

# **Rail North Committee Meeting**

## **Item 10.0**

**Subject:** Blake Jones Action Plan

**Author:** David Hoggarth

**Sponsor:** David Hoggarth

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday 8 January 2020

### **1. Purpose of the Report:**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the implementation of the Blake Jones Action Plan.

### **2. Executive Summary:**

- 2.1 Progress has been made on implementing the new operating model for the Rail North Committee and some aspects of the Passenger Promise. The report includes a revised timeline for implementation of the Action Plan.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Blake Jones Review was published in July 2019 and the Action Plan was formally adopted by Transport for the North Board on 31 July 2019.
- 3.2 There are Six Key Areas of Focus for the Blake Jones Action Plan:
- developing a Passenger Promise;
  - creating the right conditions for better decision-making;
  - enhancing information sharing;
  - improving forward-planning and communications;
  - deploying the required resources; and
  - considering the wider changes building on our response to the Williams Review.
- 3.3 Delivery of the action plan was held up over the summer pending further discussions with the Committee on their preferred operating model. Following agreement in principle at the September meeting of the Committee, further work has taken place on the action plan including a review of the delivery dates and the development of a detailed resource plan.

- 3.4 Action Plan milestones are included as Appendix 1. The proposition (subject to resources being made available) is that the implementation should be completed over the next three months with a target for all actions to be implemented by the start of the 2020/21 financial year. The plan will be updated following conclusion of discussion on resources.

#### **4. Progress Update:**

- 4.1 The initial focus has been on two areas, a new operating model for local decision making and the Passenger Promise. The paragraphs below provide an update on these two areas of work.

##### **A New Operating Model for Rail North Committee**

- 4.2 At the last meeting of the Committee, it was agreed that meeting should become more strategic in approach (generally meeting four times a year) and have a clearer, more direct link to the Rail North Partnership Board.
- 4.3 Following the new operating model, a specific agenda item has been included for Rail North partnership Board officers to consult Committee members on relevant decisions as well as providing direct feedback from the two meetings that have taken place since the last meeting of the Committee.
- 4.4 The first Member/Officer Working group has been established for Central Manchester.
- 4.5 Meetings have now been scheduled for the remainder of 2020. The postponement of the December 2019 meeting (to 21 January 2020) means that the previous planned February 2020 meeting has now been re-scheduled to 12 March 2020 (to coincide with the Transport for the North Board and Partnership Board). The final meeting of the year has also been re-scheduled to 21 October 2020 to provide a better spacing between Board meetings.
- 4.6 Revised dates for Committee meetings in 2020 are included as Appendix 4.

##### **The Passenger Promise**

- 4.7 In line with the recommendation in the review, discussions have taken place with Transport Focus on how passenger input can be enhanced and better data included in the planned monthly 'snapshot of performance'. Whilst elected members represent the views of passengers in the north, Transport Focus can bring added insight to the needs of passengers, evidence and benchmarking.

- 4.8 The standard performance report has been developed further to include more passenger-focussed capacity data.

## **5. Next Steps:**

- 5.1 A meeting is being sought between Cllr Blake and the Rail Minister to discuss the proposed improvements to decision-making and an enhanced relationship between the Rail North Committee and the Department for Transport.
- 5.2 A proposal for resourcing the development and delivery of the changes has been made to the Department for Transport.
- 5.3 The main elements of the Blake Jones Action plan are now scheduled for delivery in the first quarter of 2020.

## **6. Recommendations:**

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Rail North Committee notes progress on the Blake Jones Action Plan.
- 6.2 It is recommended that the Committee agrees the revised dates for meetings in 2020 set out in Appendix 1.

<b>7.</b>	<b>Appendices:</b>
7.1	Appendix 1 – Blake Jones Action Plan
7.2	Appendix 2 – Proposed dates for the Rail North Committee Meetings 2020

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## **Appendix 2: Proposed dates for the Rail North Committee Meetings 2020**

Venues to be confirmed (alternating between Leeds and Manchester)

1. Thursday 12 March 2020
2. Tuesday 12 May 2020
3. Tuesday 14 July 2020
4. Wednesday 21 October 2020

### **List of Background Documents:**

There are no background papers to this report.

### **Required Considerations**

#### **Equalities:**

Age	Yes	No
Disability	Yes	No
Gender Reassignment	Yes	No
Pregnancy and Maternity	Yes	No
Race	Yes	No
Religion or Belief	Yes	No
Sex	Yes	No
Sexual Orientation	Yes	No

<b>Consideration</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Director</b>
Equalities	A full Impact assessment has not been carried out because the report deals with principles rather than specific proposals.	David Hoggarth	David Hoggarth

### Environment and Sustainability

Yes	No
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<b>Consideration</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Director</b>
Sustainability / Environment – including considerations regarding Active Travel and Wellbeing	A full impact assessment has not been carried out because the report deals with principles rather than specific proposals.	David Hoggarth	David Hoggarth

### Legal

Yes	No
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<b>Consideration</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Director</b>
Legal	Implementation of parts of the Action Plan is likely to require changes to Transport for the North's constitution.	Deborah Dimock	Julie Openshaw

### Finance

Yes	No
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<b>Consideration</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Director</b>
Finance	As highlighted in the Review, successful	Gareth Sutton	Iain Craven

	delivery of the Action Plan is dependent on additional financial resources being provided. A detailed funding proposition to DfT has been developed. The 2020/21 Business Plan and budget makes certain assumptions about activity and funding that will be reviewed following the Department's response to TfN's proposals.		
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### Resource

Yes	No
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<b>Consideration</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Director</b>
Resource	Additional resources are needed for both the development and delivery stages of the Action plan. A detailed resource plan for delivery of the Action Plan has been developed and included in the financial resource proposal.	Stephen Hipwell	Dawn Madin

### Risk

Yes	No
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<b>Consideration</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Director</b>
Risk	The Review addresses issues that arose from the May 2018 timetable change.	David Hoggarth	David Hoggarth

### Consultation

Yes	No
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<b>Consideration</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Director</b>
Consultation	A suitable consultation was carried out as part of Blake Jones Review and this is reflected in the Action Plan.	David Hoggarth	David Hoggarth