

North East Combined Authority

Transport North East (Tyne and Wear) Sub-Committee

29 January 2015

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

Present:

Councillor: West (Chair)

Councillors: McCarty, McElroy and Watson

35 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Lott.

36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations on interest.

37 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 November 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

38 TYNE TUNNEL - RESPONSE TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TRANSPORT COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO STRATEGIC RIVER CROSSINGS

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

Members considered the report which provided information on the Authority's response to the House of Commons Transport Committee's current inquiry into strategic river crossings. The ensuing discussion included matters such as:

- the co-operation between the key traffic crossing projects and the Tyne Tunnels;
- the tolling arrangements for the Tyne Tunnels; and
- the importance of continuing to lobby the government for a fair deal and assistance with the repayment of the debt.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

39 MONITORING NEXUS' PERFORMANCE

Submitted:

(i) A joint report of the Chief Executive for the Thematic Lead for Transport and the Managing Director (Transport Operations) (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes); and

(ii) A graph showing the punctuality, reliability, revenue and patronage of Metro for the periods 1 to 10 (with the Chair's permission, due to the timetables involved circulated at the meeting and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Members considered the report which provided information on Nexus' corporate performance in delivering services and projects to the end of the third quarter. The ensuing discussion included matters such as:

- the performance of Metro;
- the recent restructure within DB Regio Tyne and Wear Ltd. (DBTW) who operated Metro on behalf of Nexus;
- the programme of actions to address seasonal issues in relation to low rail adhesion;
- the Metrocar refurbishment programme, including a door overhaul package;
- the recruitment and training programme to secure continued staffing levels in relation to the Metro drivers;
- the continued work to improve communication with customers during disruption;
- the recent power failures on the Metro system and the work to minimise associated risks and impacts for the future;
- smart ticketing, including achievements and capabilities;
- the Asset Renewal Programme and the forecast spending, programme management, asset performance and reporting to the Department for Transport (DfT) in relation to the programme;
- a review of Nexus' internal audit function by Mazars;
- the progress of the development of Sunderland Rail Station;
- the progress of the work with partners on the implementation of the North East Smart Ticketing Initiative (NESTI);
- the importance of the work to develop a single smart card that would be capable of loading on various multimodal products, and the understanding that there were difficulties involved in developing such a product.

Councillor P Watson commented on the importance of understanding relationships between NECA, Nexus and DBTW. It was noted that a report on this matter was scheduled for the next meeting.

Members congratulated officers on the quality of the report.

RESOLVED – That:

(i) the report be noted;

(ii) a future report would cover Nexus' management of risk in the Asset Renewal Programme;

(iii) information be provided to Members on how Nexus' spending in the Asset Renewal Programme was planned and monitored; and

(iv) a report for the next meeting would include information on the relationships between NECA, Nexus and DBTW.

40 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

26 February 2015 at 2pm (Members' pre-meeting at 1.30pm) at Gateshead Civic Centre.