

West of England Partnership
Joint Transport Executive Committee
12 November 2009

Multi-Area Agreement: Rail Memorandum of Understanding

Purpose of Report

1. To outline progress with the draft Memorandum of Understanding with the rail industry.

Background

2. The Multi-Area Agreement (MAA) is an agreement between the West of England Partnership, Government and its agencies about key commitments in the sub-region to deliver the Partnership vision for 2026.
3. A report on the MAA's three transport related asks to accelerate the delivery and reduce the cost of major transport schemes, improve rail services and complementary working with the Highways Agency was presented to the Joint Transport Executive Committee on 01 October 2009.

Network Rail and First Great Western Memorandum of Understanding

4. This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be between the West of England Partnership, Network Rail and First Great Western. Its purpose will be to promote effective co-ordination and co-operation between the three organisations. It is proposed to include consultation on timetable changes, investment and planning decisions, input into the Joint Local Transport Plan and co-ordinating data collection. The rail industry will be attending the Joint Transport Executive Committee meeting on 12 November 2009. The draft MoU is set out in Appendix One. Following agreement over the MoU it is intended that all partners formally sign it at the Joint Transport Executive Committee meeting on 18 March 2010.

Recommendation

Member's views are sought.

Appendices

Appendix One: Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the West of England Partnership, Network Rail and First Great Western

Officer presenting the report:

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Draft Memorandum of Understanding between the West of England Partnership, Network Rail and First Great Western

Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is between the West of England Partnership (WEP), Network Rail and First Great Western. The purpose of the MoU is to promote effective co-ordination and co-operation between the three organisations.

The key principles are of openness, explanation and discussion together with shared responsibility and ownership of problems and solutions.

The MoU is a supporting document of the West of England's Multi Area Agreement.

It is not intended to be legally binding.

Agreement

It is hereby agreed that:

Network Rail, First Great Western and WEP collaborate to develop key milestones to achieve the Delivering a Sustainable Transport System (DaSTS) goal to support national economic competitiveness and growth by delivering reliable and efficient transport networks, including Strategic National Corridors 6. London to the South West and South Wales and 7. Bristol to the Midlands.

Network Rail and First Great Western are key stakeholders in the production of the Joint Local Transport Plan and provide input, expertise and feedback as required.

A programme and phasing of Network Rail, First Great Western and WEP schemes for 2011–2016 is agreed for inclusion in the Delivery Plan of Joint Local Transport Plan 3.

First Great Western provides full, timely and comprehensive consultation on timetable changes.

First Great Western provides early engagement on planned changes to the provision of rolling stock on West of England services.

First Great Western informs the West of England Partnership of proposed changes to station management and publicity.

Network Rail provide full and timely consultation on investment and planning decisions including the Great Western Mainline Business Plan, Network Rail Discretionary Fund and other smaller schemes.

Network Rail and First Great Western engage earlier with WEP in planning for and provide advance notice on engineering works and replacement services.

Network Rail and First Great Western officers provide updates for and attend meetings of the Joint Transport Executive Committee on a twice-yearly basis.

Network Rail and First Great Western to attend and provide technical support and advice for the West of England Rail Project Group.

The West of England Partnership provides evidence on future sub-regional housing and economic growth and other planned investment and priorities.

All MoU partners will identify a senior contact officer with lead responsibility for the MoU.

Information requests between the MoU partners will be managed as quickly as is reasonable depending on the complexity of the request and information available. Requests are to be as specific as possible.

Where appropriate data collection is co-ordinated between the MoU partners to maximise the use of data and enable cost sharing. Any costs will be mutually agreed by partners as per the appropriate contractual arrangement.

Timescale and review

The MoU shall come into immediate effect. The West of England Partnership, Network Rail and First Great Western will jointly review the arrangements set out in the MoU at two yearly intervals.

Signed

Four Executive Members

Date

Network Rail

Date

First Great Western

Date