

SO Advisory Board meeting

On 19th September 2018, the System Operator Advisory Board held its second meeting. At this meeting, particular focus was on the System Operator plans for CP6 as presented to the ORR through the periodic review process. It was agreed that the Leadership Team would update the Board on changes required to the Strategic Business Plan following the Final Determination to form the Delivery Plan.

The Advisory Board reflected on the breadth of activity and engagement that the System Operator undertakes on behalf of the rail industry. Our customers include all funders, passenger operators and freight operators; as a result the majority of our teams are geographically aligned in their focus (including timetabling) with a small national core. It was highlighted that the movement to strategic questions away from route utilisation studies would provide greater flexibility in our approach to providing advice to funders and other stakeholders.

The Leadership Team highlighted that we are a people organisation. We are committed to developing our own colleagues, as well as growing the headcount further both from inside and outside the rail industry.

The Advisory Board discussed the allocation of funding within CP6, including what steps have already been taken in readiness. It was acknowledged that the changes to accounting principles for CP6 mean that we will need to play close attention to resource and recruitment planning, plus the need to play an active role as client to Route Services in delivering IT Systems capex enhancements.

The Advisory Board further discussed the nature of our System Operator scorecards. It is recognised that the scorecards are used as an information source for multiple different stakeholders for a multitude of different uses. The Advisory Board discussed the need for further explanation around the scorecard metrics to enable better scrutiny by the industry of the System Operator's activities.