

## CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**14 JANUARY 2016**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

### **CABINET DECISION**

**Regeneration and Transport – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Nigel Cooke**

**Rail Franchise announcements for Northern and TransPennine routes**

1. Summary

This report updates Cabinet on the recent franchising announcements and how the proposals will affect the Tees Valley. Two rail franchises in the region have been announced and the Government intends to award Northern franchise to Arriva Rail North Ltd, and TransPennine Express franchise to First Trans Pennine Express Ltd to operate from April 2016.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet is asked:

1. To note the content of the report.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

No decision is required the report is for information.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;

- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

**Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.**

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**CABINET DECISION**

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**SUMMARY**

This report updates Cabinet on the recent franchising announcements and how the proposals will affect the Tees Valley. Two rail franchises in the region have been announced and the Government intends to award the Northern franchise to Arriva Rail North Ltd, and the TransPennine Express franchise to First Trans Pennine Express Ltd to operate from April 2016.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Cabinet is asked:

1. To note the content of the report.

**DETAIL**

1. In response to a 2012 DfT consultation on rail decentralisation, Local Transport Authorities (LTAs) across the north of England have formed the Rail North organisation and it proposes in partnership with the Department for Transport (DfT) to manage the services operated by the Northern and TransPennine Express franchise commences from their renewal in April 2016.
2. The franchise announcements have now been made with the award of the Northern franchise to Arriva Rail North Ltd, and TransPennine Express franchise to First Trans Pennine Express Ltd. The Department for Transport has made the award as until April 2016 they are solely responsible for the management of the franchise. The Northern franchise is to operate for 9 years with a possible 1 year extension and the TransPennine franchise is to operate for 7 years with a possible 2 year extension.
3. The key benefits of the new franchises are as follows:
4. **Northern Franchise**
5. **Middlesbrough to Newcastle**
  - There will be a half-hourly service between Middlesbrough, Stockton and Newcastle, providing 30 trains per day in each direction. The current service is generally hourly.
  - At least 10 services per day will be Northern Connect services, operated by fully-refurbished, air conditioned Class 158 trains.

- Today's service levels will be preserved at intermediate stations, but with earlier first trains and later last trains along the route.

#### 6. **Middlesbrough to Saltburn**

- There will be an improved service frequency in the evenings, with two additional services per day leaving Middlesbrough after 19:00.
- Additional services will call at intermediate stations (South Bank, Redcar Central, Redcar East, Longbeck and Marske).
- There will be more seats on refurbished trains, as all Pacers are withdrawn.

#### 7. **Middlesbrough to Whitby**

- An additional morning service will be provided from Whitby, to arrive in Middlesbrough by 08:30. At present the first arrival in Middlesbrough is too late to be useful for commuters. This will benefit all intermediate stations between Whitby and Nunthorpe. The franchisee will also work with the local community to explore the scope to provide a new evening service from Middlesbrough to Whitby.
- As part of the planning approval for a substantial new potash mine in the area, the developer is required to fund infrastructure enhancements that will enable an increase in service frequency between Middlesbrough and Whitby.
- Sunday services will operate all year round, with effect from winter 2017 to 2018. At present there is no Sunday service during the winter months.

#### 8. **Bishop Auckland to Darlington and Middlesbrough**

- There will be a full hourly service between Bishop Auckland and Darlington, giving 15 trains per day in each direction – 5 more than today. At least 13 of these will operate as through services to/from Middlesbrough.
- All services will call at intermediate stations (North Road, Heighington, Newton Aycliffe and Shildon).
- Improved service frequency in the evenings, with two additional services per day arriving in Middlesbrough from Darlington after 19:00. These additional services will call at intermediate stations (Thornaby, Eaglescliffe, Allens West and Dinsdale).
- Sunday services will be hourly between Bishop Auckland and Darlington, with 12 trains per day – 5 more than now.

#### 9. **TransPennine Franchise**

- Two additional services per day to Leeds, Manchester and Manchester Airport from Middlesbrough.

- Station improvements, with over £30m of investment, including ticket vending machines and 45 unstaffed stations will be staffed for at least part of the day.
- Seven-day a week service - major uplift in Sunday services 9am to 7pm
- Brand new 125 mph trains, with:
  - more reliable services
  - improved comfort for long-distance passengers
  - free Wi-Fi
  - access to power sockets from every seat
  - on-board cycle storage
  - entertainment and real-time journey information to smartphones and tablets
  - hearing loops

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10. There are no financial implications, report is for information only.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

11. There are no legal implications as the report is for information only. Members are reminded that a Members Agreement and constitution has been agreed that sets out the legal implications of Rail North which has been agreed by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

12. The report is for information only.

## **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

### **Economic Regeneration and Transport**

13. The impact of the new franchises will contribute to a sustainable transport network throughout the Borough and wider region.

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

14. The report is for information only.

## **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

15. To date consultation has been restricted to the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Transport for information.

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Education related?

No

Background Papers

None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

All

Property

N/A