

Rail Delivery Group

Summary of Proceedings 12 May 2014

Present

Martin Griffiths (Chair) (Stagecoach)
Mark Carne (Deputy Chair) (Network Rail)
Michael Roberts (Director-General) (RDG)
Vernon Barker (First Group)
Dominic Booth (Abellio)
David Brown (Go-Ahead)
Andrew Chivers (National Express)
Alistair Gordon (Keolis)
David Martin (Arriva)
Peter Maybury (Freightliner)
Paul Plummer (Network Rail)
David Stretch (Serco)
Doug Sutherland (Directly Operated Railways)
Alain Thauvette (DBSchenker)
Nick Ellins (RDG)
Edward Welsh (RDG)
Billy Denyer (Minutes) (RDG)

Apologies

Jeremy Long (MTR)

Approval of the record/progress on action points from the meetings on 27th March 2014 and 7th May 2014

The minutes of the meetings on 27th March 2014 and 7th May 2014 were agreed to be accurate records.

MR updated Members on the status of several ongoing actions, relating to the RDG vision, RDG's Articles of Association, weather resilience planning, and rolling stock costs.

- RDG vision: A new draft will be circulated shortly.
- Articles of Association: A formal resolution relating to owning group membership levies will be tabled at the June RDG.
- Weather resilience planning: NTF and Network Rail responses had been sent to the Richard Brown review.
- SDG study into rolling stock costs (for ORR): It was agreed that Martin Griffiths, Andrew Chivers and Michael Roberts will meet with SDG and ORR to establish the basis for the study

Director-General's report

The Director-General's report was taken as read, with two issues highlighted:

- Much recent activity has related to speculation that there could be a public sector bidder for franchises under a new Government.
- Martin Griffiths and Michael Roberts had met the three ROSCO MDs regarding the SDG rolling stock work for RDG. The ROSCOs have been invited to the RDG meeting in June to set out their views.

Mark Carne's perspectives on NR/RDG

This item was deferred until the next RDG meeting.

RDG/DfT/RSG Industry Session preparation

Members discussed the preparation for the RDG/DfT/RSG Industry Session, which was due to take place later that afternoon.

Members supported the proposed introductory points for Martin Griffiths set out in the paper, highlighting the need to emphasise the success of the current industry model.

Members discussed the role of RSG and agreed that it would be helpful to occasionally invite Terence Watson of RSG to RDG meetings, to receive an update on their activities. Tim Shoveller is RDG's representative at RSG.

Franchising: position on public sector bidder

Members discussed the potential proposal for a public sector bidder in future franchise competitions. It was agreed that RDG must have a common view about the proposal and other key issues demonstrating the industry's achievements.

A sub group should agree succinct messaging, with supporting killer facts, on six or seven key issues. The messaging would be discussed at June's RDG.

Information and ticketing: outline vision

A constructive meeting had taken place with TfL, Passenger Focus and relevant representatives from DfT, and a vision statement had been devised. Stephen Hammond had agreed to the formation of a high level pan-industry steering group to develop and implement a strategy, but DfT have not yet identified a co-Chair for the group.

RDG members endorsed the vision and the proposal for a high level steering group. The revised over-arching vision is "to ensure that customers are able to purchase, obtain and use a ticket for their journey as easily and conveniently as possible, and that train companies provide such ticketing cost effectively".

Network Rail reclassification

Paul Plummer reiterated the importance of Network Rail retaining its current flexible funding framework post-reclassification. This will ensure that Network Rail is able to meet its output commitments, respond to its customers' and funders' requirements, and continue to invest to drive improvements. Discussions are progressing, with a Framework Agreement due to be in place before September.

People: proposed approach

Alain Thauvette set out the proposed scope, objectives and plan of activity within the People workstream. Members agreed that the two objectives proposed in the paper (quantifying/closing skills gaps and tackling cost) were appropriate, but stressed the need for greater focus. It was agreed that the workstream would concentrate first on drivers: the approach adopted here could provide a model for future work looking at other parts of the workforce.

Any other business

Two other items of business were raised:

- There had been positive feedback to RDG's decision to release Darwin data, and the detailed proposal is being taken to the next TISL Board meeting. Principles have been set out and there will be public announcements about the new approach to releasing Darwin at the end of May.
- It was felt there was a need to revisit a recent RSSB review which concluded there was no business case for 'in-cab CCTV'.