

Item:
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Report to Partnership Meeting 23 August 2013

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

RAIL FRANCHISING

Purpose of Report

To provide Members with an update on the re-franchising of ScotRail and East Coast services.

ScotRail Re-franchising

ScotRail services are being re-franchised by Transport Scotland. The current operator is First. The single franchise is being split into two: sleeper and daytime.

The Sleeper franchise will run for 15 years from April 2015. Three bidders have prequalified to tender: Serco, Arriva and First. Serco run some Australian overnight services, while Arriva are part of Deutsche Bahn who have extensive European overnight operating experience. Government have allocated resources of circa £50Million to refurbish the Sleeper franchise rolling stock.

The Daytime franchise will run from April 2015 for 10 years, with a potential break point in the middle. A number of operators have identified themselves in the prequalification process. PQQs are due in on 23 August. The shortlisted bidders will be encouraged to engage with RTPs.

East Coast Re-franchising

East Coast services, currently operated by UK Government, will be franchised in February 2015. This is first Intercity franchise on offer and will attract a lot of interest. The introduction of new IEP electric and bi-mode trains to replace the HST and 225 fleets from 2018 has already been agreed by government.

HITRANS Activity on Re-franchising

HITRANS has undertaken significant research to support the case making for rail services within and to the Highlands. This includes the following research that Transport Scotland have included within the data room of useful resources they are making available to ScotRail franchise bidders:

- Sleepers Uncoupled
- Sleeper Operations
- Turbo-boost 170 Reconfiguration
- Inver-city
- 4castOD
- Regional Rail in Europe
- Franchise Model for Scotland
- Pre Ten o'clock Arrival

- HITRANS Rail Passenger Survey - Everything you always wanted to know about passengers but were afraid to ask

HITRANS officers have been invited to meet with officials from the Department for Transport East Coast re-franchising team when they travel to Scotland in the coming weeks. This meeting is expected to take place shortly after the Partnership meeting and will provide an opportunity to highlight the importance of the Inverness – London (Highland Chieftain) service to the north of Scotland economy.

Recommendation

1. Members are asked note the report..

Risk	Impact	Comment
RTS delivery	√	This project fits well with a number of RTS Horizontal themes.
Policy	√	This project has integration and environmental benefits.
Equality	-	No impact on equalities issues.

Report by: Frank Roach
 Designation: Partnership Manager
 Date: 12th August 2013