

Annex 2: Consultation and engagement on the Surrey Rail Strategy

The main purpose of consulting on the Surrey Rail Strategy was to:

- a) obtain the views of certain key bodies, most notably the Train Operating Companies (including Transport for London) and Network Rail
- b) get buy-in to thinking about more aspirational schemes to tackle strategic challenges
- c) engage with residents and businesses to ensure that there was a thorough understanding of rail issues in the county.

Early engagement

As the strategy has been developed consultation has taken place with a number of partners, not least with relevant partners in the rail industry.

A Task and Finish Group was created with representation from Surrey County Council and Surrey districts and boroughs. Nominations for this group were sought from Surrey Planning Working Group.

At the start of the process Arup held several one-on-one sessions with members and officers. These sessions included meetings with:

- Councillor Steve Renshaw (at the time Chairman of the Environment and Transport Select Committee)
- Councillor John Furey, Cabinet Member for Transport, Highways and Environment
- Councillor Simon Gimson (Formerly of South West Trains and a former member of the Environment and Transport Select Committee)
- Mark Pearson (Chairman of Surrey Connects and the Transport for Surrey Partnership)
- All Surrey boroughs and districts (planning and transport officers).

Meetings and teleconferences were also held with the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), neighbouring local authorities, Network Rail, Transport for London, the Train Operating Companies, the Department for Transport and Passenger Focus.

A Member Seminar was held in January 2013. Members received a presentation on the rail issues identified and discussed early options to address those issues.

Two workshops were held to inform the strategy. An Options workshop (January) included representatives from Surrey districts and boroughs, Surrey County Council, the Train Operating Companies, Network Rail, Heathrow Airport Limited, Gatwick Airport Limited and the LEPs.

A further draft Surrey Rail Strategy workshop (March) included neighbouring local authorities.

The Environment and Transport Select Committee received a presentation on the emerging Surrey Rail Strategy in March 2013.

Press releases were issued. This generated good coverage which included BBC Surrey, the Surrey Advertiser and the Guildford Dragon.

Public consultation

There was a 14-week public consultation on the draft rail strategy from March – June 2013. The extended consultation period allowed the strategy to be discussed by certain local committees.

Five local committees received an item on the strategy, as well as the local committee chairmen.

The consultation used two products:

1. An Executive Summary document highlighting the key elements of the strategy.
2. The draft strategy document.

Information was sent by post to:

- Surrey Residents Associations
- Surrey Parish and Town Councils
- Surrey MPs
- All Elected Members
- Surrey libraries
- District and borough portfolio holders.

Information was sent electronically to:

- Members of the Transport for Surrey Partnership
- The Local Transport Plan email distribution list
- Business contacts:
 - Business representative groups such as Surrey Chambers of Commerce, the Institute of Directors and Federation of Small Businesses.
 - Surrey Connects business contacts.

Neighbouring transport authorities, the Train Operating Companies and several other groups and bodies had the opportunity to comment on the draft strategy.

Consultation responses

There were 151 responses to the consultation, more than any other Local Transport Plan Surrey County Council has consulted on. Some of the bodies that responded are listed below.

In response to a campaign led by the Westborough Community Association, there were several responses in favour of a new station at Park Barn in Guildford. A petition on the same subject was presented to the Guildford Local Committee.

A letter was also received from the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP.

Many responses were supportive of Surrey County Council's active engagement in rail and welcomed that the strategy had been developed. Amendments have been made in response to several of the comments received. These amendments include:

- Car parking and more broadly access to stations came through strongly in the consultation responses and it is suggested that this is a priority going forward.
- Access to London from Camberley, Bagshot and Frimley also came through strongly and might also be a priority going forward.

- More references have been made to the Uckfield line and by extension Tandridge district in the broader section on the Brighton Main Line.
- There are now further and stronger references to Woking's status as a key economic centre and rail town.
- Reference has been made to improvements to signalling and level crossing management which are considered to have significant impacts on level crossing downtimes and consequently on traffic congestion and air quality within Runnymede Borough.
- Worplesdon Park and Ride has been removed as an option.
- A section on the Mole Valley Line has been included.
- The section on Crossrail 2 has been clarified to ensure that its costs/ benefits are clear.

Consultation respondents included the following:

Public sector

- Aldershot Borough Council
- Ash Parish Council
- Bletchingley Parish Council
- Bracknell Forest Council
- Chiddingfold Parish Council
- Chobham Parish Council
- Claygate Parish Council
- East Sussex County Council
- Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
- Farnham Town Council
- Guildford Borough Council
- Hampshire County Council
- Horley Town Council
- Horne Parish Council
- Kent County Council
- Limsfield Parish Council
- Lingfield Parish Council
- London Borough of Wandsworth
- Mole Valley District Council
- Natural England
- Ockley Parish Council
- Pirbright Parish Council
- Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
- Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
- Runnymede Borough Council
- Salfords and Sidlow Parish Council
- Seale and Sands Parish Council
- Spelthorne Borough Council
- Surrey County Council Empowerment Boards (TBC)
- Surrey Heath Borough Council
- Surrey Wildlife Trust
- Tandridge District Council
- Transport for London
- University of Surrey
- Waverley Borough Council
- West Sussex County Council
- Witley Parish Council
- Woking Borough Council
- Wokingham Borough Council
- Worplesdon Parish Council.

Private sector companies or representative bodies

- Enterprise M3 LEP
- Gatwick Airport Limited
- Graham Warren Ltd
- Heathrow Airport Limited
- Interlinking Transit Solutions Limited
- Kempton Park Racecourse/ Jockey Club Estates Ltd
- Martin Grant Homes (MDS Transmodal)
- Metrobus
- Network Rail
- Rail Planning Consulting
- South West Trains

Voluntary groups and other third sector bodies

- Alton Line User's Association
- Burpham Community Association

- Burpham Neighbourhood Forum
- East Surrey Transport Committee
- Edenbridge & District Rail Travellers' Association
- Fetcham Residents Association
- Guildford Environmental Forum
- Guildford Residents' Associations
- Guildford, Waverley and Woking Friends of the Earth
- Holy Trinity Amenity Group
- Mayford Village Society
- Merrow Residents Association
- Molesey Residents Association
- Railfuture
- Rowledge Residents Association
- St Catherine's Village Association
- St Clare's Church, Park Barn
- Staines Town Society
- Surrey Green Party
- The Camberley Society
- The Reigate Society
- Watercolour Residents Association
- Westborough Parking Group
- Westfield Residents Association
- Wood Street Village Association.

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