longer appropriate, Members should consider lobbying the government for changes;
- It was right to focus on the alignment with local transport plans;
- The proposals should also be submitted to the Governance Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for feedback;
- The current governance arrangements needed to be improved. The proposals were a good starting point but these should be developed further;
- In relation to the governance structure, it was important that Nexus reported to the Chief Executive Officer of NECA;
- Consideration should be given to strengthening relationships between Nexus and local communities through mechanisms such as area forums.

During the ensuing discussion, it was also noted that:

- The Managing Director (Transport Operations) of NECA, who was also the Director General of Nexus, was accountable to the chief officer of NECA - the Head of Paid Service.
- The Head of Paid Service had delegated some of her responsibilities in relation to transport to the Chief Executive to the Thematic Lead for Transport.
- Careful consideration should be given to ensuring that the NECA committees had adequate capacity to take on any additional responsibilities in relation to further scrutiny of Nexus.

RESOLVED – That:

- I. The information on the current legal and constitutional arrangements be noted;
- II. Members' comments on the options for reform be noted;
- III. Officers would develop proposals for reform which could, after feedback, including from the Governance Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be submitted to the Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee and North East Leadership Board, as well as medium-term options which would strengthen the integration of services into the two counties; and
- IV. The proposal to develop working arrangements between Nexus, the NECA and Constituent Authorities, as appropriate, in relation to the discharge of transport functions be noted and endorsed.

47 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held in April 2015. The date and time would be confirmed as soon as possible.