

Rail Delivery Group

Summary of Proceedings 28 July 2014

Present

Martin Griffiths (Chair) (Stagecoach)
Mark Carne (Deputy Chair) (Network Rail)
Michael Roberts (Director-General) (RDG)
Dominic Booth (Abellio)
David Brown (Go-Ahead)
Andrew Chivers (National Express)
Chris Kimberley (Serco)
Alistair Gordon (Keolis)
Nigel Jones (DBSchenker)
Jeremy Long (MTR)
David Martin (Arriva)
Peter Maybury (Freightliner)
Alain Thauvette (Freightliner)
Tim O'Toole (First Group)
Paul Plummer (Network Rail)
Doug Sutherland (Directly Operated Railways)

In attendance

Gary Cooper (ATOC) – People workstream
Jerry England (Network Rail) – Digital Railway
Chris Burchell (Southern) – Performance
Nick Ellins (RDG)
Edward Welsh (RDG)
Seb Gordon (RDG)
Billy Denyer (RDG, Minutes)

Approval of the record/progress on action points from the meeting on 23rd June

The minutes of the RDG meeting on 23rd June were agreed to be an accurate record.

Two outstanding action points (regarding rolling stock and National Operating Strategy) were discussed, with some other actions picked up later on the agenda.

DfT Innovation in Franchising Fund

AG introduced his paper on assisting the DfT to establish the governance and management arrangements for the Innovation in Franchising Fund. He commented that a small Innovation Board (supported by an Innovation Board Advisory Group) would be tasked with identifying opportunities for funding and welcomed nominations for these two groups.

RDG supported the approach and agreed to propose nominations for the Innovation Board and Innovation Board Advisory Group (for consideration by the Technology and Operations Steering Group).

Director-General's report

RDG discussed recent engagement with Labour and the references to a public sector bidder and “guiding mind for rail” at their recent National Policy Forum. Members discussed the options for informing the debate and the public position to be adopted by RDG.

AC reported that a spectrum of views had been expressed regarding RDG engagement at the Franchising Strategy Group. There is shared agreement that the current model of franchising has delivered strong results, and that all RDG members should feel committed to communicating the evidence of that success.

People workstream

AT highlighted progress to date on the People workstream and members agreed resources for a programme management team to support this work. Members also asked for further work to be done on how to handle potential responses to the need to recruit and train drivers in coming years.

In response to a question about the composition of the People Workstream Steering Group, GC confirmed that the knowledge developed through the former RDG TIWP group had been retained.

The Digital Railway

JE presented a proposed roadmap for an industry-wide programme designed to benefit the economy by accelerating the digital enablement of the railway. JE explained that better use of technology would release capacity on the rail network, as experienced in recent years by the UK air industry. A central component of the programme is the accelerated implementation of ETCS (15 years rather than 50 years) but other key elements include ticketing, yield management control and improved information for passengers.

RDG supported the concept of the Digital Railway as a compelling vision for the industry, noting the Future Railway work to date: the key now was to develop a project plan for implementation. MC highlighted the major change in pace envisaged by the Digital Railway and that the industry had two years in which to define what it would take to meet that ambition.

RDG endorsed the proposal to set up a Digital Railway Steering Group (to replace the proposed NOS Steering Group). It was proposed that consideration be given to the implications of the Digital Railway for the current RDG work programme while recognising there remained important priorities for RDG to stay focused on for CP5.

Project Quicksilver

AG gave a brief update on Project Quicksilver and it was agreed that a further update will be taken to RDG in September.

Performance update

CB delivered the quarterly performance update to RDG. He reminded RDG that National Task Force (NTF) is tasked with national level strategic performance management, and contains representation from across the industry.

CB set out the forward plan for NTF and set out three key themes and four supporting enablers, each of which has a nominated 'Champion'. He also highlighted the Passenger Information During Disruption (PIDD) recommendations which have been devolved to the appropriate industry bodies for delivery. A PIDD Programme Resource Structure has been created, led by Chris Scoggins (National Rail Enquiries).

Any other business

Members briefly discussed the workstream updates paper and MG said that David Higgins would update RDG on HS2 in September or October.