

Rail Delivery Group

Summary of Proceedings 11 November 2013

Present

Tim O'Toole (Chairman) (First Group)
David Higgins (Deputy Chairman) (Network Rail)
Michael Roberts (Director-General, RDG)
Dominic Booth (Abellio)
David Brown (Go-Via)
Andrew Chivers (National Express)
Alistair Gordon (Keolis)
Martin Griffiths (Stagecoach)
Chris Kimberley (Serco)
David Martin (Arriva)
Peter Maybury (Freightliner)
Paul Plummer (Network Rail)
Doug Sutherland (Directly Operated Railways)
Alain Thauvette (DBSchenker)
Nick Ellins (RDG)
Edward Welsh (RDG)
Billy Denyer (RDG)

In Attendance:

Clare Moriarty and Mark Reach (Update on Review of DfT Rail)

ORR Final Determination

Network Rail is currently considering its position on the Final Determination and is seeking clarification on certain issues. There were a number of areas for further dialogue between NR and operators, such as on enhancement efficiencies, alliancing and charging in CP6.

It was agreed that the opportunity for the industry to work together in delivering the Final Determination went to the heart of the RDG's purpose. More time is required to form a view, but it is necessary to have visibility of the inputs and outputs, and where the pinch points are. An industry scorecard covering all key areas would help achieve this.

RDG Corporate Affairs Activity

RDG has the opportunity to speak with a proposed focus on three key elements: promoting the existing industry model, enhancing the reputation of rail, and demonstrating RDG's value. RDG supported the proposed approach whilst recognising the challenges involved in implementing this.

On the subject of HS2, RDG should seek to develop a distinctive position which added value to the current debate. Planning Oversight Group (POG) will develop an evidence-based position on HS2.

Asset, Programme and Supply Chain Management (APSCM) Working Group Update

Industry Access Programme (IAP) Phase 2 is critical to forward plans and represents a significant change to current working practices. It was agreed that there should be a substantive item on this at the December RDG meeting. There will also be a substantive Rolling Stock update at the December RDG meeting.

Freight Update

All three Freight working groups are gaining momentum. There have been productive discussions between the Freight Group and the RDG Executive on how freight issues will be treated.

Technology and Operations Working Group Update

The Technology and Operations working group agreed that it should bring focus to the many projects currently being considered in the industry, using the 4 Cs (customer, capacity, cost and carbon) and other criteria (such as fundability) to guide prioritisation.

The group will develop a simple vision of how the rail industry should look in 20-25 years over the next couple of months, and following that will identify projects to move forward.

NTF Update

It is expected that NTF, at its next meeting, will discuss how the industry handled St Jude's storm. The next steps under the transparency workstream were outlined.

TIWP Update

RDG noted progress made by the TIWP working group.

Contractual and Regulatory Reform Working Group Update

RDG noted progress made by the Contractual and Regulatory Reform working group.

Planning Oversight Group (POG) Update

RDG noted the progress made by the Planning Oversight Group (POG).

Safety, Health and Environment Update

The new CEO of RSSB will be starting in their role on 1st January 2014. RDG would be sponsoring the Industry Safety Day on 17th April, covering the industry risk register and the Precursor Incident Model.

Members endorsed the nomination of Steve Murphy (Chief Operating Officer, Arriva) to succeed Tony Collins as one of the two owning group representatives on RSSB Board.

Update on Review of DfT Rail

DfT have narrowed down the review to two options. The remaining work is to assess the relative strengths and weaknesses of both options, each of which seeks to address concerns regarding the capability of staff, and would enable DfT to recruit and retain commercially-astute employees.

DfT are compiling the last pieces of evidence and are holding a session with their Franchising Advisory Panel, as well as obtaining Ministerial views. It was expected that a decision would be made within the next fortnight.

RDG Operational and Membership Issues

Members unanimously agreed to three proposed changes relating to operational issues that need to be resolved to enable the efficient running of RDG.

It was agreed to invite an MTR representative to take part as an observer at RDG meetings. The invitation was by exception and in view of the contribution which MTR could make to the objectives of the RDG. MTR will be able to participate in discussions but would not have a vote.

Any Other Business

Issues discussed by RDG members included engagement with DfT and the forthcoming January fares announcement.