

# Economic Development Sub Committee

Item No.....

<b>Report title:</b>	<b>Norfolk Rail Group</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>21 January 2016</b>
<b>Responsible Chief Officer:</b>	<b>Tom McCabe</b>
<b>Strategic impact</b> This Committee makes appointments to the Norfolk Rail Group, which acts as a special interest group to support the strategic case for improvements to rail for the benefit of the county. Infrastructure is one of the Council's strategic priorities.	

## Executive summary

This report sets out a proposal that the terms of reference be amended to remove the requirement for the Chairman of this Sub-Committee to chair the Rail Group and that in future the Group shall elect its Chairman from amongst the four elected Members nominated by Norfolk County Council

### Recommendation

- **That Members review and agree the proposed amendments to the terms of reference of the Norfolk Rail Group, as set out below and in Appendix A.**

## 1. Proposal

- 1.1 This Committee makes appointments to the Norfolk Rail Group, which acts as a special interest group to support the strategic case for improvements to rail for the benefit of the county. Infrastructure is one of the Council's strategic priorities
- 1.2 The Terms of Reference of this Group were reviewed and agreed by this Committee in January 2015 in the light of the change of Governance and currently state that the Chairman of this Sub Committee shall be a member of the Rail Policy Group (RPG) and shall also act as its Chairman. In addition to the Chairman of this Sub Committee, the County Council currently appoints three additional elected Members
- 1.3 Your Chairman considers that the requirement for the Chairman of this Sub-Committee to be a Chairman of the RPG is unnecessarily restrictive as there may well be another County Council nominee who would be more appropriate.
- 1.4 Set out the appendix to this report are minor suggested "track changes" amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Norfolk Rail Group for Member's consideration.

## 2. Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## 3. Issues, risks and innovation

3.1 There are no other relevant implications to be considered by members.

### Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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## **Norfolk Rail Group Terms of Reference**

The name of the group shall be the Norfolk Rail Group. It shall act as a special interest group to support the strategic case for improvements to rail for the benefit of the county.

The Group shall achieve its objective by:

- Supporting Norfolk County Council, the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEP
- Developing clear evidence-based advice and business cases to support the strategic case or as requested by Norfolk County Council or LEPs
- Co-ordinating support of local interests to assist in providing evidence or other help to support advocacy
- Forming strategic alliances along rail corridors, including with other LEPs, local authorities, the rail industry, communities and other advocacy groups.

Meetings will not be advertised as a public meeting or as a meeting of Norfolk County Council. Individuals or representatives of outside organisations will be permitted to attend meetings and participate in discussions at the discretion of the chairperson.

Membership of the Group shall comprise:

- Four elected Members (one of whom shall be the Chairman of the Economic Development Sub-Committee) nominated by Norfolk County Council
- One elected Member nominated by each District Council within Norfolk
- One elected Member nominated by Waveney District Council
- One elected Member nominated by East Cambridgeshire District Council
- One elected Member nominated by the Broads Authority
- One elected Member from the board of Community Rail Norfolk
- One Officer from each local authority to support the elected Members.

Each elected Member of the Group shall be entitled to one vote.

The Chairman shall be elected by the Rail Group from amongst the elected Members nominated by Norfolk County Council

The vice-chairperson shall be elected by the Rail Group

The Chairperson of the Group shall have a casting vote

Nominated substitutes may attend and elected Member substitutes may vote.

Non-voting participants from the following organisations are invited to attend each meeting:

- Network Rail
- Train operating companies running the Greater Anglia franchise, the King's Lynn to London King's cross route and the Liverpool to Norwich route

- A representative from each of the Local Enterprise Partnerships in Norfolk (New Anglia, and Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough)
- A representative from an organisation representing people with disabilities
- Rail interest groups including Passenger Focus, Railfuture, Fen Line Users' Association, Norwich to Peterborough Rail Users' Group.

Representatives from other organisations and sectors (including MPs, private rail operators, freight interests and other local authorities) will be invited to participate in discussions where relevant items are included on the agenda.

A report from the Norfolk Rail Group will be taken to the relevant Norfolk County Council Committee or Sub Committee for consideration or decision if required.

The Norfolk Rail Group will normally meet at least twice each year (spring and autumn).

Meetings will normally be held at County Hall. Each organisation represented at the meetings will be expected to pay all expenses incurred by their representatives.