

NORTH EAST JOINT TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
RECORD OF DELEGATED DECISION BY OFFICER

1. Subject of Decision

Strategic Outline Business Case work for a 7th path on the East Coast Main Line

2. Delegation Reference (Refer to Meeting Minute Number or Delegation Scheme in the Constitution or Decision Notice)

Minute number 46 of the Joint Transport Committee meeting held on 26 October 2021.

This decision has been delegated to one or more officer(s) under:

(a) A specific express authorisation was given to the Proper Officer for Transport (Managing Director, Transport North East) by the Joint Transport Committee on 26.10.2021 to make and enter into appropriate contracts in relation to the Strategic Outline Business Case work for a 7th path on the East Coast Main Line project after specified consultation.

(b) a general authorisation to take such decisions **and**, the effect of the decision is to:

(i) grant a permission or licence;

(ii) affect the rights of an individual; or

(iii) award a contract or incur expenditure which, in either case, materially affects the Authority's financial position.

3. Name and Title of Decision Maker

Tobyn Hughes, Managing Director, Transport North East

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4. Details of any Conflict of Interest and any Dispensation granted in respect of such Interest

None

5. Executive Summary

In order to consider and address the East Coast Main Line (ECML) infrastructure and congestion issues in our area, Transport North East (TNE) on behalf of the JTC has agreed with Network Rail and Transport for the North (TfN) to part fund a Strategic Outline Business Case work for a 7th path on the East Coast Main Line.

6. Decision(s)

6(a)

Following consultation with the Chair of the Joint Transport Committee, agreed a cost sharing arrangement with Network Rail and Transport for the North (TfN), in respect of a Strategic Outline Business Case for the East Coast Main Line as described in paragraph 2.1(iv) of the report to the JTC on 26.10.21 entitled Transport Plan Progress Report, including placing an order with Network Rail for the study for £120,000 and entering into an agreement to recoup £60,000 from TfN to be met from existing budgets.

7. Alternative options considered

None

8. Reasons for the Decision(s)

The East Coast Main Line (ECML) is a vital artery for North East England, carrying commuters, tourists, business travellers, students and freight. All of the other rail lines in our area are linked to the ECML and thus impacted by any changes to it.

On the ECML between Northallerton and Newcastle there is only one track running north and one running south. Consequently, this vital rail artery is narrow and increasingly clogged: crammed onto these lines are inter-city trains, local services and slow-moving freight. This bottleneck in our network means that the system is at capacity today and cannot accommodate further growth without sacrificing existing connectivity.

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A Strategic Outline Business Case work for a 7th path on the East Coast Main Line will consider and address the ECML infrastructure and congestion issues in our area.

9. Contact Officer

Tobyn Hughes
Managing Director, Transport North East
Tobyn.hughes@nexus.org.uk

10. Date of Publication

19 November 2021

11. Date of Call-In Deadline

N/A

12. Implementation Date

19 November 2021

Signature of the Decision Maker:



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Please return the following to Emma Reynard in Democratic Services (emmareynard@gateshead.gov.uk) **within 2 working days of the decision having been taken.**

- A Word version of the completed Delegated Decision report
- A Word version of the completed Delegated Decision Record
- A scanned PDF version of the completed and signed Delegated Decision Record

The Delegated Decision will be published by Democratic Services within three working days of it being taken, and it will then be open to call-in for a further five working days.

Decisions must not be implemented until the call-in process is completed. Democratic Services officers will advise report authors and decision makers of the relevant deadlines for call-in.