

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

Date: 20 July 2017

ITEM 7

Title: Motion

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

Motion 1 signed by Councillors Cllr Andy Newman, Cllr Frank Lott, Cllr B Pickard

Put The public back into transport

Britain's public transport system is becoming a national embarrassment. Our railway network is now the most expensive in Europe – whilst taxpayers and passengers get a bad deal. The east coast railway was brought into public ownership in 2009 after the collapse of the operating company, and during its time in public ownership operated at a substantial profit. In 2014, the Government, ignoring the advice of many organisations, including the RMT privatised the line. However, it has been recently reported that the franchise is in severe financial difficulties. What is clear is that this is the third private operator to run the vital East Coast line into the ground and report losses. Rather than waiting for the inevitable financial collapse the east coast railway should be brought back into public ownership immediately.

We therefore ask the Mayor to write to the Secretary of State for Transport, Chris Grayling, outlining our support for returning the east coast line to public ownership, and to discuss with the NECA to get regional support for this proposal.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this motion.

There could be financial implications in the future depending on the outcome of the motion and these would need to be identified and reported appropriately.

Legal Implications

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