

NOTES ON THE NEW THAMESLINK FRANCHISE 2013

The Department for Transport (DfT) started the bidding process for the new "Thameslink Franchise 2013" on 19 December 2011.

www.dft.gov.uk/publications/thameslink-franchise-2013

A Franchise scope

The new "Thameslink Franchise" will **combine** all "First Capital Connect" services (including King's Lynn-King's Cross) with all "Southern" services (as well as including a small number of "South Eastern" services). It will thus be responsible for those services (new and proposed) which will run through the cross-London tunnels, as well as being responsible for a large range of other services which will not run through these tunnels, **including King's Lynn-King's Cross**.

*Source: DfT Official Journal of the European Union *OJEU" notice [page 2].*

B Franchise length

The new "Thameslink Franchise 2013" will start in September 2013 and run at least until 2020 (i.e. a minimum of 7 years). It may be extended by the DfT for up to a further 2 years.

*Source: DfT Official Journal of the European Union *OJEU" notice [page 2].*

C Franchise objectives

1 **delivery of the Thameslink Programme**, including working to introduce new trains and depots, managing the return of displaced stock to the relevant ROSCOs, and integrating operations, new infrastructure, and new train control systems (**double weighting** in DfT assessment scoring);

2 **change management** for the Thameslink Programme, including rail vfm study [McNulty] recommendations (**double weighting** in DfT assessment scoring);

3 support creation of eventual **long-term Thameslink franchise**, following delivery of the Thameslink Programme [detailed franchise terms indicate not before 2020];

4 **improvements for passengers**, including information, smart technology, integrated ticketing, station and train accessibility, and security;

5 high **punctuality and reliability** standards;

6 cost-effectiveness, efficiency, **collaboration with Network Rail** and other industry partners.

Objectives 1 and 2 will be afforded double weighting in the DfT's assessment process; the other four objectives have equal, single, weighting.

Source: DfT Pre-qualification Process Document [page 7].

D Franchising timetable

2012

6 January	<i>Initial indications of interest to be submitted to the DfT;</i>
9 February	<i>Pre-qualification Questionnaires [PQQ] to be submitted to DfT (financial standing and operating experience information plus a statement of bidders' Vision for the franchise);</i>
April	<i>DfT to confirm shortlist of bidders;</i>
October	<i>DfT to issue Invitation to Tender to shortlisted bidders;</i>

2013

January	<i>Bids to be submitted to DfT;</i>
May	<i>DfT to announce successful bidder;</i>
September	<i>New "Thameslink Franchise 2013" starts.</i>

Source: DfT Pre-qualification Process Document [page 12].

E Fen Line services are to run to and from King's Cross, not through the Thameslink tunnels

"Great Northern The services expected to transfer to Thameslink [i.e. run through the central London tunnels] (subject to consultation) are the Peterborough and Cambridge semi-fast services and some Welwyn Garden City 'stoppers' ...

"Services remaining domestic to the East Coast Main Line [i.e. to run to/from King's Cross] will be:

- The fast King's Lynn and Cambridge services;
- The Peterborough fast peak services;
- Residual stopping and semi-fast King's Cross services to and from Letchworth and Cambridge; and
- Stopping services between Moorgate and Hertford North, Gordon Hill, Stevenage, Letchworth, and Welwyn."

Source: DfT Pre-qualification Questionnaire [page 32].

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