Ms Valentina Licata
Office of Rail Regulation
1 Kemble Street
LONDON
WC2B 4AN

Gary Garford
Corporate Director
Tel: 01354 622203
Fax: 01354 606919
E-mail: garygarford@fenland.gov.uk

Our ref: GG/WO/DS181/8.17
Your ref:

20 March 2013

Dear Ms Licata

Network Rail Strategic Business Plan for Control Period 5 2014 - 2019

Fenland District Council (FDC) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the above mentioned draft plan. The Railways are an important part of our local infrastructure specifically for promoting economic growth and to ensure that residents, business and visitors have good accessibility to a range of destinations. It is also essential to ensure that goods can be transported quickly and easily. The continued improvement of such infrastructure is necessary to ensure that demand can be met and that we maximise the potential and value of our local railways.

A local commitment to the railways

FDC is committed to working in partnership with the rail industry. We have a range of commitments as follows:

- In 2012 we launched the Fenland Rail Development Strategy, which is a programme of investment and improvements in our local stations and services to 2031. We are fully committed to the delivery of the proposals in this strategy and delivering real local benefits in partnership with the rail industry
- We also launched the Hereward Community Rail Partnership in October 2012 focusing on the line between Peterborough and Ely. For a number of years now local residents and businesses have expressed strong support for railway. We are currently working hard to maximise this support through the CRP.
- We are one of the local authorities supporting the Rail Prospectus for East Anglia, focusing on the need for greater strategic development of the rail network. Significant elements of our Rail Development Strategy are also contained in the prospectus
- FDC is also part of the West Anglia Routes Group (WARG). This is an association of public and private sector organisations committed to seeing improvements on the West Anglia line between London Liverpool Street and part of Essex, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire.