

Rail Delivery Group

Summary of Proceedings 22 August 2011

Present

Tim O'Toole (Chairman)
David Higgins (vice-Chairman)
David Brown
Tony Collins
Dean Finch
Martin Griffiths
Bob Holland
Elaine Holt
Peter Maybury
Paul Plummer
Alain Thauvette
Anton Valk
Graham Smith (Secretary)
Michael Roberts

Apologies for absence

Sir Roy McNulty

Meeting with the Trade Unions

The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary had met the General Secretaries of ASLEF, RMT and TSSA. The Chairman had said that the RDG was focused on organising action on cross-industry industries and recognised the importance of keeping the Trade Unions informed.

Asset, Programme and Supply-Chain Management Working Group

An additional piece of work on rolling stock would be undertaken that would, as a first step, summarise the various initiatives on the subject.

The working group on asset, supply and programme management would be:

Tim O'Toole
Hugh Clancy
Alan Price
Bob Holland
Nigel Jones
Jerry England
Graham Smith

The ORR would be invited to become involved as appropriate Contractual relationships working group.

It was recognised that future contracts would need an effective mechanism for contractual amendment to allow an efficient response to new opportunities whilst new contractual arrangements would need to reflect the multi-user nature of the network.

It would be necessary to demonstrate why contractual change was needed, to reflect the need for flexibility in contractual arrangements and to show why new arrangements would be better for the passenger.

Train Utilisation Working Group

The train utilisation working group was working on understanding the issue and an examination of the McNulty research and conclusions. It would meet the team that had undertaken the research and produced the conclusions for the RVfM Study. The group would propose how train utilisation should be measured and identify mechanisms to improve train utilisation if that was possible. Further analysis would be presented to the September RDG building on the work undertaken to date and then to make recommendations to the October RDG.

Technology and Innovation Working Group

The importance of engaging with the Trade Unions in assessing the effect of technology and innovation in the industry was emphasised. RDG recognised the importance of Government's involvement in helping the industry to embrace technology and innovation.

The working group on technology and innovation would be:

Martin Griffiths
Tim Shoveller
Vernon Barker
Andy Meadows
Andrew Chivers
Patrick Butcher
Abellio representative
Graham Smith

Additional support would be provided as necessary.

Passenger Information

Good progress had been made on short-term actions and the long-term plan. Various concerns had been raised with the ORR, who were expected to respond at the meeting with RDG representatives.

Initial Industry Plan

Drafting of the Initial Industry Plan was on track for publication in September.

Rail Systems Agency (RSA) Working Group

The working group reported that it had reviewed case studies of current and future projects and observed that progress with the projects had been very slow and industry engagement difficult.

The working group reported that it had concluded that there was a need for an RSA that was independent, trusted by the industry, DfT and ORR, resourced with a range of skills and able to take

cases to Government. The working group believed that the RSA should be able to facilitate changes to contractual agreements but it was not envisaged that it would have the powers to make the changes itself.

Rail Delivery Group noted the working group's report. The working group was asked to define the proposal more specifically and to report its findings to the September meeting of RDG.