

PAPER TO RDG BOARD

Meeting Date: 21 July 2020
Paper Title: Minutes from last meeting
Author: Deborah Lewis
Sponsor: Paul Plummer
Paper Date: 17 June 2020
Reference: Paper 1a

17 JUNE 2020

BY VIDEO CONFERENCE

ATTENDEE LIST

Chris Burchell	Arriva
Paul Plummer	RDG
Andrew Haines	Network Rail
Paul McMahon	Network Rail
Steve Montgomery	First Group
Robin Gisby	DOHL
David Brown	Go-Ahead
Jeremy Long	MTR
Peter Strachan	Serco
Dominic Booth	Abellio
Alistair Gordon	Keolis
Ernesto Sicilia	Trenitalia
Yasumitsu Tanaka	Mitsui
Anna Ince	Resonate - RSG
Elaine Seagriff – item 6	Jacobs
Silke Elvery – item 6	RDG
Andy Bagnall	RDG
John Thomas	RDG
Jac Starr	RDG
Ola Ogun	RDG
Robert Nisbet	RDG
Deborah Lewis	RDG

Apologies: Philip Hoare (Atkins – RSG); Mark Thurston (HS2)

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Item No.	Approval of record
1	Chris Burchell (CB) welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the last meeting on 5 May 2020.

Item No.	RDG Activity update		
2	<p>CB briefed Board on his bilateral meeting with ORR Chair, which had focused mostly on COVID and customer information, the industry plan for which will go to ORR this month. He commented on both the ongoing challenges and successes for the industry, and the key priority to now focus on wider rail reform to ensure a sustainable future model.</p> <p>Andrew Haines updated members on the last phase of NR's reorganisation, whereby route structures will be fully in place by August/September. He thanked colleagues for their patience with the programme. There was discussion of continued flux in government view of rail reform, as implications of EMAs become clearer. Industry shares the Transport Secretary's wish to see rapid improvement in performance, cost efficiency, retailing and customer proposition, but part of the solution is less government involvement.</p> <p>Paul Plummer noted the continued need to challenge government on its wish to be heavily involved in rail decisions and changes; and the critical opportunity to deliver a more resilient timetable post-COVID. Agreement that the industry should look at visible changes it can make to deliver improvements and add value by working together now, such as network possessions which have major impact on NR project completion. Good work was done in 2014 as part of APSCM, which can be built on, bringing in current examples of how possessions are being managed during COVID. Other areas to focus on are commercial incentives, to help support HMT in economic recovery. Key to successful lobbying will be tailoring approaches to the challenges facing different parts of government.</p> <p>Anna Ince (AI) briefed Board on the findings of an RSG taskforce survey of supply chain businesses to assess COVID-19 impact. A clear need and ask of all client organisations, is for visibility of pipeline so businesses can plan; support is needed particularly for those firms that will struggle when furloughing ends. AI also noted that the supply chain can provide input into planning a new approach to network possessions.</p>		
2006.01	Through Planning & Production Board, RDG to take forward work to potentially improve project efficiency and value for money including the through system approach to possessions	Susie Homan	July 2020

Item No.	COVID-19 issues update
	Immediate priorities around the COVID crisis were discussed. Good progress has been made on face coverings; social distancing is now the key issue. Susie Homan outlined work RDG and RSSB/TOCs have undertaken to assess the

3	<p>impact reduced social distancing would have on infection rate, potential mitigation, and the relationship with capacity. The research has been shared with DfT, with follow up discussion setting out the options and what other countries have done. Although no change is guaranteed it is likely, so RDG is seeking to plan around impact of a reduction to 1m. Engagement with DfT, both at ministerial and official level, will continue as part of RDG's approach to influence wider government review of social distancing rather than direct public lobbying. The message is not to reduce to a specific measurement, but for people to socially distance wherever possible. Safety is the primary focus, which will be reflected in planned passenger comms. Members agreed on the approach, which helps ensure transport sector needs are considered. It was noted the situation is different in Wales.</p>		
2006.02	<p>Alistair Gordon to offer RDG's support to James Price in his dialogue with Welsh Government on social distancing.</p>	Alistair Gordon	June 2020

Item No.	RICF long-term future		
4	<p>Board discussed next steps for long-term Trade Union engagement. CB briefed Board on discussion at JEOT: RICF should be extended in current form to allow ongoing pandemic-related issues to be discussed, and in parallel, plans for a longer-term strategic forum should be worked up. Members discussed the options of extending the Emergency Working Principles Agreement (EWPA); or renegotiating the EWPA. The current agreement contains restrictions on activities during the crisis, including suspension of people processes such as grievances and pay talks. TUs support a short extension, as RICF provides a single point of discussion. SH said TOC MDs also agree it should continue. Board supported a short extension to RICF and EWPA to the end of July, at which there will be a review.</p>		
2006.03	<p>RDG to progress work to think about a strategic forum to succeed RICF, with an initial focus on purpose.</p>	Susie Homan	July 2020
Item No.	EU Trade negotiations and post-Brexit engagement		
5	<p>Members provided feedback on RDG's position on level market access, future technical framework and cross-border services, in the context of EU and UK trade negotiations. Board agreed there should be no unintended consequences to not having reciprocal market access. There was discussion of potential impact of having different technical standards post-Brexit; Board supported RDG continuing efforts to use its voice to influence European standards and agreed that GB rail should maintain some flexibility to diverge from TSIs in the future. Regarding cross-channel traffic, members also agreed that new post-Brexit requirements, such as needing both an EU and GB operating licence, are not a significant barrier to entry.</p>		

Item No.	Whole Industry Strategic Plan		
6	<p>Detail on the Whole Industry Strategic Plan (WISP) was provided. PP underlined the critical need for the wider industry to get behind and engage with NR as it takes the plan forward. Its impact will depend on input from across the network, and advocacy of rail's most senior leaders. Elaine Seagriff joined the meeting, to set out her role in helping NR lead the WISP, supporting Paul McMahon and dedicated team in System Operator. The remit and high-level deliverables are yet to be fully agreed with DfT, but the aim is to be as comprehensive as possible in stakeholder engagement. Member feedback included the importance of breadth, so that the plan includes depots & stabling etc; the key role POG should play; and being alert to the ongoing uncertainty for industry pending any Williams response. PMc confirmed that supply chain will be included in consultation and agreed to review POG's ToR to ensure it is best positioned to successfully take WISP forward.</p>		
2006.04	Paul McMahon and RDG to review POG ToR and remit.	PMc / Silke Elvery	July 2020

Item No.	Any Other Business		
7	<p>Discussion of RDG premises post-COVID was deferred, to be picked up bilaterally with Members. Under AOB, John Thomas provided a brief update following publication of the High Court judgement in the case of Stagecoach and others vs DfT. The government won the case, which Stagecoach has accepted; JT will complete analysis of the judgement and share a view of how it might impact current discussions with government on TOC pensions.</p>		

END OF PAPER