



15th March 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re. TfL/DfT Rail Prospectus Consultation

Thank you for inviting the  to comment on the DfT/TfL Rail Prospectus.

Question 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?

It is possible that the concept holds merit and we reserve our position to comment further as this process evolves.

Question 2

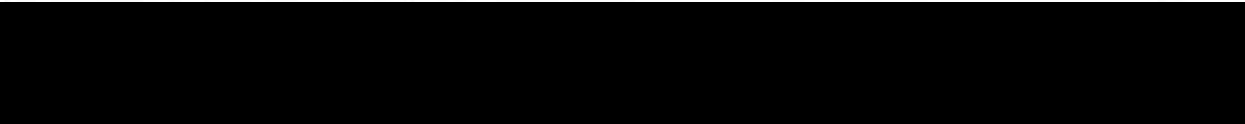
Do you agree with the principles that the partnership will work to? Are there any specific issues that have not been captured?

More frequent services, better interchanges and increased capacity

We are mindful that any future changes will involve spending significant sums of public money and would therefore be interested to understand far more in terms of where such funding would come from and how priorities would be arrived at before commenting in detail.

Generally speaking however, we obviously agree that increased services would be good thing for all future users of the services operating across south east London/North West Kent ; however this should not be at the expense of 'fast' mainline services used by outer London residents, which we are pleased to see have been protected by a safeguard

We would also urge and take this further opportunity to lobby that TfL/DfT give further consideration to light rail (Tram and DLR) improvements across the SE London & North Kent region.



Greater reliability for all passengers

We shall be particularly interested to study detailed proposals regarding the future reliability of local services, mindful of how Network Rail's baleful performance over recent years have so bedevilled Southeastern's franchise.

Reliability of services is of utmost importance to our residents

High standards of customer service

We are obviously keen that customers in outer London receive the same high standard of service enjoyed by inner London commuters who currently use London Overground services.

Improvements to station environments and security are also welcomed.

Question 3

Do you agree with the proposed governance arrangements?

We fully support any proposal that would require the partnership to take into account the views of local authorities

Question 4

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

We have no fixed view as to the format of potential governance arrangements at this stage and retain our position to comment further as this process evolves, but it must at the very least allow for open access to all key information and decision makers by Local Authority Leaders, their designates and senior Council Officers.

Question 5

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

We are supportive of all the safeguards proposed, whoever the future service operator might be, especially of the proposal to protect the frequency, journey times and stopping patterns of longer distance 'fast' services.

We would however be interested to know how these safeguards work when planning additional services, i.e. which has precedence for additional paths, metro or long distance. Also, whether services introduced during the life of the partnership would be covered by the same safeguards?

The safeguarding of fares is also welcomed, albeit that desired outcome in itself raises further questions as to precisely where the necessary and essential future investment funding will be found.

Question 6

Are there other outcomes you might expect to see achieved?

We are keen to learn more about how a South London Metro would actually be delivered. Whilst detailed proposals are not necessary at this stage, some idea of the interventions required to deliver metro-style frequencies alongside existing fast services would be useful. Ideally this should be integrated into the ongoing Network Rail Kent Route Study to ensure that infrastructure is being planned and delivered in a strategic manner.

We thank you for taking the time to consider [REDACTED] response to the prospectus and look forward to further contributing to any improvements to rail services in South East London / North West Kent over coming months.

Yours sincerely