

CORPORATE SERVICES AND ECONOMIC GROWTH OSC

REPORTS TO THE CABINET

11 FEBRUARY 2020

The Northumberland Line - Rail Network Enhancements Pipeline Progress

Councillor Richard Wearmouth, Cabinet Member for Economic Development presented this report to the Committee on 10 February 2020. Stuart McNaughton, Strategic Transport Manager was also in attendance to respond to comments and queries from members.

The Committee sought clarification on a number of issues arising from the report. Members made the following key points:

- it was hoped that should government funding be confirmed in the Budget, it would enable the project to be progressed in a single phase;
- cleaner technologies such as electrification, would be utilised where appropriate;
- work was being undertaken to exploit economic development opportunities along the rail line. It was anticipated that each station would provide a 'hub' to attract development, and
- although there was uncertainty regarding who would operate the rail service, it was important to get the ticketing regime right to ensure its success.

The Committee agreed that, subject to the comments set out above, the recommendations to Cabinet be supported.

COUNCILLOR DAVID BAWN

CHAIRMAN