

Terms of Reference for Infrastructure & Networks Group

Composition

Roger Blake – Director for Infrastructure & Networks, Chair
Martin Cooper – Secretary to I&N, and also F&L, Group
Owen O'Neill – Director of two rail re-opening Community Interest Companies
Chris Irwin – Adviser to I&N Group
Peter Wakefield – also Chair of Freight & Logistics Group

Reports to: Railfuture Board of Directors
Quorum: Four members
Meeting frequency: Three times per year

Objectives

Provide the leadership within Railfuture on policy and strategy in relation to key aspects of national rail infrastructure and networks for passenger and freight operators eg network capacity and connectivity, network expansion via line and station openings / re-openings, route modernisation, electrification, high-speed rail, route protection / safeguarding, light rail and metro development.

Present a single unified Railfuture stance and voice in the public domain on national rail infrastructure and networks issues, through engagement to inform and develop it with other Railfuture national groups, regional/national branches, and members/supporters.

Persuade key stakeholders whose infrastructure policies and programmes we aspire to influence to become 'Railfuture-friendly' through formal and informal liaison with their elected and official representatives, on a multi-agency, cross-sector, all-party basis.

Key areas of business

Ensure Railfuture responds to consultations / calls for evidence from eg Parliamentary Committees, National Infrastructure Commission, Department for Transport, Transport Scotland, Network Rail, Office of Rail & Road, sub-national transport bodies, Local Enterprise Partnerships, Combined / Unitary Authorities, Counties – RB

Document and disseminate Railfuture policies on national rail infrastructure and networks issues via Railfuture publications and media channels – PW / RB

Identify and publicise national Railfuture campaigns on infrastructure and networks issues. For 2022 these are a Bigger Railway through Restoring Your Railway and other network expansions and a Better Railway through decarbonisation primarily electrification – RB

Identify and support regional / local Railfuture infrastructure and networks campaigns, including by assessing and prioritising potential openings / re-openings of lines and stations, and maintaining up-to-date registers and mapping of potential schemes – MC / RB

Facilitate and evaluate bids to the Fighting Fund for infrastructure/networks campaigns, and make recommendations to the Board – RB / MC

Maintain registers of potential new lines and stations, with interactive map for stations – MC

Responsibilities

- To further Railfuture's vision, mission and strategic aims (given below)
- To set and review Group priorities on an annual basis for approval by the Board
- To make recommendations to the Board in respect of annual budget proposals
- To ensure effective and efficient use of the resources allocated by the Board
- To identify, monitor and review the risks associated with achieving Group objectives
- To ensure that communications by Group members both within Railfuture and externally are in accordance with Railfuture policy
- To identify, be aware of and respond as appropriate to relevant external developments that may affect the work of Railfuture
- To be proactive in identifying and evaluating new opportunities for the advancement and development of Railfuture
- To consider the marketing opportunities of Railfuture's policies
- To consider the international implications of Group policies
- To consider the impact actions taken in conducting its main responsibilities have on members
- To review annually the terms of reference and membership of the Group and make recommendations to the Board for changes as required
- To produce an update report for consideration at each Board meeting

Railfuture's guiding principles

Our Vision:

An independent organisation whose views are respected by the rail industry, to which decision-makers come for advice and which rail users are proud to join and recommend.

Our Mission:

To be the number one advocate for rail users and the rail industry.

Our Vision for the railways:

- Deliver a better service to rail users
- Deliver a bigger rail system
- Transfer more freight from road and air to rail

Our Strategic Aims:

- Earn respect for Railfuture and its members by defining a realistic position on key issues
- Build our influence by identifying, engaging and supporting key stakeholders
- Deliver a bigger better railway by identifying and actively pursuing key campaigns
- Raise our profile by promoting our position on key issues and our campaigns consistently to stakeholders, members, potential members and the public via all channels
- Attract and retain a wider range of members and encourage them to be active.