

PTE/18/28

Devon and Exeter Rail Project Working Party
13 July 2018

Cross Country Franchise Consultation

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Please note that the following recommendation is subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended the Devon and Exeter Rail Project Working Party consider and comment on the current Cross Country rail franchise consultation.

1. Summary

The Department for Transport (DfT) is carrying out a consultation on the new Cross Country franchise.

2. Background/Introduction

The consultation refers to the new franchise to start in late 2019 and is available on-line at:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/cross-country-rail-franchise.

This is available for any individual or organisation to respond to with responses required by 2345 hrs on Thursday 30 August 2018.

3. Proposal

The response to the consultation includes 44 questions. Key issues to consider include:

Capacity

The franchise carried 40 million passenger journeys in 2017/18, an increase of over 28% since 2010/11. The train fleet has not grown over this period.

Fares

Research by Transport Focus suggests this is the most sought-after area for improvement by customers.

Network

There are questions in the consultation relating to the “extremities” of the network. These include Plymouth to Penzance and services to Paignton, as well as services to Scotland and Newcastle. It is suggested that any resources saved could be reinvested in the core network.

Improving the customer experience

Including relating to the provision of information and improving interchange.

Station calls

Questions relating whether the present service pattern be retained at stations or should have bidders have flexibility regarding station calls.

Voyager Units

Although not included in the consultation, the issue of Voyager units not being able to operate along the sea wall at times of high tides is also a key issue and should be commented on.

A response will be sent from the County Council by County Councillor Andrea Davis, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Development and Waste.

4. Financial Considerations

None.

5. Environmental Impact Considerations

Consideration of rail travel across the country remaining a sustainable alternative for longer distances.

6. Equality Considerations

None.

7. Legal Considerations

There are no specific legal considerations.

8. Risk Management Considerations

No risks have been identified.

9. Public Health Impact

There are no anticipated public health impacts.

10. Options/Alternatives

Not applicable.

11. Reason for Recommendation/Conclusion

The Working Party are invited to contribute help formulate and contribute to the County Council response.

Dave Black
Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Electoral Divisions: All

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for enquiries: Damien Jones

Room No. Transport Coordination Service, Matford Offices, County Hall

Tel No: 01392 383000

Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
None		

dj290618der
sc/cr/Cross Country Franchise Consultation
02 050718