

Rail Delivery Group

Summary of Proceedings 18 June 2012

Present

Tim O'Toole (Chairman)
David Higgins
Dominic Booth
David Brown
Lindsay Durham
Dean Finch
Martin Griffiths
Bob Holland
Nigel Jones
Paul Plummer
Doug Sutherland
Alain Thauvette
Graham Smith (Secretary)
Michael Roberts

The Right Honourable Justine Greening, Secretary of State for Transport, Peter Strachan and Chris Burchell attended for parts of the meeting

Appointment of Officers

Tim O'Toole was appointed as Chairman for 2012/13

David Higgins was appointed as vice-Chairman for 2012/13

Graham Smith was appointed as Secretary for 2012/13

National Task Force

Chris Burchell gave a presentation on the National Task Force (NTF), its past work and its future plans. He said that the NTF was involved in immediate performance issues but also worked closely with the Planning Oversight Group on long-term performance planning. He emphasised that all RDG Members were represented on NTF together with other industry stakeholders and that the future direction of NTF could be influenced through this representation.

CB advised that the biennial review of NTF was taking place between June and August and asked that RDG Members made their views known on:

- NTF's priorities and function;
- NTF's attendance (organisations and level);

- NTF's relationship with other bodies; and
- NTF's strategy and focus.

During discussions it was noted that the involvement of the DfT and the ORR in NTF was regarded as helpful.

RDG agreed that its principal contact with NTF should be David Brown. David would be the conduit by which RDG offered direction and guidance to NTF and he would report to RDG on NTF issues.

General Update

Meetings had been held with various parties to consider the development of the rolling stock strategy.

Working groups / RDG Members would be reporting back on their review of cross-industry groups in July.

RSSB Strategic Review

The meeting was updated on the RSSB's Strategic Review and identified three RDG Members to sit on the review group.

Asset, Programme and Supply-Chain Management Working Group

RDG Members were reviewing the Cost of Contingency projects relating to their Train Operating Companies and would report progress in July.

Technology, Innovation and Working Practices

MG reported that a date was being found to brief the TUC and the railway Trade Unions on the activities of the working group.

Contractual and Regulatory Reform Working Group

The DfT and ORR were now involved in the working group, which had proved very useful.

The working group had considered the ORR's proposals on charging and had asked that a letter be sent to the ORR from RDG asking for the deferral of charging proposals until the next Periodic Review with possible implementation taking place at the beginning of CP6. The working group was also pressing for the Periodic Review process not to discourage alliancing.

Further discussions had taken place on the long-term role of regulation in the industry.

The working group had responded to the RDG request to review the cross-industry groups within the contractual and regulatory area and had completed a mapping of the groups.

Industry Planning Working Group

It was reported that the publication of the HLOS and SoFA was imminent and that an agenda around growth and investment was expected to be core to the publications. However, further pressure on efficiency and obtaining value for money was expected.

As the work on the Strategic Plan ramped up it would be essential that RDG engaged fully in the process.

The working group had reviewed the cross-industry groups working in the areas of strategy, planning, Europe and sustainability. The working group had mapped a series of relationships and hierarchies.

Technical Strategy Leadership Group Update

The Group noted the update on TSLG's activities reflecting the closer working relationship between RDG and TSLG.

RDG also noted that the Rail Technical Strategy would be presented to the Group in August and that TSLG was working on governance arrangements for the innovation fund that was being sought in CP5.

Formalising RDG

The Group was updated on progress with formalising RDG. A full explanation of the proposals would be presented to a special RDG meeting.

Network Rail Governance

RDG was briefed on the proposed changes to Network Rail's governance.

Discussion with the Secretary of State

The Secretary of State thanked the Rail Delivery Group for the progress that had been made by the Group and restated her view that formalising RDG was essential. She emphasised the importance of the industry's workforce and drew particular attention to the need to focus on diversity

RDG's forward workplan was provided to the Secretary of State. She welcomed the plan and concluded her remarks by emphasising that this was the right time to be making progress on the RDG's priorities