

19 February 2013

Valentina Licata
Office of Rail Regulation
One Kemble St
London WC2B 4AN

and via e-mail: sbp.comments@orr.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Valentina Licata

The ORR has invited comments on the Network Rail Strategic Business Plan (NR SBP) for the 5 year period from April 2014 to March 2019.

Here in Newham and East London local councils and our business and other stakeholder partners are seeking to build a legacy from the 2012 Olympics which will add further to the creation of a new metropolitan centre for London and to the objective of regenerating the areas so local people see their education, employment, health and housing and general living conditions converge with the higher average levels for London as a whole.

We recognise that transport infrastructure and services are crucial to underpinning the achievement of these regeneration objectives. Newham in general and Stratford in particular have benefited from substantial investment in these areas such that the two Stratford stations together are the busiest station hub outside central London, however there remain key gaps which project proposals in the NR SBP could do much to fill. I write to give support to these when you are scrutinising the Business Plan and the resources you deem necessary for proposed investments.

The projects which I wish to endorse on behalf of Newham are:

- **Extension of the third track from Stratford to at least Angel Road and ideally Brimsdown on the West Anglia route.** Rail travel northwards /southwards up and down the Lea Valley into and from Stratford is currently poor. This needs substantial improvement as the Lea Valley Corridor up to Stansted, Cambridge and Peterborough is one of the government's main growth corridors. This project would enable the doubling of the current service into/ from Stratford i.e. giving 4 trains per hour. It is understood NR have allocated some £50m in their Business Plan towards the £80m required and local stakeholders are seeking to identify sources for the remainder. **This is our key priority project with the Business Plan**

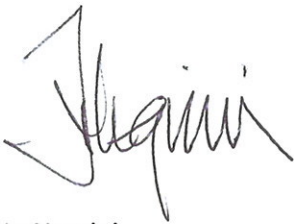
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- Improvements to journey times and speeds on the Great Eastern Main Line and West Anglia (Lea Valley Line) routes. The second part of this project relates to our key priority above,
- Additional track capacity north of Chelmsford. There has been a steady expansion of services into Stratford and Liverpool St from Essex and East Anglia. These are areas of the country set to experience some of the fastest growth of population over the medium term and this project relates to ensuring there is capacity to meet this growth.

I hope very much you will take into account in your assessment the important role this additional rail infrastructure and services will perform in enabling economic growth as London develops eastwards and the adjoining eastern regions are also set to contribute to growing GDP and accommodating large increases in population.

Yours sincerely



Jo Negrini

Director - Strategic Regeneration, Planning and Olympic Legacy

Strategic Commissioning and Community

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