

Rail North Committee Meeting – Item 5

Subject: Northern and Network Rail Review of May 2018

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Sponsor: David Hoggarth, Strategic Rail Director

Meeting Date: Thursday 6 December 2018

1. Executive Summary:

1.1 This report provides information on the review undertaken into the May 2018 timetable for Northern and Network Rail.

2. Recommendation:

2.1 The Committee is asked to **note** the review and receive a presentation from Anna-Jane Hunter of Network Rail.

3. Northern and Network Rail Review:

3.1 Following the problems with the May 2018 timetable there are a number of industry reviews underway or in development. These include:

- a) ORR Inquiry into May 2018 network disruption
- b) Department for Transport (DfT)'s Rail Review
- c) Northern and Network Rail Review into the timetable change
- d) DfT and Transport for the North's Joint Review of the Rail North Partnership.

The ORR published its interim report on 20 September.

3.2 Network Rail and Northern commissioned an independent report and recommendations into the preparations and processes leading up to the implementation of the recent timetable change. The report focusses on the relationship between Network Rail and Northern and how the two parties can work together more effectively in developing and implementing future timetables to ensure all the building blocks of their plans are in place in plenty of time to deliver for customers. Northern and Network Rail have developed a joint implementation plan.

3.3 The report was produced by industry expert, Vernon Barker and an overview of the report is included as Appendix 1.

3.4 Anna-Jane Hunter of Network Rail will make a presentation at the meeting covering the main points of the report.

4. Options Considered:

4.1 There are no alternative options as the report is an update.

5. Considerations:

5.1 Members are asked to consider the information set out in the report.

6. Preferred Option:

6.1 The preferred option is to note the report.

7. Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 1: Background to Vernon Barker Report

Appendix 1: Background to Vernon Barker Report

On 24 May 2018, Network Rail and Northern announced we were commissioning an independent report into the processes and procedures underpinning the implementation of timetable changes in light of the disruption suffered by passengers following the May 18 timetable change. Mr Vernon Barker was commissioned to conduct that review and we now welcome the publication of Mr Barker's report.

Whilst the report recognises the exceptional circumstances affecting the May 18 timetable change, its main focus is on the different issues that can arise in the context of a "business as usual" timetable change when compared to a transformational change (such as May 18) and the report recommends that different approaches should be adopted in each case.

Planning and implementing major timetable changes is a complex business, with lots of different pieces of work in various railway teams coming together at the same time in order to ensure things happen smoothly. Service enhancements and new infrastructure (for instance overhead line electrification equipment), new trains, or new staff must all be ready to ensure effective and safe delivery. The report recognises this complexity but highlights some areas where we could improve the way we jointly deliver the required activities.

The report focusses on the relationship between Network Rail and Northern and how we can work together more effectively in developing and implementing future timetables to ensure all the building blocks of our plans are in place in plenty of time to deliver what we've promised to our customers. This includes a number of key recommendations which focus on earlier engagement between the parties, the development of a shared project management approach delivered by a joint team and the injection of greater governance and oversight. In the case of critical issues impacting on a timetable change, such as the availability of new infrastructure or trains, the report emphasises the need for those dependencies to already be available, or deliverable with a high degree of certainty, before they are factored into timetable planning.

In line with the recommendations, we have developed an implementation plan. Many of the report's recommendations will require discussion with, and input and cooperation from, other stakeholders and affected parties in the industry. The report also recognises that its recommendations should be considered alongside those of other ongoing industry reviews and inquiries into the May 18 timetable change and aligned accordingly. We will therefore be carefully considering the report's recommendations in this wider context and remain committed to working together to ensure that passengers receive the service they expect and deserve. Our progress will be jointly monitored through our Alliance Board and, when established in the coming weeks, the Northern Route Supervisory Board.

List of Background Documents

Required Considerations

Please confirm using the yes/no options whether or not the following considerations are of relevance to this report.

Equalities:

Age		No
Disability		No
Gender Reassignment		No
Pregnancy and Maternity		No
Race		No
Religion or Belief		No
Sex		No
Sexual Orientation		No

Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Equalities	A full impact assessment has not been carried out because the report is for noting.	Strategic Rail Director	Strategic Rail Director

Environment and Sustainability

	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Sustainability / Environment	A full impact assessment has not been carried out because the report is for noting.	Strategic Rail Director	Strategic Rail Director

Legal

	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Legal	There are no legal implications as a result of this report.	Strategic Rail Director	Head of Legal Services

Finance

	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Finance	There are no financial implications for TfN.	Strategic Rail Director	Finance Director

Resource

	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Resource	There are no resource impacts from TfN as the implementation will be for the rail industry.	Strategic Rail Director	Strategic Rail Director

Risk

	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Risk	A risk assessment is not required.	Strategic Rail Director	Strategic Rail Director

Consultation

	No
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Consideration	Comment	Responsible Officer	Director
Consultation	Consultation is not required as the report is for noting.	Strategic Rail Director	Strategic Rail Director