

# Item 3 -Scrutiny Committee – Minutes

**Meeting:** Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 29 August 2019

**Venue:** Wellington House, 40-50 Wellington Street, Leeds, LS1 2DE

## Members:

Cllr Andy Paraskos (Chair)  
Cllr Martin Mitchell  
Cllr Rod Fletcher  
Neil Hughes  
Cllr Roger Jones  
Cllr Sean Chaytor  
Cllr Matthew Salter  
Cllr Michael Mordey  
Cllr Lia Nici  
Cllr John Davison  
Cllr Chris Lamb  
Cllr Steve Parish\*  
Cllr Manisha Kaushik  
Cllr Dave Taylor

North Yorkshire  
Blackpool  
Cheshire East  
Cumbria  
Greater Manchester  
Hull  
Lancashire  
North East Combined Authority  
North East Lincolnshire  
North Lincolnshire  
Sheffield City Region  
Warrington  
West Yorkshire  
York

## Officers in Attendance:

Gary Rich  
Iain Craven  
Julie Openshaw  
Rosemary Lyon  
Deborah Dimock  
Tim Wood  
Michelle Berman  
Salim Patel  
Tony Belshaw  
David Innis

Democratic Services Officer  
Finance Director  
Head of Legal Services  
Legal and Democratic Services Officer  
Legal Services Officer  
NPR Director  
Programme Manager, IST  
Programme Manager, NPR  
Stakeholder Manager  
Strategy and Programme Director

## Apologies:

Cllr James Shorrock  
Cllr Richard Beacham  
Cllr Jane Evison  
Cllr Patrick McKinley  
Cllr Carl Johnson  
Cllr Paul Haslam  
Cllr Cathy Mitchell

Blackburn with Darwen  
Cheshire West  
East Riding of Yorkshire  
Liverpool City Region  
North of Tyne  
North Yorkshire  
Warrington

\*Substitute Member in attendance

## **1.0 Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chairs**

### **1.1** Cllr Paraskos Welcomed all.

Due to the Committee not currently having a Chair or Vice Chair nominations were invited for both positions.

Councillor Martin Mitchell was proposed by Councillor Michael Mordey and was seconded by Cllr Manisha Kaushik.

Councillor Paul Haslam was proposed by the Councillor Andy Paraskos and was seconded by Councillor Lia Nici.

The Position of Chair was put to the vote with Councillor Mitchell receiving 5 votes and Councillor Haslam receiving 6 votes.

### **2.2** Councillor Manisha Kaushik stood unopposed for Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Committee.

### **2.3** The appointment of the minority parties Vice Chair was deferred until the following meeting.

### **2.4** Councillor Kaushik requested that future Scrutiny Committee meetings not be held on a Thursdays due to other commitments. The Legal and Democratic Services Officer explained that meetings for the remainder of the year had already been set, however when setting new dates this request could be taken into consideration.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That Councillor Haslam be appointed as Chair of the Scrutiny Committee
2. That Councillor Kaushik be appointed Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Committee
3. That the appointment of a minority Vice Chair be deferred until the following meeting.

## **2.0 Welcome and Apologies and Declarations of Interest**

### **2.1** Councillor Andy Paraskos welcomed Members and apologies were noted.

### **2.2** Declarations of Interest

A declaration of interest was received for Councillor Sean Chaytor who is Chair of the Humber Bridge Board.

## **3.0 Minutes of the Previous Committee and Matters Arising**

### **3.1** The minutes of the meeting of the Transport for the North Scrutiny Committee held on 6 June 2019 were considered.

- 3.2 There were no matters arising from the previous minutes that needed discussion.

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Transport for the North Scrutiny Committee held on 6 June 2019 be approved as a correct record.

#### **4.0 Venue for Future Scrutiny Committee Meetings**

- 4.1 The Legal and Democratic Services Officer provided background as to why the consultation had taken place.

The purpose of the report was to establish Member's feelings on the best location for future Scrutiny meetings. The Legal Services Officer stated that an e-mail had been received from Councillor Haslam on the issue and explained his view. Councillor Haslam felt that central locations should be used in order that travel time should be as short as possible for all Members. He suggested that the meetings should alternate between Manchester and Leeds and that the chosen venues in these cities should be close to the railway station. He proposed the use of technology to aid attendance at meetings, suggesting that Members physically attend two meetings a year whilst the other meetings be done via Skype.

Whilst Councillor Haslam's e-mail suggested use of technology the Legal Services Officer stated that the use of Skype for meetings was not possible due to it being public meeting.

- 4.2 Councillor Chaytor agreed with Councillor Haslam's proposal regarding location and suggested York as another alternative due to its proximity to the station.

An investigation was requested as to why technology such as Skype cannot be used by Members to attend the meetings in order to allow for the highest attendance possible. He requested that clarification be sort from the government and the case be taken to the Secretary of State if necessary.

Other Members were against the use of technology to allow Members to attend as they felt it was disruptive.

- 4.3 The Legal Services Officer explained that as part of a constitutional review using technology for members to attend public meetings was looked at however this never got a far as a White Paper.
- 4.4 Cllr Kaushik backed Councillor Haslam's proposals and stated that the Wellington House in Leeds is ideal. The Legal and Democratic Services Officer explained to Members that going forward this may not be an option as the location will be undergoing renovations.
- 4.5 Councillor Salter stated that the consultation had Preston as a suggested venue, yet this had been omitted from the report's recommendations. He suggested that both Preston and York should also be being considered.

- 4.6 Members were overwhelmingly in favour of Manchester and Leeds being used as the main locations, however Periscope was also suggested which has filming capabilities.
- 4.7 Manchester and Leeds were proposed as the two main venues for the Scrutiny meetings going forward on an alternate basis. This proposal was agreed by Members.

**RESOLVED:** 1. That the report of the Democratic Services Officer be noted.  
2. That Manchester and Leeds be used as the preferred locations for the Transport for the North Scrutiny meetings.

## **5.0 Hull Paragon Station**

- 5.1 The Legal Services Officer introduced the paper and provided background on the issues at Hull Paragon Station. Graham Micklejohn, and Sergeant Jamie McGowan from the British Transport Police and Katherine O'Brien from Transpennine Express were present to answer Members questions.
- 5.2 Councillor Chaytor presented the issues to Members. He explained that the Anlaby Road entrance to Hull Paragon station had been closed to address issues of anti-social behaviour within the station. Following a three month trial closure the entrance has now been reopened however there are plans to reclose it.

It was explained that the initial decision to close the gate was taken without proper consultation with Hull City Council or the travelling public. This action has resulted in a high number of complaints from the public and a petition which has received over 23,000 signatures. The main issues for the public are the fact that the gate is the nearest for private hire taxis and it is also inconveniencing disabled passengers.

- 5.3 Katherine O'Brien from Transpennine Express explained that crime levels across the station had been static but for this entrance where crime increased by 50%. As part of the crime reduction plan Transpennine Express in conjunction with the British Transport Police decided that a closure of the gate would be the best way forward. Evidence also suggested that those who were causing the issues were not passengers but people using the station as a cut through.

Katherine stated that consultation took place with Hull City Council in January and that as an operator they have a duty of care to passengers and staff.

Pictures of items seized at the station were circulated to Members as a snapshot of issues being faced. It was explained that the decision to close the gate had been considered and had not been taken lightly.

- 5.4 The British Transport Police explained that there had been a 28% increase in anti-social behaviour in the station and that the station accounted for 13% of the crime figures across Humberside. Since the gate re-opened

matters had deteriorated with anti-social behaviour increasing by 50% as well as anecdotal evidence from cleaners to support this.

- 5.5 Members were sympathetic about the fact that the gate had been closed but felt that the issue was something that the Committee was unable to deal due to it being a local matter which needs to be considered locally with key partners.
- 5.6 Councillor Chaytor stated that what has happened at Hull Paragon can happen at any station, however the biggest issue is the lack of consultation that occurred when making the decision.
- 5.7 The Chairman thanked Katherine O'Brien, Jamie McGowan and Graham Micklejohn for their attendance.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

## **6.0 Rail Review-Blake -Jones Report**

- 6.1 The Rail North Programme Manager presented his report and advised Members of the recommendations of the review.
- 6.2 Councillor Jones stated that the report does not mention Ministerial and Department for Transport responsibility. He felt it was essential that the issue of responsibility be tackled. He also felt that the Minister should be factored into this and that a detailed discussion should be had with the DfT on the matter.
- Councillor Parish was unsure as to the government's role in this.
- 6.3 Councillor Fletcher highlighted the issue of insufficient capacity due to the significant use of rail. However there are insufficient paths for Rail Freight. He stated that extra capacity was needed so that freight can be taken off the roads and this can only be done if there is extra capacity on rail network.
- 6.6 Members commented that one size does not fit all and that the North is diverse, with different areas having different requirements. Members felt that it was important that the diversity of the north be at the forefront together with the public need for better services as this is developed further.
- 6.8 Councillor Davison stated that the key failure is that train operators and track are separated, and this results in not knowing who is responsible when things go wrong.
- 6.9 Members commented that the report was lacking in information and that a more substantial summary was required.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the report be noted
2. That the report come back to the scrutiny Committee in February 2020

## **7.0 Budget Update - Revision 1-2019/20**

- 7.1 The Finance Director apologised that whilst the update report had been circulated, the appendix (consisting of the Revision 1 Report to the TfN Board) had been omitted in error.
- 7.2 The finance director talked Members through the report and explained that the budget is currently on target and is underspent by £1.2 million. The budget for IST has been revised down by £40 million.

He further explained that whilst the operating expenditure and the NPR and major roads programmes are broadly in line with budget, the IST programme is underspent in the year-to-date and has been revised down significantly through to the year end due to delays caused by the failure to achieve an appropriate level of commitment from bus operators. A report will be taken to the September TfN Board for a decision regarding how to proceed.

- 7.3 Members felt unable to scrutinise the report due to the fact that the relevant information wasn't available to them and requested that it be circulated as soon as possible in order for them to comment.
- 7.4 Cllr Hughes stated that comments could not be made outside of the meeting on the report.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted and the additional information be circulated around Members as soon as possible in order to allow them to scrutinise the report.

***The Committee adjourned for a break at 12:50 and resumed at 13:10.***

## **8.0 Exclusion of Press and Public**

**RESOLVED:** To exclude from the meeting during consideration of item 10 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, there will be disclosure of confidential information as defined in s100A(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

## **9.0 Northern Powerhouse Rail – Update**

- 9.1 The Director of NPR presented an update on developments in the programme. NPR is currently on programme and on budget whilst it is hoped that further funding will be secured for 2020/21. Updates were provided on the current situations at Manchester Piccadilly and Stourton stations.

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**RESOLVED:** That the presentation and update from the Director of NPR be noted.

**10.0 Integrated and Smart Travel - Update (r)**

- 10.1 The Programme Manager for IST provided an update on the current position of the various phases of the programme with a particular focus on the current position of Phase 3 of the programme. An update was provided on developments since the last Transport for the North Board meeting in July.
- 10.2 Following the July Board work has currently been paused on phase 3 of the programme whilst an in depth appraisal on the options is undertaken. The findings and recommendations of this report will be presented to the September Transport for the North Board.
- 10.3 Members provided suggestions on possible options that could be explored and how they felt the programme should move forward.

**RESOLVED:** That the progress on the IST programme be noted.