Transport for the North Board Minutes

Friday 16 April 2021
Virtual

Present:

John Cridland (Chairman)

Attendee	Local Authority
Cllr Gittins	Cheshire West & Chester;
Cllr Richard Burton	East Riding of Yorkshire;
Mayor Andy Burnham	Greater Manchester Combined Authority;
Cllr Michael Green	Lancashire;
Cllr Liam Robinson	Liverpool City Region;
Cllr Paul Stewart	North East Combined Authority;
Cllr Stewart Swinburn	North East Lincolnshire;
Mayor Dan Jarvis	Sheffield City Region;
Cllr Hans Mundry	Warrington;
Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe	West Yorkshire Combined Authority;
Cllr Andy D'Agorne	York;

Rail North Authorities Attendees

Councillor Chris Brewis	Lincolnshire

Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Attendees

Roy Newton	Cheshire & Warrington LEP
Steve Curl	Cumbria LEP
Mark Rawstron	Lancashire LEP
Mark Roberts	Leeds LEP
Lucy Winskell	North East LEP
Peter Kennan	Sheffield City Region LEP

Partners in Attendance:

Graham Botham	Network Rail

Officers in Attendance:

Name	Job Title
Barry White	Chief Executive
Gary Rich	Democratic Services Officer
Julie Openshaw	Head of Legal
Rosemary Lyon	Legal and Democratic Services Officer

Peter Molyneux	Major Roads Director
Tim Wood	Northern Powerhouse Rail Director

Item No: **Item**

1. Welcome & Apologies

1.1 The Chairman welcomed Members and apologies were received from Cllr Scott, Mayor Houchen, Cllr Les, Cllr Mackenzie, Cllr Waltham, Cllr Hannigan, Cllr Forbes and Cllr Sanderson.

1.2 The Chairman paid tribute to His Royal Highness Prince Philip before Members observed a minutes silence in respect of His Royal Highness passing.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. Chief Executive Appointment and Interim Arrangements

3.1 The Chairman informed Members that the Appointment Panel had identified Mr. Martin Tugwell as the preferred candidate for the position of Permanent Chief Executive and Mr. Tim Wood as Interim Chief Executive whilst Mr. Tugwell completes his notice period.

3.2 As a Member of the Appointment Panel Cllr Gittins informed Members that the interview process had been robust and that following the second interview the Panel was unanimous in its decision to recommend Mr. Tugwell for appointment. She commented that Mr. Tugwell had made a number of commitments during the interview process and is keen that these commitments be delivered. These comments were echoed by fellow Panel member Cllr Brewis.

3.3 Members' comments were supportive of the appointment of Mr. Tugwell on a permanent basis and Mr. Wood on an interim basis.

3.4 Members agreed with Cllr Robinson who commented that at this critical time for the organisation Mr. Tugwell will need to make an immediate impact. He suggested that one to one meetings with each of the constituent authorities should be arranged as soon as practical and that early objectives should be set for him, suggesting that the General Purposes Committee could lead on this with a report being submitted to the next TfN Board meeting in order to shape these objectives.

3.5 The Chairman explained that Mr. Tugwell has committed to meeting with all Board Members and where possible he will look to do this prior to taking up post.

3.6 Mr. Mark Rawstron highlighted the support that LEPs have received from the current Chief Executive and requested that this continue under the new Chief Executive.

The Chairman assured Mr. Rawstron that this matter was discussed at interview.

3.7 Members expressed their thanks to the Appointment Panel for all its hard work during the process and also thanked the current Chief Executive for all his hard work over the last three years. Members wished Mr. White well for the future.

3.8 The Chairman outlined the thorough nature of the interview process and thanked the Stakeholder Panel for their its work and wished Mr Tugwell and Mr. Wood well.

Resolved:

1) That the TfN Board approves the appointment of Mr. Martin Tugwell as permanent Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service subject to completion of all required pre-employment and medical clearances;
2) That the TfN Board will consider and agree the required management arrangements for the permanent and Interim Chief Executive roles, noting the most pressing matter is setting of probationary objectives and performance review during this period;
3) That the TfN Board approves the appointment of Tim Wood as acting Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service between 21 April and 15 May and Interim Chief Executive with effect from 16 May 2021 until such time the next permanent Chief Executive commences employment.

4. Governance Report

4.1 Members received the report from the Head of Legal. The Chairman explained that the report was for noting and that Members would be updated as the legal proceedings move forward.

4.2 Cllr Hinchcliffe raised concern about the fact that the Board maybe unable to have proper debate going forward.

The Chairman commented that should the Integrated Rail Plan (IRP) be published in late May and formal meetings be unable to take place virtually then he envisages that the meeting on 9 June will be a consultative Board call to discuss the IRP and any other matters. Members' attention was drawn to the provision in the Constitution that allows the Chief Executive to make delegated decisions on behalf of the Board should this be required.

Resolved:

That the Board notes the position in relation to virtual Board and Committee meetings and requests that the position be kept under review.

5. Any Business Which the Chair is Satisfied is Urgent

5.1 Following a briefing meeting for Rail North Committee Members Mayor Burnham raised the issue of the May 2022 timetable and related infrastructure issues. Members then discussed the issues raised at length.

Resolved:
That the update be noted.

6. Exclusion of Press and Public

6.1 There were no matters of urgent business.

7. Any Business Which the Chair is Satisfied is Urgent

7.1 There were no matters of urgent business.