

North East Combined Authority

Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee

26 February 2016

Meeting held: Committee Room, Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead, NE8 1HH

Present:

Councillor: J Harrison (Chair)

Councillors: G Hobson, J McCarty, J McElroy and M Mordey

62 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

63 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

64 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 January 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

(a) Monitoring Nexus' Performance: 1 April to 5 December 2015

(Minute 54 refers)

Network Rail

Further to the previous discussion of the recent incidents on the Metro system between Pelaw and Sunderland, as in the seventeenth bullet point, the Chair clarified that this section of line had been developed by Railtrack, Network Rail's predecessor body, and it was now the responsibility of Network Rail to maintain it.

Members' Seminar

The Chair asked that a seminar should be organised for Members on the Bus Quality Contract Scheme options, as previously requested (bullet point 6 refers).

65 NEXUS SERVICE REVIEW

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

Members considered the report which provided information on the proposed review of Nexus' services.

Subsequent to the ensuing discussion which included the following matters:

- the importance of the public and councillors being involved in the consultation process
- the importance of effective timetable for consultation process
- the understanding that reliance on reserves in delivering public services should be limited
- the importance of a budget that delivered effective public transport services, and also the role of the Quality Contract Scheme that had been previously proposed
- concern about the position with regard to the substantial underfunding by the government of concessionary travel
- concern about the unequal distribution of the national funding for concessionary travel
- concern about the scale of cuts to budgets of the local authorities in the region, which was disproportionate when compared with the South
- concern about resistance from the government to accept a more accurate data available in Tyne and Wear on the concessionary travel needs of the area, despite the previous representations
- concern about the government moving away from the use of a needs basis when allocating funds and the seeming expectation that local authorities should use reserves to cover the needs of their areas
- the needs of Tyne and Wear, the relatively low car ownership and the high reliance on public transport
- the need for effective funding for the public transport services in the region
- the importance of continuing to make representations to the government on the matters set out above,

it was:

RESOLVED – That:

- i. A review of Nexus' services, to be led by the Managing Director (Transport Operations), be undertaken prior to the commencement of the budget setting process for 2017/18;
- ii. The Managing Director (Transport Operations) be instructed to take into account views expressed by the public and key stakeholders when making proposals for the Sub-Committee's consideration, which would enable Nexus to achieve a balanced budget, without having to place reliance on its financial reserves by no later than 2019/20; and

- iii. The draft consultation document be submitted to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee, or circulated at a forthcoming Members' seminar, for comment prior to it being issued to the public.

66 DB REGIO TYNE AND WEAR LIMITED (DBTW) PERFORMANCE UPDATE

Submitted: An update 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 performance relating to the operation of the Metro system by the concessionaire Deutsche Bahn Region Tyne and Wear Ltd (DBTW).

During the ensuing extensive discussion Members asked questions about the performance, debated the matter and made comments emphasising the importance of improving the performance of the Metro services.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The report be noted; and
- ii. The performance of the Metro services be improved.

67 PUBLICITY MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS POLICY FOR TYNE AND WEAR

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

Members considered the report which sought endorsement of a policy for publicity, marketing and promotions in the Tyne and Wear area as undertaken by Nexus on behalf of the Combined Authority.

RESOLVED – That:

- i. The Publicity Marketing and Promotions Policy be approved; and
- ii. Members be e-mailed with regular updates on the publicity, marketing and promotions activity, including major marketing campaigns, new sponsorships, marketing partnerships and reviews of marketing activity.

68 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 28 April 2016 at 2pm at Newcastle Civic Centre.

69 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That by virtue of paragraphs 3 and 5 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 items 9 and 10 (Confidential Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Tyne Tunnels – Update) because exempt information was

likely to be disclosed and the public interest test against the disclosure was satisfied.