

Consultation on a new approach to rail passenger services in London

1. Do you agree with the principle of a partnership to better integrate the specification of rail passenger services across London and the South East?

We strongly support the principle of integrating suburban rail services with other modes controlled by TfL. However we have difficulties with the concept of a partnership between TfL and DfT. TfL is directly accountable to the London electorate and should have overall control of services predominantly in London. The paper is unclear how accountability is to be delivered outside London.

2. Do you agree with the principles that the partnership will work to? Are there any specific issues that have not been captured?

The role of DfT, if any, should first be clarified. We agree as far as they go but would like some mention of issues such as safety and passenger comfort. Improved interchange is rightly mentioned as a crucial outcome but an overall aim to reduce the need for travel is not mentioned.

3. Do you agree with the proposed governance arrangements?

TfL should have complete responsibility for services operating mostly or wholly within Greater London and should liaise with other authorities over longer distance services. See comment at Q1.

4. What form do you propose the input from local authorities and LEPs could take?

The example of LOROL should be followed but contingent on their willingness to bear a share of the costs.

5. Do you agree with the safeguards for transfer of inner suburban services to TfL, as set out here?

TfL should have full planning control to enable it to reduce long distance commuting and population dispersal.

6. Are there other outcomes you might expect to see achieved?

There should be greater accent on establishing better interchanges between services and between modes, particularly taking Crossrail 2 into account.