

Rail Delivery Group

Summary of Proceedings 13 November 2012

Present

Tim O'Toole (Chairman)
David Higgins
David Brown
Dominic Booth
Tony Collins
Dean Finch
Martin Griffiths
Bob Holland
Peter Maybury
Paul Plummer
Doug Sutherland
Alain Thauvette
Graham Smith (Secretary)
Michael Roberts

In Attendance:

Patrick McCall

Meeting with the Secretary of State

The meeting between the Secretary of State, Minister of State and a number of RDG Members had focused on franchising and, in particular, had argued that the franchising process was not broken and that it should be restarted quickly.

Independent Review of Franchising

RDG noted that RDG Members will be making their own submissions to the independent review but there were many areas of common ground between RDG Members that would be included in the Group's submission to the independent review.

It was expected that the submission would be structured into four sections:

- Franchising Authority and process;
- Risk allocation, risk sharing and financial footprint;
- Flexibility of the specification; and
- Franchise length and investment

Many of the recommendations would be closely linked and it would be important that any changes to rail franchising were seen as a cohesive package of measures

The Group recognised that the imperative was to restart the franchising process with a robust programme utilising a private sector solution. It was essential to rebuild market and investor confidence in franchising. Only by restarting franchising would the efficiency benefits assumed in the Governments Statements of Funds Available be achievable and would avoid delays to investments that would generate passenger benefits.

Technical Strategy Leadership Group

RDG endorsed the final text of the Rail Technical Strategy and the inclusion of a statement by the Chairman of the Rail Delivery Group in the published document

RDG agreed that a case should be made to the Department for Transport for an increase in innovation funding

RSSB Strategic Review

RDG noted progress with the RSSB's strategic review. Three RDG members have been part of the Review group and RDG Members who are also on the RSSB Board have also engaged in the RSSB Board discussion.

RDG agreed that it should consider further how to coordinate its ongoing engagement with RSSB and TSLG.

National Task Force

RDG noted that at its next meeting the National Task Force would be considering

- Long Distance Performance;
- The Strategic Business Plan
- Performance Planning and Delivery; and
- Implementing the 2012 NTF Review.

Industry Planning Working Group

The drafting of the industry strategic business plan and Network Rail's strategic plan had begun. The working group on trade-offs is now looking at developing proposals that seek to address ORR and DfT concerns about change control

Contractual and Regulatory Reform (C&RR) Working Group

The working group continues to discuss how to help inform DfT's response to the consultation on the role of the ORR.

RDG noted the view of the working group that system changes that affect train operators and Network Rail's infrastructure have historically been difficult to expedite as they tend to cut across contractual rights and obligations and that the industry's dispute mechanisms are not really designed to handle such schemes. The working group is considering how system changes can be facilitated and whether is a potential role for RDG to facilitate engagement between affected parties.

Assest, Programme and Supply-Chain Management (APSCM) Working Group

The session on the APSCM workstreams had been well received at the industry forum and had generated follow-up questions. The cross-industry nature of the work had received favourable comment.

The working group had identified savings from four of the five workstreams although overlaps with Network Rail's Strategic Business Plan remained to be identified.

Technology, Innovation and Working Practices Working Group

A meeting between RDG and the Trade Unions had been arranged for 10 December.

Formalisation of RDG Working Group

The formal consultation by the ORR on the amendment of operating licences in relation to the Rail Delivery Group has been extended. The working group was working on the finalisation of the Articles of Association.

Once the licence amendments are in place the formalities of inviting and confirming the Members of the Company, the Company's Directors and the Alternate Directors will begin. In parallel the process for applying to become licensed and associate members of RDG would be established.

The Communications statement that was presented to the October RDG meeting has been posted on the website.

Rolling Stock

The presentation on rolling stock will take place at the next meeting