

North East Freight Partnership - Rail Partner Group

Date Held 16th October 2018

Venue Lynemouth Day Centre, Lynemouth,
Northumberland

List of Attendees and Organisation

John Bourn (Chair)	North East Combined Authority
Paul Davison	AECOM
Ann Wilson	Tees Valley Combined Authority
Eddie Peat	Harworth Estates
Andrew Carmichael	SENRUG
Peter Walker	RailFuture NE
Charlie Nettle	AV Dawson
David Marshall	Sunderland City Council
Keith Taylor	Northumberland County Council
Gendao Li	Northumbria University
Claire Zhuo	Northumbria University
John Holwell	Oxford Rail Strategies
Gordon Scott	Nissan
Walt Cartwright	DB Schenker
Mike Page	AECOM
Fin Gregory	TXM
Trevor Watson	RailFuture NE
Jeff Screeton	Intercity Rail

Apologies

John Cram	North Tyneside Council
Ed Dunn	Network Rail
Karen McCartney	Career Ready
Mike Hogg	Rail Freight Group
Derek Gittens	Nexus
Tony Walker	RailFuture NE
Morag White	WSP
Ruth Caborne	Stockton Riverside College
Michael Duffy	Stockton Riverside College
Ian Coe	NECA
Peter Ollivere	Durham County Council
Tom Zunder	Newrail

Agenda Item 2: Minutes of last meeting

John Holwell requested that his name be added to the list of attendees. Otherwise the minutes were accepted as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

Agenda Item 3 Eddie Peat, Harworth Estates

Eddie provided an update on Harworth Estates' rail connected sites in the North East at Butterwell, Wardley and Lynnfield Park. He stated that an application to extract coal from the Butterwell site was currently subject to a High Court challenge, having previously been rejected.

He provided an overview of Gateway Northumberland, a comprehensive plan for the

regeneration of Lynnfield Park, including housing, leisure and employment aspects.

He explained that there is a protected rail head on the site. John Holwell inquired as to the potential for extending the rail line into Lynemouth to provide passenger services. Eddie stated that Harworth would support this intervention as long as it did not impinge on freight movements.

The group was then taken on a tour of Lynnfield Park, where the legacy rail connections and existing employment activities were identified. The number of people employed by organisations on the site has increased significantly in recent years and there is an aspiration to grow this. Eddie stated there had been interest in the former smelter site and its potential for linking directly to the power station.

Agenda Item 4: Jeff Screeton, Intercity Rail Freight

Jeff introduced the InterCity offer and how it works. Couriers collect from customers using electric vehicles and cargo bikes. Shipments are assigned to relevant train service and loaded onto train at nearest outbound station or hub. Couriers then collect from train and deliver to customers in electric vehicles and cargo bikes and all shipments tracked throughout the journey in real time.

Jeff cited a very competitive delivery performance figure of 99.87% and strong load security.

Jeff also spoke about the potential for utilising redundant Eurostar trains that could link Spain to the UK as well as looking into utilising suburban light rail such as the Tyne and Wear Metro.

Jeff highlighted the prevalence of empty seats on off-peak trains, which represent the equivalent of hundreds of HGVs (384 in Newcastle alone) and greater numbers of other freight vehicles.

Jeff stated he was keen to work with stakeholders to pilot services and demonstrate their value, identifying locations and discussing options.

Agenda Item 5: Fin Gregory, TXM Rail

Fin Gregory provided an introduction to TXM Rail and its work in the North East. He explained that TXM Rail is a contracting division of TXM Plant, which manages and supports rail projects throughout the UK. They undertake work relating to Permanent Way, Asset Management, Overhead Line and Design Management, amongst other areas.

Fin explained about the challenges of undertaking permanent way work in an urban environment (including the low clearance on the metro system) and the need to consider the impact on local residents and the operational railway as well as constrained sites resulting in issues associated with the necessary compounds.

TXM Rail undertook its first work for Nexus in 2014 and was awarded Jesmond Track Renewals in January 2015 and has undertaken Permanent Way work including Tynemouth-Northumberland Park, Chillingham Road- St James and Northumberland Park-South Gosforth.

TXM is tendering for a remodelling of the Gosforth Depot, which is required to accommodate new rolling stock.

Fin also highlighted the community work TXM undertakes in the region, including the installation of flower beds, support for George Stephenson Museum, provision of school

trips and support for career days and community centre drop ins.

Agenda Item 6: Update from Walt Cartwright, DB Schenker

Walt explained how it had been a difficult 18 months for DB Schenker, with the loss of coal traffic negatively affecting the business and leading to redundancies. However, he felt that it had now stabilised and there was an opportunity for growth.

He stressed the importance of gauge clearance work and felt that the automotive section was one area the business could grow into.

Agenda Item 7- Date and Venue of Next meeting

Likely March 2019 date and venue TBC.