

## **Report to Partnership Meeting 8 February 2019**

### **RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY**

#### **Williams Review**

##### **Background**

Chris Grayling, Transport Secretary has appointed Keith Williams, the former chairman and chief executive of British Airways to conduct a Rail Review.

'The government's vision is to have a world-class railway, working as part of the wider transport network and delivering new opportunities across the nation. The Rail Review was established by the Transport Secretary to recommend the most appropriate organisational and commercial frameworks to support the delivery of the government's vision.'

##### **Call for evidence**

The review has been established to recommend the most appropriate organisational and commercial frameworks to support the delivery of the government's vision for the railway.

The review invites written contributions to inform its work on any or all of the review principles, as set out in its terms of reference:

- commercial models for the provision of rail services that prioritise the interests of passengers and taxpayers
- rail industry structures that promote clear accountability and effective joint-working for both passengers and the freight sector
- a system that is financially sustainable and able to address long-term cost pressures
- a railway that is able to offer good value fares for passengers, while keeping costs down for taxpayers
- improved industrial relations, to reduce disruption and improve reliability for passengers
- a rail sector with the agility to respond to future challenges and opportunities

The review will look at the whole rail industry, including:

- increasing integration between track and train

- how to improve transport services across UK regions and devolved nations, including exploring options for devolution of rail powers
- improving value for money for passengers and taxpayers

The following topics are not considered by the review and this call for evidence:

public investment decisions made through existing franchise agreements  
railway funding 2019-2024 commitments (Control Period 6)  
High Speed 2 and other major projects  
spending decisions made through the Spending Review 2019

Evidence will inform the review and will be considered alongside other evidence received. The review's findings and recommendations will be published in a government white paper in autumn 2019, with reform of the sector to begin in 2020.

### **Timings**

To inform the review's initial 'listening' phase, where possible it is asked that evidence is submitted by 18 January 2019. However the evidence portal will remain open until the end of May 2019 and all responses will be reviewed by the team. In the later phases of the review the evidence portal will be used to seek input on more specific questions.

The Rail Review team can be contacted and evidence fed in at any time or a copy of the questions asked can be requested using the email [rail.review@dft.gov.uk](mailto:rail.review@dft.gov.uk).

### **Response**

HITRANS will be formulating a response which will consider *inter alia* commercial models for the provision of rail services, structures that promote clear accountability, good value fares, improved industrial relations, overcoming the conflicts around the management of track and train, and the future of franchising. It is suggested that this goes to the April 2109 Partnership meeting for finalisation.

## **RISK REGISTER**

### RTS Delivery

Impact - Positive

### Policy

Impact - Positive

### Financial

Impact – Nil

### Equality

Impact – Neutral

### **Recommendations**

1. Members and Advisors are asked to approve the report.

**Report by:** Frank Roach  
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**Date:** 25 January 2019