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**My ref:**  
**Your ref:**  
**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Dear Sirs

**Consultation on a revised contractual regime at stations - Proposed changes to the Station Access Conditions and Independent Station Access Conditions**

Thank you for inviting Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) to consult on the above. The Council believes that the ORR consultation could have an impact on the schemes that we are currently involved with on the railway.

HCC believe the consultation to be quite technical as it assumes a certain familiarity with the existing process; however, we are able to offer the following key points as set out below:

HCC has previously been involved in enabling station changes as a local authority in the following areas:

- Funding for bus interchanges
- Designing and building interchanges
- Funding cycle parking
- Managing CRP schemes (such as landscaping improvements/art schemes)
- Funding CRP improvements to stations (such as CIS, shelters, CCTV, lighting, footpaths)
- improving walking/cycling routes to/from stations
- improving station signage

HCC has an interest in continuing to invest in improving interchanges to enable more sustainable travel and reduce the number of cars on its roads.

HCC is currently shielded from the station change process as the train operating company has always sponsored the work done at stations.

HCC also has the potential to be affected by the proposed changes to Station Access Conditions as a potential future operator of the Abbey Line. Any changes to long term

charges at Watford Junction station could have an impact on the viability of the operations of the Abbey Line.

HCC will support a process that makes it easier to build improved interchanges, but would not support a process that could result in adversely impacting our potential future operations of the Abbey Line if Hertfordshire or its operator is not able to object to increased charges where it might have been able to in the past as an operator.

In addition, Hertfordshire are not currently resourced to manage what appears to be a complicated station change process, as this is outside of our current expertise. We would, however, welcome the opportunity to be formally regarded as strategic partners on jointly funded projects.

With regards to maintenance and upkeep on interchange schemes, Hertfordshire welcomes a consistent approach where it is clear that the land owner will maintain and renew the interchange as appropriate so that the capital funding provided will be toward a sustainable scheme that is also financially sustainable in the long term.

Hertfordshire County Council would welcome the ability to initiate change on the railway in principle, but is not able to offer a definitive opinion without a more detailed understanding of how the process would be implemented in practice. We would welcome further dialogue with the ORR about the implications of this change should the decision be made to develop it further.

Yours Sincerely

KATIE PUDNEY  
TRANSPORT PLANNING AND POLICY OFFICER