
Rail North Partnership Joint Review

1. Objective:

- 1.1 To jointly review the Rail North Partnership arrangements for managing the devolved Northern and TPE rail franchises with a particular focus on learning from the May 2018 performance issues and steps leading up to this. Recommending solutions to avoid such events happening again.

2. Output:

- 2.1 It is expected that the review team will produce a short report with a set of high level recommendations for joint partners (DfT and TfN) with a focus on making this form of partnership more effective including improving information flows. This may include lessons that would be relevant to other areas pursuing rail devolution and/or potential future stages of rail devolution for TfN.

3. Timescale:

- 3.1 The review will take place over the next two months – with final report in time to influence TfN's governance arrangements and lessons for the management of future timetable changes.

4. Oversight and Support :

- 4.1 Political oversight will be provided by Jo Johnson MP (for DfT) and Cllr Judith Blake (for TfN).
- 4.2 Support from officials will be provided by team comprising Eddie Muraszko (DfT), David Hoggarth (TfN) and Dave Pearson (Director at West Yorkshire Combined Authority with experience of rail and also pan-Northern transport co-ordination for Tour de France)
- 4.3 Administrative support will be provided by the Rail North Partnership team.

5. Terms of Reference:

- 1. Set out the main terms of the current Rail North Partnership Agreement and how it works including the governance arrangements and operational custom and practice. Identify any issues of 'diluted accountability' within the devolved franchise working.
- 2. Set out the role and resources of the joint Partnership Management Team.

3. Summarise clearly the events that led up to issues with the May 2018 timetable and the consideration given to passengers during this process.
4. Identify and the concerns and issues highlighted as a result (including the direct impacts on passengers), noting that other reviews will be examining in detail the industry processes that led to the problems, and therefore such issues are out of scope of this review.
5. Understand how communications to Political leaders have worked to date including issues around timely sharing of information and engagement at key decision points. Recommend changes to TfN processes to enable engagement on key issues affecting passengers and stakeholders.
6. Review the level of interaction between the DfT/Rail North Partnership and Network Rail on key decisions that affect passengers making recommendations to strengthen this in future.
7. Propose potential improvements for the planning, resourcing, communications and oversight at times of emergency, change or disruption with a focus on the interests of the passenger.
8. Set out any short term actions (including recovery plans) to address current issues.
9. To ensure the interests of the passenger is at the heart of the process of planning and implementation of future timetable changes and that there is appropriate readiness in place for changes in December 2018.
10. Where appropriate, recommend changes in relation to:
 - The management working, resources, custom and practice of RNP;
 - Recommendations on the arrangements for the (forthcoming) TfN Rail North Committee – including any ‘early warning’ systems; and
 - Any changes to the Rail North Partnership Agreement needed to deliver the above.
11. To flag any longer term lessons that would be relevant in terms of:
 - Links between the Partnership and Network Rail
 - The specification of future franchise requirements; and
 - Potential changes concerning rail devolution.

Methodology:

The following methodology is proposed:

1. *Gathering background information.*
2. *Gathering informal political, business and industry views – possibly through a questionnaire methodology/interviews.*
3. *Developing options and recommendations.*
4. *Drafting a report.*
5. *Review of draft by lead politicians.*
6. *Presentation of draft to DfT and Transport for the North.*