
TRANSPORT FOR THE NORTH

**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Bill Dixon, Leader
Responsible Director – Ada Burns, Chief Executive**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of the report is to invite Cabinet to give consent to the Secretary of State, to enable Transport for the North to become a Sub –National Transport Body.

Summary

2. In 2014 Local Transport Authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships from the north of England came together in partnership with the Department for Transport and the national transport agencies to form Transport for the North (TfN).
3. Since the development of the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) the lead role on TfN for the Tees Valley has been through the TVCA. The TVCA is one of 19 member authorities (both local authorities and combined authorities) that is represented on the TfN Partnership Board. The Board also has representation from the Department of Transport, Network Rail, Highways England and HS2 Ltd.
4. TfN has been working with member authorities and the Department for Transport to become the first sub national transport body. This will formally constitute TfN as a corporate body with its own functions and powers. As a statutory body TfN will be able to put forward an evidence based business case for investment and speak with a single voice on behalf of the northern region to central government.
5. On the 27 July 2017 the TVCA Cabinet gave consideration to the incorporation of TfN as a sub-national transport body and agreed to give its consent for regulations to be laid before Parliament to enable this to happen.
6. Until very recently it had been the position of Government that consent to the making of the regulations that will lead to the incorporation TfN, was required only from the 19 member authorities of TfN (in our case the TVCA). The position of the Department for Transport has now changed (based on advice from Parliamentary Council) and they are now additionally requiring consent from all highway authorities within relevant combined authority areas. So the consent of this Council is now also required.

Recommendation

7. It is recommended that Cabinet :-

- (a) Consent to the incorporation of Transport for the North as a Sub–National Transport Body.
- (b) Agree a delegation to the Chief Executive to confirm to the Secretary of State the giving of consent by this Council and to take such other steps that are required to bring the creation of Transport for the North as a Sub–National Transport Body into being.

Reasons

8. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons :-

- (a) In order to help the creation of Transport for the North as a Sub –National Transport Body.
- (b) To ensure the Tees Valley authorities via the Tees Valley Combined Authority maximise their potential to influence and positively shape the future transport services across Northern England.

Ada Burns
Chief Executive

Background Papers

TVCA Cabinet Report, 27.7.17, Transport for the North, Incorporation as a Sub-National Transport Authority

Luke Swinhoe: Extension 5490

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications.
Health and Well Being	There are no issues relating to health and well-being, which this report needs to address.
Carbon Impact	A sub national transport body will help in the provision of better connectivity between places for work, business, leisure and other journey purposes.
Diversity	This report has no implications under the equalities legislation.
Wards Affected	The recommended decision does not affect any ward more than another.
Groups Affected	Transport users.
Budget and Policy Framework	This does not affect the Budget and Policy Framework.
Key Decision	Yes.
Urgent Decision	This is an urgent decision given the Parliamentary timetable and lead in time for

	laying of regulations before Parliament. Consent is required by mid-October.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The creation of a sub national transport body will help Darlington, given its location and transport networks to gain from better connectivity. This will have positive impacts for the economy and in addition to social benefits.
Efficiency	Regional collaboration should help in delivering better outcomes.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Additional Information

9. Further detail is set out in the report that was considered by the TVCA, to which Members are referred. <https://teesvalley-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Item-9-Transport-for-the-North-Report.pdf>

Constituent Authorities

10. The 19 member authorities who are members of TfN are as follows:-

Greater Manchester Combined Authority
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
North East Combined Authority
Sheffield City Region Combined Authority
Tees Valley Combined Authority
West Yorkshire Combined Authority
Cumbria County Council
Lancashire County Council
North Yorkshire County Council
Blackburn with Darwen Unitary Authority
Blackpool Unitary Authority
Cheshire East Unitary Authority
Cheshire West and Chester Unitary Authority
Warrington Unitary Authority
City of York Unitary Authority
East Riding of Yorkshire Unitary Authority
Hull Unitary Authority
North Lincolnshire Unitary Authority
North East Lincolnshire Unitary Authority

Powers and Functions

11. The powers and functions which will be given to TfN are as follows.

- (a) To prepare a Transport Strategy for the Combined Area in accordance with section 102 of the Local Transport Act 2008;
- (b) To provide advice to the Secretary of State about the exercise of the transport functions in the Combined Area;
- (c) To be a Statutory Partner with the Secretary of State in both road and rail investment processes and to be responsible for setting the objectives and priorities for strategic road and rail investments in the Combined Area;
- (d) To be consulted in relation to rail franchise agreements for services to and from or within its area;
- (e) To co-manage with the Secretary of State the Trans Pennine Express and Northern Rail Franchises;
- (f) To co-ordinate the carrying out of specified transport functions that are exercisable by its different Constituent Authorities with a view to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the carrying out of those functions;
- (g) To promote and co-ordinate road transport schemes;
- (h) To make proposals to the Secretary of State for the transfer of transport functions to TfN;
- (i) To make other proposals to the Secretary of State about the role and functions of TfN
- (j) To undertake Smart Ticketing within the Combined Area;
- (k) To promote and oppose local or personal bills in Parliament;
- (l) To pay Capital Grants to support the funding and delivery of joint projects;
- (m) To exercise powers to acquire land and to construct highways

12. In carrying out these functions, TfN will be a statutory partner of the Department for Transport, devolving responsibilities from the Secretary of State and speaking to the Department for Transport with a single voice for the North. It is not intended that TfN should take responsibilities away from the Constituent Authorities, instead TfN will exercise a coordinating role in relation to specified transport functions and continue to work in partnership with members. It is not the intention that TfN becomes a Highway Authority.

Legal Implications

13. The Local Transport Act 2008 (section 102) enables the creation of a sub-national transport body for a particular area, providing that the constituent authorities have consented to the making of regulations to create such a body.

Financial Implications

14. Funding for TfN will be provided by the Secretary of State. No decision to require financial contributions from the constituent authorities (in our case TVCA) can be made without the agreement of each member authority.