

Action points from the Rail Delivery Group meeting

27 October 2015

ATOC/RDG Offices, London

Present

Martin Griffiths (Chair)
Mark Carne (Deputy Chair)
Chris Burchell
Alan Chaplin
Andrew Chivers
Richard Drake
Alistair Gordon
Russell Mears
Steve Montgomery
Paul Plummer
Michael Roberts
Alain Thauvette
Phil Whittingham

In attendance

Gary Cooper (ATOC)
Elizabeth de Jong (RDG)
Edward Welsh (RDG)
Billy Denyer (RDG, minutes)

Item 15.066 (RSG Industrial Strategy): Terence Watson and Jim Lupton (RSG)

Item 15.067 (Shaw Review): Susan Cooklin (Network Rail)

Apologies

David Brown
David Stretch

15.063 Approval of the record/progress on action points from the meeting on 22nd September

The minutes of the RDG meeting on 22nd September were accepted as a true record. MR informed members that a draft RDG position on the Trade Union Bill had been circulated earlier that day, and invited comments on the draft by email. Progress on other actions was noted.

Action: Members to pass comments on the draft Trade Union Bill response to Edward Welsh.

15.064 Chairman's Report and Workstream updates

MG summarised his recent engagements, including the party conferences, and drew attention to a recent letter from Lilian Greenwood to Philip Rutnam. EW reported back on meetings at the SNP conference.

MR highlighted two sections from the Chairman's Report; an update on ATOC governance reform and the recent Customer Information Summit. There had been good engagement at the summit and momentum was building on the PIDD initiatives, which will continue to be progressed through National Task Force.

The workstream updates were taken as read. CB informed members that the National Task Force on 28th October discussed Christmas engineering work and the December timetable change, and emphasised to members that the industry must apply recent lessons learned to these issues.

MC provided an update on the Bowe and Hendy Reviews, both of which are progressing and will be published shortly. The RDG Executive will seek confirmation of members' engagement on Hendy through POG.

Action: RDG Executive to seek confirmation of members' engagement on Hendy through POG

15.065 RDG priorities and ways of working

PP set out his emerging thoughts regarding RDG priorities and ways of working, which were the result of bilateral discussions with members. He emphasised the role of RDG as an enabler of delivery with the ability to confront difficult issues, and presented proposals regarding governance and stakeholder engagement.

Current and prospective future activities were divided into four categories: enabling continuous improvement in today's railway; transforming customer experience of the railway; industry reform to enable excellence in the railway; planning tomorrow's railway. Members felt that fares and ticketing issues must be at the top of RDG's agenda.

PP will have further discussions with members and return to RDG with a refined proposal.

Action: PP to refine the proposal for RDG priorities and ways of working.

15.066 RSG Industrial Strategy

Terence Watson and Jim Lupton joined the meeting to present the emerging content of the RSG Industrial Strategy and to seek RDG support for it.

TL commented that RDG and Ministerial involvement in drafting the strategy had been good to date. The strategy, which is to be launched in mid-January, identifies four themes and contains a five-point productivity pledge. Members supported the emerging strategy and will continue to contribute towards its drafting.

15.067 Shaw review

MG introduced this item, highlighting that the aim is to clarify whether it will be possible to develop an RDG position to submit to Nicola Shaw's review of Network Rail. To date there have been discussions on this topic between Owing Groups and initial engagement between those OG representatives and executive team members with Network Rail.

MR summarised the outcome of the OG discussions, RM provided the views of freight operators and MC commented from Network Rail's perspective. The discussion was then opened out, with the aim of understanding where there are areas of agreement and divergence, and what further work needs to be done if a common RDG position is to be developed.

Whilst a range of options exist, members agreed that common ground existed between the views of TOC owning groups, freight operators and Network Rail, although understanding the detail of any option was key. Devolution, incentivisation, regulation and financing were considered to be important aspects of the review. Members stressed that changes must not undermine safety, investment or the franchising model.

MC agreed to let RDG members have further detail in due course on his plans for continued devolution in Network Rail. MC asked members to email him in the meantime with any specific examples of where devolution to date had not been effective.

PP detailed the process and timing for the Shaw review. Members were asked to reflect on Network Rail's proposal, and PP will discuss further with members bilaterally. A fuller discussion will take place at the November RDG meeting, in order to reach an agreed RDG position or range of positions.

Action: Shaw Review to be added to the November RDG agenda.

Action: MC to let RDG members have further detail on his plans for continued devolution in Network Rail.

Action: Members to email MC with any specific examples of where devolution to date had not been effective.

15.068 Any other business

There were three items of other business:

- The remaining papers (on RDG's Review of Charges, BTP, Health and Safety and Pensions) were noted;
- The final version of the RDG 2015 Annual Report was tabled, prior to its imminent publication;
- MG thanked MR, who was attending his final RDG meeting, for his valuable contributions to RDG and ATOC.

15.069 Next meeting

Tuesday 24th November 2015, 17:00-19:00.