

The **monthly** branch newsletter of **railfuture** in London and the South East

Britain's leading *independent* campaign for a bigger better railway for passengers and freight

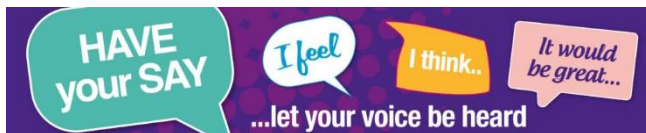
The Opportunities For Influence

As an independent campaigning organisation of volunteers, with limited capacity if not capability, the only power we have is soft – the power of persuasion.



Railfuture's **TOFI** Test (The Opportunities For Influence)

Campaigning through consultations may well not be a phrase to inject the missing sparkle into all friends and family get-togethers but it does answer the burning question on everyone's lips "so what do you do?" It's the same principle: if we want to be in the conversation we first have to be in the room. If we want to be invited to be at the table it's often a good idea to have an ear-catching something, uplifting and motivating, to offer.



Last month and this we're dealing with five TOFIs each. Last month it was Gatwick Airport's Northern Runway Project, the Mayor of London's new London Plan, the Eastbourne / Lewes District Councils' reorganisation, and East Sussex's draft Rail Strategy and draft Freight Strategy. This month it's for the City of London's consideration of Network Rail's Liverpool Street station redevelopment and ORR's Accessible Travel Policy, while considering what to contribute for Surrey County Council's reorganisation, Medway's pre-submission (to the Planning Inspectorate) draft Local Plan, and TfL's second consultation on the DLR extension via Beckton Riverside to Thamesmead, all three closing next month.

See [Consultations](#) and send your contributions to londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk

What shall we be doing this month?

London and South East regional branch members, and / or committee members, will be:-

- ~ participating in Railfuture's national AGM, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (and a visit to the Northumberland Line).
- ~ participating in Hampshire CRP's annual Stakeholder conference, in Southampton.
- ~ participating in Southeast CRP's North Downs Line Steering Group, in Dorking.
- ~ participating in Southeastern's Stakeholder Forum.
- ~ holding regular meetings of our Herts & Beds and Eastern Divisions **online** and of our London Metro and Sussex & Coastway Divisions in-person.
- ~ holding a regular monthly meeting of the L&SE regional branch committee, **online**.

~ drafting our responses to two more consultations:
City of London's consideration of Network Rail's Liverpool Street station redevelopment and
ORR's Accessible Travel Policy, while studying Surrey County Council's reorganisation, Medway's pre-submission draft Local Plan, and TfL's second consultation on the Thamesmead extension of DLR, in readiness for responses due next month.

Your opportunity to influence our responses is to email londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk

Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

Saturday 5 July National AGM for all Railfuture members, in Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Wednesday 9 July Eastern Division evening meeting, **online**. Invite non-members!

Thursday 10 July London Metro Division evening meeting, in-person. Invite non-members!

Thursday 17 July Sussex & Coastway Division summer evening social, in-person in Lewes. Invite non-members!

Thursday 17 July Herts & Beds Division evening meeting, **online**. Invite non-members!

Sunday 20 July Trenitalia c2c Ltd transfers to DFTO.

Thursday 31 July ORR publishes [Rail Fares Index](#) for 2025.

Full details in our [Events](#) and [Rail dates](#) web pages.

What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-June edition of *inter-railse* no.84, Railfuture's London and South East regional branch members, and / or committee members, have:

~ run our '[Bridge the gap](#)' campaign stall at the Uckfield & District Lions Club's annual Family Fun Day.

~ participated in GTR's stakeholders' summer event.

~ contributed to a Northeastern University, London, Transport Planner Community Roundtable [online](#) which "*provided valuable insights that are directly informing the development of our new Transport Planner degree apprenticeship programme.*"

~ participated in the MarshLink Action Group's AGM.

~ participated in Southeast CRP Steering Groups for the Uckfield & East Grinstead lines, in the former Station Master's House at Cowden, and for MarshLink.

~ contributed Railfuture's national Board Director for Infrastructure & Networks Roger Blake as a guest speaker to an afternoon micro-symposium in Lewes by Fourth Door "*INTERSECTIONS – between sustainable transport infrastructure, digital tech, cycle networks, architecture, and the built environment.*"

~ participated in GWR's annual Community Rail and Stakeholder conference at STEAM, Swindon. Three presentations of relevance to L&SE regional branch can be found in our branch website's [dashboard](#).

~ attended the All-Party Parliamentary Rail Group session on "*The changing face of rail: hear from the DfT Operator*" with the Chairman of DFTO.

~ held meetings of our Herts & Beds Division [online](#) and our Sussex & Coastway Division in-person with GTR's Public Affairs Manager Martin Darby.

~ held a regular monthly meeting of the L&SE regional branch committee, [online](#).

~ responded to some consultations:

Planning Inspectorate's request for responses to Gatwick Airport's [additional information](#) after the DfT's interim decision on the Northern Runway Project.

Mayor of London's consultation on "[Planning for a better London - Towards a new London Plan](#)".

East Sussex County Council's consultations on its [draft 2025-50 strategies for freight and for rail](#)

but on reflection not Eastbourne Borough and Lewes District Councils' consultation on [local government re-organisation in East Sussex](#) as insufficiently of direct interest for us, or for the City of London's consideration of Network Rail Property's applications for [Liverpool Street station redevelopment](#) as closing date deferred.

***Our vision for Railfuture:** An independent organisation whose views are respected by the rail industry, to which decision makers come for advice, which rail users are proud to join and recommend.*

Britain's Growing Railway in London and the South East: July birthdays

~ on the 15th, in 1983 – King's Cross Midland City re-opened (opened 1863, closed 1979, re-named King's Cross Thameslink 1988, finally closed on 9th December 2007).

~ on the 18th, in 2011 – Southend Airport.

~ on the 18th, in 2022 – London Overground line extension to Barking Riverside station.

~ on the 23rd, in 1973 – Stevenage, (second station, a mile south of the original opened in 1850 and was closed to coincide with its successor's opening).

~ on the 25th, in 2015, a 'soft opening' to passengers of London Overground's Hackney Interchange walkway.

***Our vision for rail:** A railway system that provides services which travellers and freight forwarders want to use, and which offers more journey opportunities to more people and more freight.*

Railfuture is 'in the news' / 'making the news' / sharing 'news and views'

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture members making, not just watching, things happen in our website [media extracts](#).

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture making, not just reporting, the news through our [press releases](#).

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture's and others' reports and thoughts published in our [website articles](#).

~ Railfuture is active on [Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#) / [LinkedIn](#).

Railfuture publications by email

~ All members – individual, joint, affiliated organisation eg rail user group or similar, or a business – are being encouraged to receive [Railwatch](#) direct to their Inbox immediately on publication by logging-in at [Member services](#); it's accompanied by branch newsletter [railse](#).

~ All members can receive Railfuture's regular monthly newsletter [Rail User Express](#) and occasional [Rail Action](#) bulletin direct to their Inbox upon publication.

This branch e-newsletter is free, published monthly and distributed to branch members with their GDPR consent items for our newsletters, and our branch Local Action column in *railwatch*, to londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk

railfuture

Railfuture's mission: to be the number one advocate for Britain's railway and rail users

Website: [Welcome to Railfuture](#) **Twitter:** [@RailfutureLSE](#)

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