

Report to Solent Transport

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Subject: Rail Consultations

Purpose of the Report

To detail the responses made to the recent consultations on the:

- Hendy Review of Network Rail's programme;
- New Approach to Rail Passenger Services in London and the South East; and
- Western Rail Link to Heathrow.

Recommendations

1. **That the Joint Committee retrospectively approves the consultation responses to the:**
 - **Hendy Review of Network Rail's Programme;**
 - **New Approach to Rail Passenger Services in London and the South East; and**
 - **Western Rail Link to Heathrow.**

Introduction

1. Since the last Joint Committee, consultations have been held on three separate rail consultations:
 - The **Hendy Review** was a review by Sir Peter Hendy of Network Rail's current investment programme during Control Period 5 (CP5), which made recommendations on revising the programme following cost and timescale overruns on some projects, most notably Great Western Electrification;

- The **New Approach to Rail Passenger Services in London and the South East** outlines proposals to extend Transport for London's (TfL) control to all suburban services in London; and
 - The **Western Rail Access to Heathrow** was a latest consultation on this scheme, which would provide a direct link to Heathrow from the Great Western main line.
2. Copies of the detailed Solent Transport responses to these consultations are appended to this report.

The Hendy Review

3. Following cost and timescale overruns in Network Rail's CP5 five year investment programme (2014 to 2019), particularly the Great Western electrification programme, Sir Peter Hendy was appointed to review the programme. This has resulted in a revised investment programme for CP5 and although no schemes have been cancelled, some delivery timescales have been extended. This includes the extension of delivery into CP6, which starts in 2019. A consultation was held on the revised programme.
4. The full response is provided in Appendix 1, but the key issues to note are:
- CP5 investment projects within the Wessex area (e.g. capacity enhancements at London Waterloo) will go ahead as previously planned. The response did note concerns, however, that the budget for Network Rail's scheme development programme has been reduced; and
 - In terms of schemes delayed into CP6, ensuring priority is given to delivering East – Rail as far as the West Coast Main Line, Western Rail access to Heathrow (supported by Reading to Basingstoke electrification for services to/from Solent), Oxford Corridor Capacity Improvements and ensuring that the development of the Basingstoke to Southampton section of the Electric Spine project is not delayed.

The New Approach to Rail Passenger Services in London and the SE

5. This consultation outlines proposals to extend TfL's control of all suburban rail services. The new South Western franchise, which is due to start in 2017, has been identified as the first opportunity where these new proposals could be implemented. Whilst this proposal would include services that extend well beyond the Greater London boundary into Surrey, it would not include services extending through to Solent.
6. Whilst Solent Transport is generally supportive of the proposals, the main comments are to ensure that proper consideration and governance arrangements are available to ensure that long distance

services, which do serve Solent, are not compromised. The full Solent Transport response is provided in Appendix 2.

Western Rail Access to Heathrow

7. This project would deliver direct rail access into Heathrow Airport from the Great Western Main Line. Following electrification of the Basingstoke to Reading route, the Wessex Route Study has identified the potential for London Paddington to Basingstoke or Southampton services, which could provide direct access to Heathrow via the Western Rail Access.
8. The Solent Transport strongly supports the proposal and highlights the need for through services to be provided. The full Solent Transport response is provided in Appendix 3.

Summary

9. Solent Transport responses have been provided to these three rail focussed consultations during the period since the last Joint Committee in February. Members are asked to ratify these and if any amendments are requested, these will be forwarded to the relevant organisations.

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background papers

The following documents disclose facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and has been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report.

NB the list excludes:

1. Published works.
2. Documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.

TITLE

LOCATION