Date: 31 May 2019

Subject: Williams Review and Rail Prospectus

Report of: Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, Portfolio Lead for Transport, Bob Morris, Chief Operating Officer, TfGM

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This is a report to seek members’ approval on the draft submission to the Williams review of rail, and to highlight the emerging vision for GM rail as part of a city region integrated transport system.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Members are requested to approve the submission to the Williams review of rail to meet the review submission deadline of Friday 31 May 2019; and

To note the emerging vision for GM rail as part of a city region integrated transport system.

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Risk Management – N/A
Legal Considerations – N/A
Financial Consequences – N/A

Number of attachments included in the report:

Draft GM response to the Williams Review – To follow.
**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** N/A

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<td>Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution</td>
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<td>Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td>TfGMC</td>
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1. **Introduction and Background**

1.1 The GM rail network already plays an important role in supporting growth, but investment has not kept pace with growth. There is a lack of resilience in the network which means that any disruption is easily magnified and a lack of capacity in terms of both track and trains.

1.2 Electrification programmes, delivery of the Northern Hub, and new Northern and TransPennine franchise specifications should have effectively doubled the capacity on our suburban rail network. However, elements of the Northern Hub programme have not been delivered, electrification programmes have been delayed or paused, and franchisees have failed to deliver on the transformational timetables promised with new rolling stock also delayed.

1.3 The culmination of these issues was the chaos on northern railways suffered by passengers last year following the failure of the May 2018 timetable which is estimated to have cost the economy £38m.

1.4 The Government’s Williams Review of rail is an opportunity drive much needed industry change. For Greater Manchester it is an opportunity to create a rail network that helps deliver our vision for a fully integrated transport network to support inclusive and sustainable growth.

1.5 To do this GM needs a rail network that is integrated with the rest of the transport network, which is more accountable to local people and more responsive to local priorities, providing a reliable and attractive alternatives to car travel to meet our target for 50% (currently 39%) of journeys to be made by non-car modes by 2040.

1.6 This is likely to mean greater local control to ensure rail serves our communities. GM’s record of success with Metrolink shows that you can deliver high quality services when those who design and deliver them are close and accountable to the customers they serve.

1.7 The GM Rail Prospectus will build on the Williams Review response to further articulate our short, medium and long term vision for rail in the city region. The Prospectus will be submitted to leaders in the summer for review with a view to it being ready for party conference season.

2. **Williams Review**

2.1 The call for evidence for the Williams Review closes on May 31 2019. TfGM has drafted a response to this call on behalf of the GMCA, which is to follow. Key points are:

- Rail must play a better role in rebalancing the economy;

- Decision-making must be made in the right place to serve communities and places (and by inference, advocating greater devolution);
• The rail industry is extremely difficult to navigate for both passengers and their representatives – reform must address this; and

• Reform must facilitate better multi-modal decision-making/interventions.

2.2 To further develop the points raised in the review response, and to set out the pathway for achieving change in Greater Manchester over the longer term, we trail our ‘Rail Prospectus’.

3. Rail Prospectus

3.1 Leading on from our submission to the Rail Review, the Rail Prospectus will explain steps to achieving ‘GM Rail’. This is a long term move towards developing a set of local rail services, complementing other transport services in the city region, to serve the people of Greater Manchester.

3.2 The steps to achieve this will involve a rethink (and potential re-mapping) of existing franchised services. In addition to the substantial work needed to deliver this, further behind the scenes activity will be needed to establish procurement authority for services (potentially in conjunction with TfN), and fair funding settlements.

3.3 Supporting and stretching Network Rail’s own re-organisations to regional devolution will also form part of the Prospectus.

4. Next Steps

4.1 Subject to members’ comments and approval, the response will be submitted to the review to meet the submission deadline of Friday 31 May.