

Influencing rail services in West Sussex – Railfuture meeting

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Presentation structure

- What role does rail play in West Sussex?
- What is WSCC's role as highway authority in influencing rail services?
- What engagement does WSCC have with rail?
- Key improvement issues for rail in West Sussex
- Thoughts on West Coastway route services

What role does rail play in West Sussex?

- Backbone of public transport network
- Serves diverse economic areas of Gatwick Diamond, Coastal West Sussex and Rural West Sussex (and the South Downs National Park)
- Accessibility, reduces traffic congestion, provides environmental benefits
- Supports the economy (employers to access labour market and employees to access work, supports business investment, Gatwick Airport international gateway, leisure and tourism)

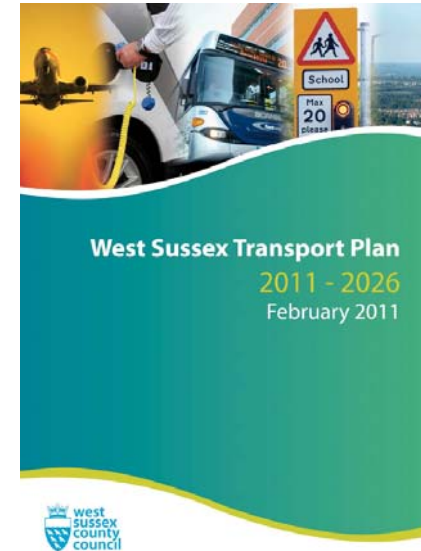
What is West Sussex CC's role as Highway Authority?

- Main transport responsibilities are in relation to the **highway network** – County roads, Public Rights of Way
- **Direct interactions** with rail – level crossings (road and PROW), highway network journeys to stations
- **Indirect interactions** and interests in rail – promoting journeys by rail helps to reduce road congestion, reduce negative environmental impacts of road traffic e.g. transport emissions and air quality; supports social inclusion and economy



What engagement does WSCC have with rail?

- West Sussex Transport Plan 2011-2026 - points to improvements to West Coastway as a priority
- Cabinet Member level decision responses to Route Study, franchise and timetable consultations, including engagement with key stakeholders
- Dialogue with partners through Transport for South East (TfSE) and Network Rail regarding forthcoming corridor transport studies; Collaborative input through TfSE into Williams Rail Review
- Lobbying regarding disruption incidents - i.e. timetabling, industrial relations, infrastructure problems



What engagement does WSCC have with rail? (continued)

- Supporting Sussex Community Rail Partnership line groups – Arun Valley, East Grinstead and West Coastway
- Investment in station access infrastructure – forecourt improvements, cycle parking, new stations i.e. Horsham to Crawley?
- Supporting Gatwick Airport Surface Access Strategy improvements at station - Sustainable Transport Fund (car parking levy)

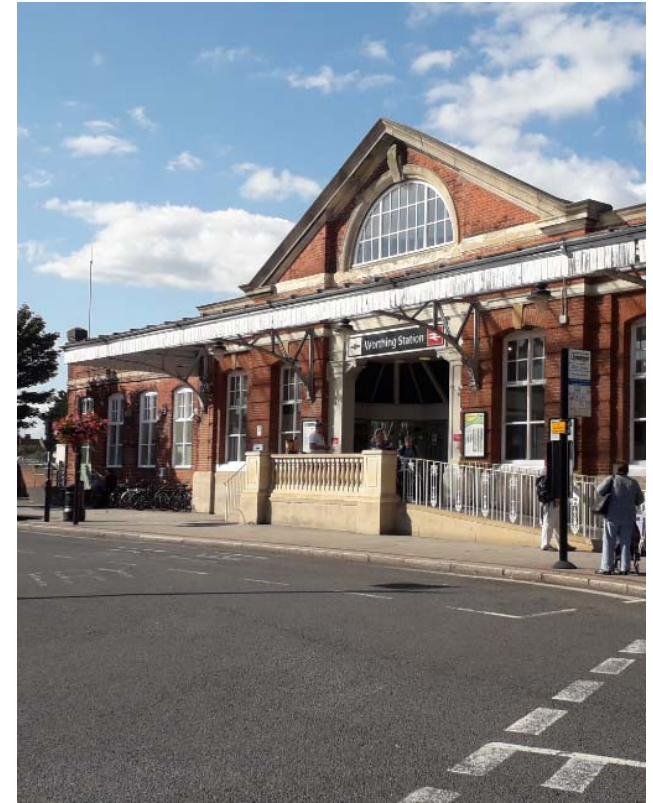


Key issues highlighted for improvement

- Journey times/connectivity between key urban centres
- Finding an appropriate balance fast and slow services
- Capacity on specific services – Brighton Main Line, Coastway 313s
- Rolling stock quality – 313s, wifi, power sockets
- Reliability
- Passenger information during unplanned disruption
- Station access - Access for All?
- Early morning/late evening services – Gatwick/leisure economy – *bi-directional track/signalling infrastructure?*

Thoughts on West Coastway

- Welcome Network Rail Continuous Modular Strategic Planning work
- Address journey times between key economic centres - passing opportunities, signalling infrastructure, level crossings
- Arundel Chord?
- The role of the GWR fast service?
- Rolling stock quality and capacity – 3135
- Reliability



Thank you for listening



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