

PTE/19/3

Devon and Exeter Rail Project Working Party
18 January 2019

Update on Government Rail Review

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 that the report be noted.

Following the widely publicised issues with the introduction of new timetables over the Summer, surrender of the East Coast franchise by Stagecoach and issues with infrastructure projects, the Secretary of State for Transport announced an independent review of rail franchising and structures. Keith Williams, deputy chairman of John Lewis and former Chief Executive of British Airways, has been appointed to undertake this review, assisted by an independent expert challenge panel. The review will consider:

- 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 review is expected to produce a White Paper in Autumn 2019, with reforms beginning in 2020.

The first step of the review is a call for evidence. This is available for online completion at the address below:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/williamsrailreview/>

PLEASE NOTE: The closing date for this call for evidence is 18th January 2019

Dave Black
Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Electoral Divisions: All

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
None		

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