

Rail Delivery Group

Summary of Proceedings 27 March 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)
Alistair Gordon (Keolis)
David Martin (Arriva)
Peter Maybury (Freightliner)
Tim O'Toole (First Group)
Paul Plummer (Network Rail)
David Stretch (Serco)
Doug Sutherland (Directly Operated Railways)
Alain Thauvette (DBSchenker)
Jeremy Long (MTR)
Nick Ellins (RDG)
Edward Welsh (RDG)
Billy Denyer (Minutes) (RDG)

Approval of the record/progress on action points from the meeting on 3 March 2014

The minutes of the meeting on 3rd March 2014 were agreed to be an accurate record.

MR updated Members on the status of several ongoing actions:

- National Operating Strategy (NOS) –Further consideration was being given within Network Rail to the type and level of support required before providing RDG with details.
- Stations works team – there was a good response to the request for working group members, and the group has now been formed.
- RDG-DfT Awayday – MR, PP, Clare Moriarty (DfT) and Terence Watson (RSG) have discussed the format of the Awayday, which Government shall host on 12th May.
- POG representation –Membership of the group will be strengthened

MG summarised his recent meetings with Mary Creagh, Patrick McLoughlin (with SPADs) and Anna Walker.

Members commented that it is very useful to receive feedback from such meetings, and pointed out that there are other key stakeholders that RDG must engage with (for example, HM Treasury). It was felt that Network Rail should attend these meetings where appropriate.

MG has now spoken to all RDG members about how RDG operates. MC will give his perspective on Network Rail's opportunities and challenges, how they affect RDG, and how RDG can help, at the May RDG meeting.

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Director-general's report

The Director-General's report was taken as read.

RDG Vision

The draft RDG vision which seeks to underpin the RDG priorities, knit work streams together and highlight the aims of RDG, was presented.

Members agreed that RDG needed to have a vision, but felt that the draft was not compelling and clear enough. Members were asked to feed their comments back to MR. The document would be revised with support from members' communication professionals and brought back to RDG.

RDG Communications workstream

The Communications team has developed a work programme to deliver the three strands of the Communications strategy, and the key elements of this programme were presented. The RDG Communications team will develop metrics to assess the success of the programme of work.

RDG Members were pleased with progress made and supportive of the programme of work, whilst highlighting that Members' own communications teams must also buy into it. This will be achieved through regular meetings of the RDG Communications group (dates have been set throughout 2014).

It was agreed that safety requires more attention and the safety work stream, once established, should enable RDG to comment positively on safety.

The response to the recently published RDG position on HS2 was very positive. It demonstrated that RDG can deliver a strong message, and Ministers were happy with it.

Transparency (proposal on Darwin)

A proposal regarding the terms under which Darwin might be provided in future had been worked up through the Transparency sub-group. RDG endorsed the proposal and thanked the sub-group for its work.

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Work stream updates

There was brief discussion on the following work streams:

People: There is a need to identify critical jobs within the industry and determine how to replenish them in the future, bearing in mind that some professions are more scarce than others and that age profiles vary by role.

Franchising: The first meeting of the Franchising group has taken place, which included a useful discussion on the Northern and TransPennine franchises. There was a need to clarify the outcomes from the group's work.

Contractual and Regulatory Reform: An issue relating to the train pairs ceiling in the fourth railway package was raised.

Stations: There had been very good nominations for representatives on the Stations group and this had now been formed.

Planning Oversight Group (POG): On the subject of Network Rail re-classification, RDG members agreed that they should support the need for Network Rail to retain flexibility.

Technology and operations: At a recent meeting on Project Quicksilver, Stephen Hammond had been informed of the progress of this RDG-led project in developing an industry-wide business case and on current timescales for the work.

Freight: ORR have been taken through the freight report, and a meeting with Susan Kramer is scheduled for 15th May.

RDG administration

The paper on RDG Administration was noted. ORR had been approached on the proposed change to the Articles of Association and were believed to be supportive: once their position was confirmed, the change would be brought to RDG members for formal decision.

Any other business

Three other items of business were raised:

- The RDG meeting scheduled for 17th April is to be cancelled due to its proximity to the Easter break.
- The progress made in agreeing the RDG work streams and their activities would enable the RDG Executive to start planning the forward agenda of RDG meetings. He invited Members suggestions for topics to discuss at future meetings
- It was agreed that fulfilling ORR's Rolling Stock data request was extremely challenging given their timescale for responses, and it was not entirely in the gift of operators (since ROSCO permission was required in some cases).