

Transport for London

Minutes of the Elizabeth Line Committee

Conference Rooms 1 and 2, Ground Floor, Palestra,
197 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NJ
2.30pm, Tuesday 24 January 2023

Members

Heidi Alexander (Chair)
Anne McMeel (Vice-Chair)
Seb Dance
Dr Nelson Ogunshakin OBE (via Teams)

Sarah Atkins
Matthew Lodge (Government representative)

Executive Committee

Andy Lord	Interim Commissioner
Howard Carter	General Counsel
Rachel McLean	Chief Finance Officer

Staff

Lorraine Humphrey	Director of Risk and Assurance
Peter McNaught	Director of Operational Readiness
James Norris	Head of Project Assurance
Howard Smith	Director, Elizabeth line
Sue Riley	Secretariat Officer

Other Attendees

Tim Ball, Director	Director, Elizabeth line (Network Rail)
TC Chew	Chair of Elizabeth line Independent Investment Programme Advisory Group Sub-Group

01/01/23 Apologies for Absence and Chair's Announcements

Apologies for absence had been received from Mark Phillips. Dr Nelson Ogunshakin OBE was attending via Teams and was able to take part in the discussions but was not counted towards the quorum. The meeting was quorate.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, including those on Teams, and Peter McNaught, deputising for Glynn Barton and Tim Ball, representing Network Rail.

The meeting was being broadcast live on TfL's YouTube channel to ensure the public and press could observe the proceedings and decision-making.

TfL maintained a priority focus on safety. The Chair highlighted that there was a specific agenda item on safety, which would be the first item considered at the meeting. She invited Members to raise any safety issues either under the specific agenda item or with the appropriate member of the Executive Committee after the meeting.

02/01/23 Declarations of Interests

Members on the TfL Board confirmed that their declarations of interests, as published on tfl.gov.uk, were up to date and there were no interests to declare that related specifically to items on the agenda.

03/01/23 Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee Held on 24 November 2022

The minutes of the meeting of the Elizabeth Line Committee held on 24 November 2022 were approved as a correct record and the Chair was authorised to sign them.

04/01/23 Matters Arising and Actions List

Howard Carter introduced the paper. All actions from previous meetings had been completed or were scheduled on the forward plan.

The Committee noted the updated actions list.

05/01/23 Safety Update

Howard Smith introduced the paper, which provided an update on safety for Periods 8 and 9 of 2022/23.

Howard Smith highlighted the campaign to get 'close calls' reported so as to gain learning and take action before any actual incident occurred. In analysing the close call data there were no strong trends in terms of location or type of work but not surprisingly a large number related to maintenance activities as that was where the biggest group of colleagues and activity was to be found.

All overdue or undated actions were being closed out. Safety data in relation to MTR and passenger incidents were reported and reviewed internally.

The Committee noted the paper.

06/01/23 Elizabeth Line Operations and Programme Completion Update

Howard Smith introduced the paper on operational performance of the Elizabeth line. Tim Ball spoke on behalf of Network Rail.

It was noted that the London Underground stations shown in the step-free access availability chart was incorrect and were in fact in service at the time of reporting.

Despite the recent challenges within the rail sector due to ongoing industrial action and extreme weather conditions, staff had worked hard to mitigate the impact on customers. The Committee thanked all staff, including MTR, for their commitment and hard work and this was endorsed by the Commissioner.

The Chair recorded her thanks to Jim Crawford, Chief Programme Officer, Crossrail and Nigel Holness, MTR Director, Elizabeth Line, for their valuable contributions, as they were both moving on to other organisations.

The Committee noted the paper.

07/01/23 Finance and Risk Update

Rachel McLean presented the update on the financial performance at Period 9 of 2022/23 and on risk management progress.

Paragraph 3.1 incorrectly reported passenger journeys for the Elizabeth line exceeded budget by £32m when in fact it was referring to 32 million passenger journeys. The published report would be amended on the TfL website.

The Anticipated Final Crossrail Direct Cost was lower than anticipated due to the successful handover of Bond Street station. The reduction in operating costs was mainly due to timing and one-off financial events.

The Committee noted the paper and the exempt supplementary information on Part 2 of the agenda.

08/01/23 Elizabeth Line Programme Assurance Update

Lorraine Humphrey and James Norris introduced the paper, which provided an update on progress with Elizabeth line Programme Assurance activity since the previous report. TC Chew was also in attendance.

Howard Smith described progress towards full implementation of Auto-Reverse and that a cautious approach was being taken, meaning that implementation was now scheduled for 12 February 2023. It was agreed that a short update on progress would be provided to the Committee prior to operational implementation.

[Action: Howard Smith]

A continuous assurance approach was now being applied to the programme, with a re-configuration of support from members of the Independent Investment Programme Advisory Group, with a focus on reliability, performance and costs and funding.

Tim Ball confirmed that recent changes in senior staff and leadership at Network Rail was designed to drive up performance and reliability on the western section of the Elizabeth line, although the provision of adequate funding to modernise the infrastructure was critical to improvements.

The Committee noted the paper and the exempt supplementary information on Part 2 of the agenda.

09/01/23 Members' Suggestions for Future Discussion Items

Howard Carter introduced the item and the Committee's forward plan. Suggested future agenda items captured during the meeting would be included on the forward plan.

The Committee noted the forward plan.

10/01/23 Any Other Business the Chair Considers Urgent

There was no other urgent business to discuss.

11/01/23 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next scheduled meeting of the Committee on Thursday 23 March 2023 at 3pm would be held as an informal briefing only. The next formal meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 18 May 2023 at 2.30pm

12/01/23 Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Committee agreed to exclude the press and public from the meeting, in accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), when it considered the exempt information in relation to the items on Finance and Risk Update and Elizabeth Line Programme Assurance Update.

The meeting closed at 3.50pm.

Chair: _____

Date: _____