

Project:	Tyne and Wear Freight Partnership	Job No/Ref:
Purpose:	November Rail Partner Group Meeting	Date held: 18th November 2014
Held at:	Newcastle College Rail Academy, Gateshead	Made by: Mike Page
Present:	John Bourn (JB) (Chair) Regional Transport Team Andrew Carmichael (AC) SENRUG Chris Owen (CO) Port of Blyth Kevin Cobb (KC) Alex Smiles Kate Brunton (KB) Alex Smiles Keith Taylor (KT) Northumberland County Council (NCC) Eddie Peat (EP) Harworth Estates Gordon Carr (GCa) CILT Martin Murphy (MMu) NECTAR James Farnell-Smith Nexus Mike Page (MP) AECOM Stuart Corker (SC) Gateshead Council Paul Davison (PD) AECOM John Holwell (JHo) independent Jim Hubbard (JHu) Rail Academy Marc McPake (MMcP) Rail Academy Tony Walker (TW) Railfuture North East Marin Marinov (MMa) NewRail Anna Fraszczyk (AF) NewRail Dewan Islam (DI) NewRail Peter Ollivere (PO) Durham County Council David Marshall (DM) Sunderland City Council	Distribution: All
Apologies:	Paul Blackburn Independent Trevor Watson SENRUG Mark Hassan Port of Sunderland Malcolm Bingham FTA Lee Davies Railfuture NE Peter Wood UK Coal John Cram North Tyneside Council Jonathan Bell Network Rail	

No.	Item	Action By
	<p>Introductions</p> <p>JB opened the meeting thanking the Newcastle Rail Academy for inviting the Rail Freight Partner Group to their brand new facilities. Introductions were requested.</p> <p>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising</p>	

T +44 (0)161 927 8286
 F +44 (0)161 927 8299
 E-mail: paul.davison@aecom.com
 www.aecom.com

AECOM House
 179 Moss Lane
 Altrincham
 WA15 8FH
 United Kingdom

JB advised that, in respect of Item 5 (Butterwell Disposal Point), the written paper had not yet been submitted to the County Council as further discussion and modifications were required in order for it to be endorsed by partners.

Subject to this, the minutes of the May 2014 meeting were agreed by the Group.

Introduction to the Newcastle College Rail Academy (NCRA)

JH and MMcP talked about why the Academy was developed, initially working with the Skills Academy on rail engineering, however are looking towards all aspects of rail in the future. There are significant numbers leaving the industry and NCRA want to attract young people in the north east into the rail industry and to be able to infill the jobs.

The first year target was 85 students, 72 have settled in including one female student and 15 mature students. The methodology for educating the students is primarily hands on experience and an NXL certificate comparable to an 'A' level. The Academy can accommodate 250 students, ensuring capacity for growth.

JH asked if the Academy had links with major companies in the industry. MMcP said there were links with Network Rail, although other organisations were keen to take the best performing students.

Strategic Rail Freight Interchange

PO introduced the conclusions of his research into 'Where is the most sustainable site in the North East Local Enterprise Partnership Area to locate a Strategic Rail Freight Interchange'? He explained this was an academic study not connected with the local authority.

There were six sites considered: Follingsby/Wardley, Turndale, Newton Park, Butterwell Disposal Point, Washington and Tyne Yard. Their suitability was reviewed against three key criteria: Economic, Environmental and Social.

The conclusion of the research is that none of the sites are ideal based on current conditions. Follingsby and Wardley scored the highest but are not currently connected to the rail network. Tyne Yard scored second highest but has real problems with traffic congestion at peak times. It also highlighted that Washington ranked third highest but also has no rail access.

In the event that the Leamside Line was reinstated, the accessibility results would change and Turndale would become the highest-scoring site.

T +44 (0)161 927 8286
F +44 (0)161 927 8299
E-mail: paul.davison@aecom.com
www.aecom.com

AECOM House
179 Moss Lane
Altrincham
WA15 8FH
United Kingdom

TW asked if there was a requirement for two interchanges and MMA enquired if the research looked at ports. PO replied that he had only looked at inland sites, although ports will have a great impact. DM said he would like to use this research as a discussion point between colleagues. He also suggested that Nexus has a strategic plan to utilise existing lines for expansion of the Metro network.

PO said he would try to circulate the research to group members, subject to the approval of the University of Newcastle where he carried out the research.

PO

(Post-meeting note: Permission has been granted for the dissertation to be circulated and it is being sent out alongside these notes).

RailNewcastle

MMA discussed the plans for the school. It was to be a multi discipline approach. Feedback has been very good and he mentioned the input from the Tyne and Wear Freight Partnership. MP and JB were presented with the Transport Problem Volume 9 special edition publication summarising the research of 2014, in thanks for the support of the Partnership.

MMA said over the last three years the scheme has involved 300 students and the next conference will be on July 15th -17th which is supported by Rail UniNet and the Rail Students Projects. Rail UniNet specialises in railway education and research managed by Newrail and UIC.

The current Masters course in Railfreight and Logistics has three streams: operational, technical and asset and rail marketing.

Newrail is setting up a dual Master of Science degree in rail transport logistics. He stated that Newrail will be delighted to disseminate findings published in May 2015 to the next rail freight partner group meeting in June 2015.

Local Rail Opportunities affecting Tyne and Wear

Port of Blyth

CO said there was no further updates from the port and they were running 3-5 trains daily

Ashington, Blyth and Tyne Line

KT stated that a stakeholder's event was to be held in May 2015 to put the options forward.

Grip 1 is now completed, 2 and 3 to be commenced following board approval in January 2015.

The business case has been refreshed according to the NCC Core Strategy which they are committed to fund – they are also exploring private sector funding.

Port of Sunderland

T +44 (0)161 927 8286
F +44 (0)161 927 8299
E-mail: paul.davison@aecom.com
www.aecom.com

AECOM House
179 Moss Lane
Altrincham
WA15 8FH
United Kingdom

A long standing commitment to reopen the line to the port has been honoured with engineers being engaged to carry out bridge inspections. The rail lines have not been used since 1995 and the port will re-commission their own locomotives (Pinky and Perky) which were previously mothballed.

Working together with Network Rail putting the lines back into use will support the local economy and will promote rail freight in the region

Cross-Boundary Issues and Challenges

JB outlined that Rail North is a partnership between local authorities across the north and the DFT to devolve decision making, deliver more capacity on the network and to improve services.

The latest details of the Rail North proposals for regional rail devolution to the north can be accessed on the website <http://www.railnorth.org/news/>

JB handed out an extract of the final version of the long term rail strategy 2014 and a short update on Rail North.

ORR Research findings on freight

Paul Davison presented on the findings of the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) Study, which was undertaken last year and investigated users perception of the rail freight industry and in particular the ORR. It demonstrated that confidence in the industry was generally high, however knowledge of the ORR was limited and rail freight was not as well perceived as road freight by respondents.

Any Other Business

JB advised that anyone wishing to access the North East Rail Statement could do so on the ANEC website. Follow the link below:

<http://www.northeastcouncils.gov.uk/curo/downloaddoc.asp?id=672>

AC highlighted that the business case for the Ashington Blyth and Tyne line ABT line can be found on the SENRUG website.

JB asked the group to review the Terms of Reference for the Rail Partner Group and let us know your thoughts.

Guided Tour of the Rail Academy

JH and MMcP took two groups around the facility to show them the progress made in the development of the site, this was very informative and gave an insight into what the academy is aspiring to achieve.

Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was scheduled as 23rd June 2015, venue TBC.

All

MP / JB /
PD