

Transport for the North Board Meeting - Item 13

Subject: Northern Transport Charter

Author: David Hughes, Strategy and Programme Director

Sponsor: Barry White, Chief Executive

Meeting Date: Thursday 12 March 2020

1.0 Purpose of the Report:

- 1.1 The 'Northern Transport Charter' approved by the Transport for the North (TfN) Board in September 2019 set out four 'ambitions' for the future of Transport for the North, all of which are considered essential to the delivery of the Strategic Transport Plan:

Championing an
Inclusive and
Sustainable North

Long Term Northern
Funding Settlement

Leading Strategic
Transport Delivery

Putting the North's
Rail Passengers First

A summary of the Northern Transport Charter is attached for information at Appendix 1.

- 1.2 Development of detailed proposals to support these ambitions is overseen by the Members Working Group, led by Cllr Judith Blake.
- 1.3 This report presents a progress update in respect of two of these four 'ambitions', namely:
- Long Term Funding Settlement; and
 - Leading Strategic Transport Delivery

A further update on the remaining two ambitions will be provided at the April Board. The yet to be published Williams Review may considerably shape our approach on 'Putting the North's Rail

Passengers First’ and this ambition may need to be additional work as and when that review is published.

- 1.4 Members are asked to note this progress update.

2.0 Background:

- 2.1 The Transport for the North Partnership Board agreed in April 2019 to undertake a Member led piece of work to consider the future of TfN both in the medium to long term. To support this, a Members’ Working Group (MWG) was established to identify Members’ ambitions for TfN both as an organisation and its relationship with Government and its delivery partners. A key part of this work has considered what additional powers and responsibilities may be sought from Government as part of increased devolution and decision making to the North.
- 2.2 This report provides Members with an overview on the Charter development and identifies a high-level roadmap of activities over the coming weeks and months. The outcome of the discussions around this report will inform the final phase of the process leading up to a more detailed document being shared for endorsement at the April board.

3.0 Northern Transport Charter:

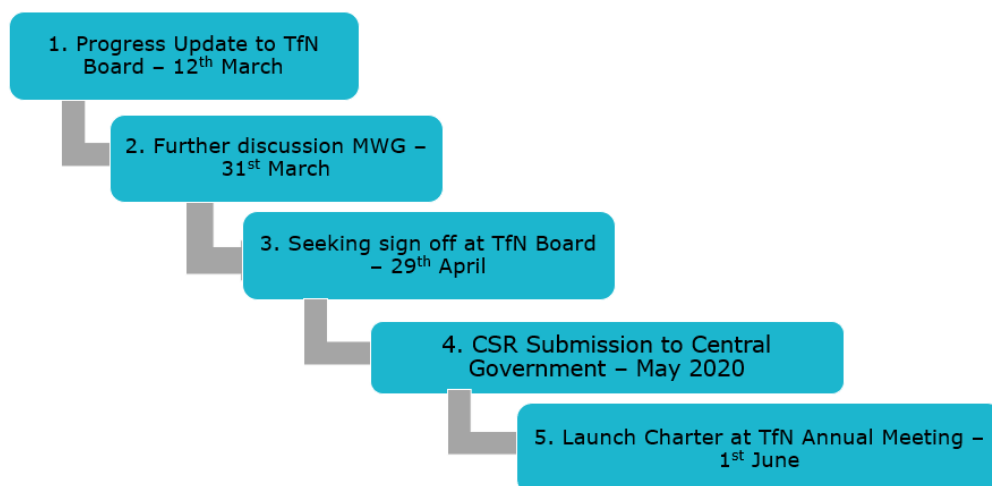
- 3.1 The principle that the North should have more control over transport budgets to deliver the outcomes identified in the STP is at the core of the Northern Transport Charter. It is recognised, however, that strengthened decision making and governance arrangements ambitions are a prerequisite to any further devolution of powers and funding.
- 3.2 Under the auspices of the Members Working Group, TfN has therefore been progressing in parallel detailed proposals around;
- i) A Northern Devolved Budget (the Long Term Funding Settlement); and
 - ii) A revised Decision Making and Governance Model (to enable TfN to Lead Strategic Transport Delivery).
- 3.3 The work on the devolved budget has been aligned with the Board’s previously agreed position set out in the funding framework and in the Strategic Transport Plan. In effect seeking a devolved multi modal budget for the north based on a funding settlement from Government. Further detail is set out in Appendix 2.
- 3.4 On decision making and governance the key issue being considered has been decision making and accountability at all the key investment decision points. Work has looked at what should be reserved for full Board decision making and what could be delegated to a Members’ investment committee, or to officers. This has also considered the

establishment of an independent assurance group, a well established mechanism in TfL and other authorities, to give the Board additional assurance that the right decisions are being taken. The balance in decision making is to ensure that timely decisions are made while also ensuring that there are sufficient checks and balances. Further detail is set out in Appendix 3.

- 3.5 Together, these address two of the four NTC ambitions.
- 3.6 Copies of Members' Working Group (MWG) meeting papers on the above two ambitions have been shared with the TfN Executive Board and a workshop session held.

4.0 Roadmap / Next Steps

- 4.1 A roadmap for the Northern Transport Charter is outlined over leaf which clearly articulates the key delivery milestones we are working towards.



- 4.2 At the MWG on 31 March Members will be invited to approve revised papers on a devolved Northern Budget and Decision Making, Model and Governance (Appendices 2 and 3) as well as receiving drafts papers outlining an initial proposal for Championing and Inclusive and Sustainable North and Putting Rail Passengers first.
- 4.3 Subject to endorsement from the Members' working group a report will be presented to TfN Board on 29 April to seek endorsement.
- 4.4 It is intended the output of the Northern Transport Charter development process will form the basis of TfN's CSR submission. In particular this will seek the development funding needed to work with delivery partners to establish the pipeline of investment.

5. Recommendations:

- 5.1 TfN Board is asked to note the work undertaken to date to develop the Northern Transport Charter and the proposed roadmap which outlines the key milestones over the coming weeks leading up to a more detailed proposal being presented at the April board for endorsement.

6.0 Appendices:

- 6.1 Appendix 1 – The Northern Transport Charter - Summary
- 6.2 Appendix 2 – A Northern Devolved Budget paper (DRAFT)
- 6.3 Appendix 3 – Decision Making and Governance Model paper (DRAFT)

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

Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Equalities	A full Impact assessment has not been carried out at this stage.	Lucy Jacques – Principal Policy & Strategy Development Officer	David Hughes - Strategy and Programme Director.

Environment and Sustainability

Yes	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Sustainability / Environment – including considerations regarding Active Travel and Wellbeing	One of the key policy areas for the Northern Transport Charter is around an inclusive and sustainable North. The detail is highlighted in Appendix 1.	Lucy Jacques – Principal Policy & Strategy Development Officer	David Hughes - Strategy and Programme Director.

Legal

Yes	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Legal	The legal implications of the new powers and responsibilities suggested by the Charter are being considered as they are being developed and will be examined throughout the process.	Julie Openshaw – Head of Legal Services	Dawn Madin – Director of Business Capabilities

Finance

Yes	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Finance	The financial implications of the new powers and responsibilities suggested by the Charter will be examined in more detail at a later date.	Gareth Sutton – Finance Controller	Iain Craven – Finance Director

Resource

Yes	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Resource	The HR implications of any new powers and responsibilities will be considered, examined and planned for as part of TfN's annual business and resource planning cycles.	Stephen Hipwell Head of Human Resources	Dawn Madin Business Capabilities Director

Risk

Yes	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Risk	An initial risk assessment has been carried out and the key risks are included in the Corporate Risks Report.	Haddy Njie	Iain Craven

Consultation

Yes	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Consultation	With Executive Board.	Lucy Jacques – Principal Policy & Strategy Development Officer	David Hughes - Strategy and Programme Director.