

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

Date: 26 July 2018

ITEM 6

Motions

Notice has been received of the following motions from Members of the Council to be put to the Council meeting.

1. Motion signed by Councillors A Newman, C Johnson and B Pickard

Britain's public transport system is becoming a national embarrassment. Prices continue to spiral out of control while the private operators who run the services often run into difficulties, resulting in the franchises collapsing well before their renewal date.

The financial sustainability of the region depends on a good transport network, especially in view of the impact of Brexit and the move towards devolution. A good rail network will allow for the efficient movement of people and goods around the region, and will be a key factor in attracting businesses to our region.

The east coast railway was brought into public ownership in 2009 after the collapse of the two previous operators, GNER and national express. During its time in public ownership it operated at a substantial profit. In 2014 the Government, ignoring the advice of many organisations, re-privatised the line. The new operator operating under the name Virgin trains ran into difficulties and as predicted by many, including this council, the franchise collapsed. This is the third private operator to run the vital East Coast line into the ground. What is also clear is that since privatisation in 1996 the east coast line has only been successfully run under public ownership. Despite this the government, after taking over from yet another failed franchise, intends to return the franchise to a private operator in 2020.

This Council believes that the east coast main line should not be put back into the hands of another private operator, but that it should remain in public ownership. We therefore ask the Mayor to write to the Secretary of State for Transport, Chris Grayling outlining our support for retaining public ownership over the east coast main line.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this motion.

Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications for the Authority arising from this motion.