

**Report to:** Transport Committee

**Date:** 3 July 2020

**Subject:** **Leeds City Region Transport Update**

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Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	

## 1 Purpose Of Report

- 1.1 To provide the Transport Committee with an update on current issues not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

## 2 Information

### Transport for the North meetings

#### Transport for the North Board

- 2.1 Transport for the North Board met on 11 June 2020. The meeting considered the following substantive matters:
- **Operational Rail Update** covering the latest developments on the COVID-19 impact and response.
  - **Economic Recovery Plan** setting out the proposed approach to developing a pitch for accelerated investment in infrastructure to promote economic recovery.
  - **Future Road Investment** setting out details of the Highways England Road Investment Strategy 2.

- A **Northern Powerhouse Rail Update** highlighting that a Strategic Outline Case will be shared with members before the September Board meeting.
- **Proposed Investment Programme** paper considering the development of a pipeline approach to scheme development against different funding scenarios. This paper also highlighted a refresh of TfN's Future Travel Scenarios.

2.2 A link to TfN Board meetings and papers is provided in the **Background Documents** section. The next meeting of Transport for the North Board is scheduled for 29 July 2020.

2.3 The Combined Authority considered a paper on 25th June 2020 that covers the TfN Economic Recovery Plan proposals, including schemes submitted for consideration, **Background Documents** section.

#### Rail North Committee

2.4 Rail North Committee met on 12 May 2020. The Committee considered the following substantive matters:

- **Rail Operations and COVID-19 Recovery** with updates from TfN, with a focus on how the industry is responding to the COVID-19 crisis.
- **Blake-Jones and Williams Reviews** where the Committee endorsed a programme of actions to implement the Blake-Jones recommendations, including development of the Passenger Promise. It was noted there was no update on the Williams Review.
- **Northern Trains Update and 100-day Review** where Nick Donovan and Richard George updated the Committee on the early findings of their review of the Northern operation.

2.5 The Northern Trains Update included a section on stakeholder engagement. Northern has confirmed that the primary consultation relationship will remain with the Rail North Committee and TfN Board. Northern will continue regular direct engagement with MPs and Metropolitan Leaders (including in West Yorkshire). The previously announced Stakeholder Panel will therefore focus on those areas and interests that are not heard as effectively through existing channels.

2.6 A link to papers is provided in the **Background Documents** section. The next meeting of Rail North Committee is scheduled for 14 July 2020.

#### Future Mobility

##### e-scooter trials

2.7 The Combined Authority is currently working with interested council partners and Department for Transport (DfT) to help develop proposals for e-scooter trials in West Yorkshire. The trials would examine the impact of rental e-scooters on other road users, vulnerable groups and determine the impact that

they have on use of other modes. The trials will also examine the contribution that e-scooters might make to the economic recovery from COVID-19.

- 2.8 Any proposals developed for submission to DfT will be circulated to Transport Committee members for comment and approval before the end of June. DfT have suggested that they wish to see schemes on the ground in August 2020.
- 2.9 The background to the e-scooter trials is available on the DfT website. A link is provided in the **Background Documents** section.

#### Future Mobility Strategy

- 2.10 The purpose of the West Yorkshire Future Mobility Strategy is to demonstrate how Future Mobility and new technology can help achieve the Region's key objectives and assist in the long-term recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. The Strategy also sets out the principles and priorities for our work on Future Mobility to meet our wider ambitions over the short (0-2 years), medium (2-5 years), and long (5-10 years) terms.
- 2.11 Following Transport Committee involvement through a previous workshop, the Future Mobility Strategy is currently being finalised and we are planning to launch a public consultation on it in the coming weeks.

#### DfT Future of Transport Regulatory review – consultation response

- 2.12 The DfT's Future of Transport Regulatory review asks for evidence and views on micromobility (e-scooters), flexible bus services and Mobility as a Service (MaaS). The Combined Authority in consultation with council partners are currently developing a response to the consultation. Our response will be circulated to Transport Committee members by email for comment and approval before the July meeting so that we can submit it before the deadline of 3 July 2020.
- 2.13 Our response will also take account of the responses under development by Transport for the North and the Urban Transport Group.

#### Fare Deal for Young People

- 2.14 At the February meeting, the Committee approved progress with a revised Concessionary Travel scheme to make it easy and affordable for young people to travel. As reported to the May meeting, digital engagement with young people is continuing about fare levels and affordability. The consultation will end on 30 June 2020 after publication of these papers. A verbal update will be provided.
- 2.15 A simplified fare structure will be agreed with bus operators informed by the engagement exercise for incorporation in a revised Concessionary Travel Scheme and associated Equality Impact Assessment. The implementation of the new scheme will take place when travel ceases to be constrained by social distancing requirements.

## Rail updates

### TransPennine Route Upgrade

- 2.16 It is understood that the refreshed Outline Business Case (OBC) for TransPennine Route Upgrade (TRU) was recently approved by the DfT's Investment, Projects and Delivery Committee (IPDC) in April 2020.
- 2.17 We understand the IPDC was asked to support a baseline OBC programme for partial electrification and, in parallel, also endorse further development work for a full electrification option which also considers the gauge clearance requirements for freight in more detail. We understand Ministerial and Treasury approval is now being sought to release funding to Network Rail for further design and development work in 2020.
- 2.18 An update on TRU by the DfT is expected at the TfN Board meeting on 29 July 2020.

### Northern 100-day review

- 2.19 Northern's new management team reported that it submitted the 100-day review of the business to the Secretary of State for Transport on 8 June 2020, as planned. This date marked 100 days since the Operator of Last Resort took over the Northern operation.
- 2.20 The detailed content of the review has not yet been published. However, discussions with Northern suggest that it focuses on ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of day-to-day operations. A copy of the presentation given at Rail North Committee on the 100-day review (amongst other things) is included at **Appendix 1**. Northern has committed to engagement on its longer-term business planning as this takes place in coming months.
- 2.21 The paper agreed by Transport Committee at its meeting on 15 May 2020 (see **Background Documents**) was shared with Northern to inform the Review from a West Yorkshire perspective. Officers will continue to use this as the basis for ongoing engagement with Northern.

### Rail Forum meeting

- 2.22 The Rail Forum met on 20 May 2020, with representatives from Northern, TransPennine Express, LNER, Cross Country, Network Rail, Transport Focus and Transport for the North.
- 2.23 The management of the current COVID-19 crisis was discussed, and the details are reflected in the separate COVID-19 paper before the Committee.
- 2.24 Other matters discussed included the current rail devolution situation, including the implications of the Mayoral Combined Authority activity now underway. Industry partners were also updated on progress with the West

Yorkshire Rail Vision, ahead of formal engagement to come (as set out in the Rail Strategy paper before this Committee). The Chair also requested more details on Network Rail's plans for freight in the region.

### **Zero Emission Transport Working Group update**

- 2.25 The Zero Emission Transport Working Group met on 22 May 2020. The meeting discussed the improvements in air quality due to COVID-19 and the emerging findings of the Emission Reduction Pathways study for the transport sector.

#### Air quality

- 2.26 Air quality improved markedly during the lockdown period and this is illustrated by the pollutant levels that have been recorded at monitoring stations. Maintaining improved air quality will be challenging as the lockdown eases and monitoring of the different sectors of the economy will be implemented to understand how pollutant levels change.

#### Emission Reduction Pathways

- 2.27 The purpose of the Emission Reduction Pathways is to identify the different ways in which West Yorkshire could reach its target of becoming net-zero carbon by 2038. The study is split into three tasks:
- **Task 1** – develop emission reduction pathways for the transport, buildings, power, industrial and land-use sectors in West Yorkshire that achieve the net-zero target.
  - **Task 2** – produce an implementation roadmap for West Yorkshire based on the outputs of Task 1.
  - **Task 3** – produce policy recommendations and action plan that delivers the measures and activity identified in Tasks 1 and 2.
- 2.28 The Working Group were presented with the emerging transport sector findings and were asked for feedback. The Working Group discussion formed part of initial engagement with West Yorkshire local authorities to determine if they were comfortable for the findings to be shared with a non-local authority audience.
- 2.29 Non-local authority stakeholder engagement is planned for July and will seek feedback on the findings of Task 1 and input into the co-design of the policy recommendations and action plan (Task 3). Local authorities will also be asked to provide input into the co-design process.
- 2.30 A full update on the study will be provided at the next meeting of Transport Committee.

### **3 Clean Growth Implications**

- 3.1 As noted under the various topics covered above.

## **4 Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

## **5 Legal Implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

## **6 Staffing Implications**

6.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

## **7 External Consultations**

7.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

## **8 Recommendations**

8.1 That the Committee notes the updates provided in this report.

## **9 Background Papers**

Agendas, papers and webcasts of meetings of the Transport for the North Board and meetings of Rail North Committee are available via this link:

<https://transportfornorth.com/about-transport-for-the-north/meetings/>

TfN's Economic Recovery Plan is covered at item 8 of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority meeting of 25 June 2020, available via this link:

<https://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=133&MIId=839>

Legalising rental e-scooter trials – consultation material on Department for Transport website, available via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/legalising-rental-e-scooter-trials-defining-e-scooters-and-rules-for-their-use/legalising-rental-e-scooter-trials>

## **10 Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Northern Trains Update presentation to Rail North Committee on 12 May 2020