

To Valentina Licata, Office of Rail Regulation (ORR)

Although the Strategic Business Plan is not an ORR publication and not a formal ORR consultation, I understand that a period of six weeks has been provided for comments to be sent to ORR by 19 February 2013. The only comment that I wish to make is in respect of page 66 and concerns the reference to "Uckfield line longer trains" as part of the "Key strategies" for Central London. This reference to longer trains for the Uckfield line is welcome. The Council was concerned about the lack of investment on this line for some years. However, new rolling stock has been introduced and improvements to services have been made including an all year round service on Sundays and a new direct Monday - Saturday service between Uckfield and London Bridge which are both welcome service enhancements. The Council would wish to see these service enhancements maintained and wishes consideration be given to through services on a Sunday replacing the shuttle service between Oxted and Uckfield that currently operates. It is considered that additional rolling stock is needed for the Uckfield line as problems of overcrowding on trains at peak times are of particular concern.

Regards,

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