

railfuture

<https://www.railfuture.org.uk/Welcome-to-Railfuture>

Campaigning for a bigger better railway

Railfuture is Britain's leading, longest-established, national independent voluntary organisation campaigning exclusively for a better railway across a bigger network for passenger and freight users, to support economic (housing and productivity) growth, environmental improvement and better-connected communities. We seek to influence decision makers at local, regional and national levels to implement pro-rail policies in transport and development planning.

Railfuture is a voluntary group representing all rail users, with c.20,000 individual and affiliated members. Railfuture is funded solely by its own members, not by train companies, political parties or trade unions.

Our Honorary President is Christian Wolmar, the transport writer and broadcaster.

Our Vice Presidents include former rail chief executives and managing directors Chris Green, Adrian Shooter CBE, Ian Brown CBE, and Stewart Palmer along with railway specialists such as Roger Ford, Paul Abell and Alan Williams, plus several MPs and Lords.

Elections are held annually among Railfuture members to choose the Board of Directors which governs Railfuture.

Individual members form the national groups (Passenger, Infrastructure, Freight) which shape policy and manage the activities of the society.

Railfuture has 12 branches in England, plus branches in Wales and Scotland, which meet locally and campaign on local issues.



A Railfuture campaign success:

<https://www.railfuture.org.uk/article1850-Hoo-rail-victory>

(artist's impression of new station proposed for Hoo St. Werburgh)



Planning for Growth on the Hoo Peninsula

#RailTransportForNewHomes

#RestoringYourRailway

Planning for Growth on the Hoo Peninsula

It's all about meeting the essential need for new homes, and supporting such new developments with high-capacity sustainable transport connectivity delivering competitive journey times.

Planning for Growth on the Hoo Peninsula

It's then all about the Medway Local Plan to 2037, and its Development Strategy which includes this as one of its three key proposals:

“a rural town on the Hoo Peninsula, focused around Hoo St. Werburgh, supported by new services and infrastructure, including transport, schools, healthcare, parks, jobs and shops”.

Planning for Growth on the Hoo Peninsula

The draft Medway Local Plan to 2037 is understood to be due out for public consultation soon, before submission to the government's Planning Inspectorate for independent Examination later next year.

Planning for Growth on the Hoo Peninsula

The “high-capacity sustainable transport connectivity delivering competitive journey times” is supported through the government’s Housing Infrastructure Fund. Medway were allocated £170 million in November 2019, of which £67 million is earmarked for rail.

Planning for Growth on the Hoo Peninsula

That was the title of a public consultation by Medway Council on the vision for Hoo, to which we responded in May 2020. We noted that a measure of success in achieving the vision would be the percentage of personal travel by rail.

Future Hoo – new routes to good growth

That was a further Medway Council consultation, to which we responded in April 2021. It included specific railway proposals, and Railfuture noted that the number of planned homes is almost exactly the same as at Barking Riverside where a four trains per hour all-day every-day service is planned and should be matched for Hoo.

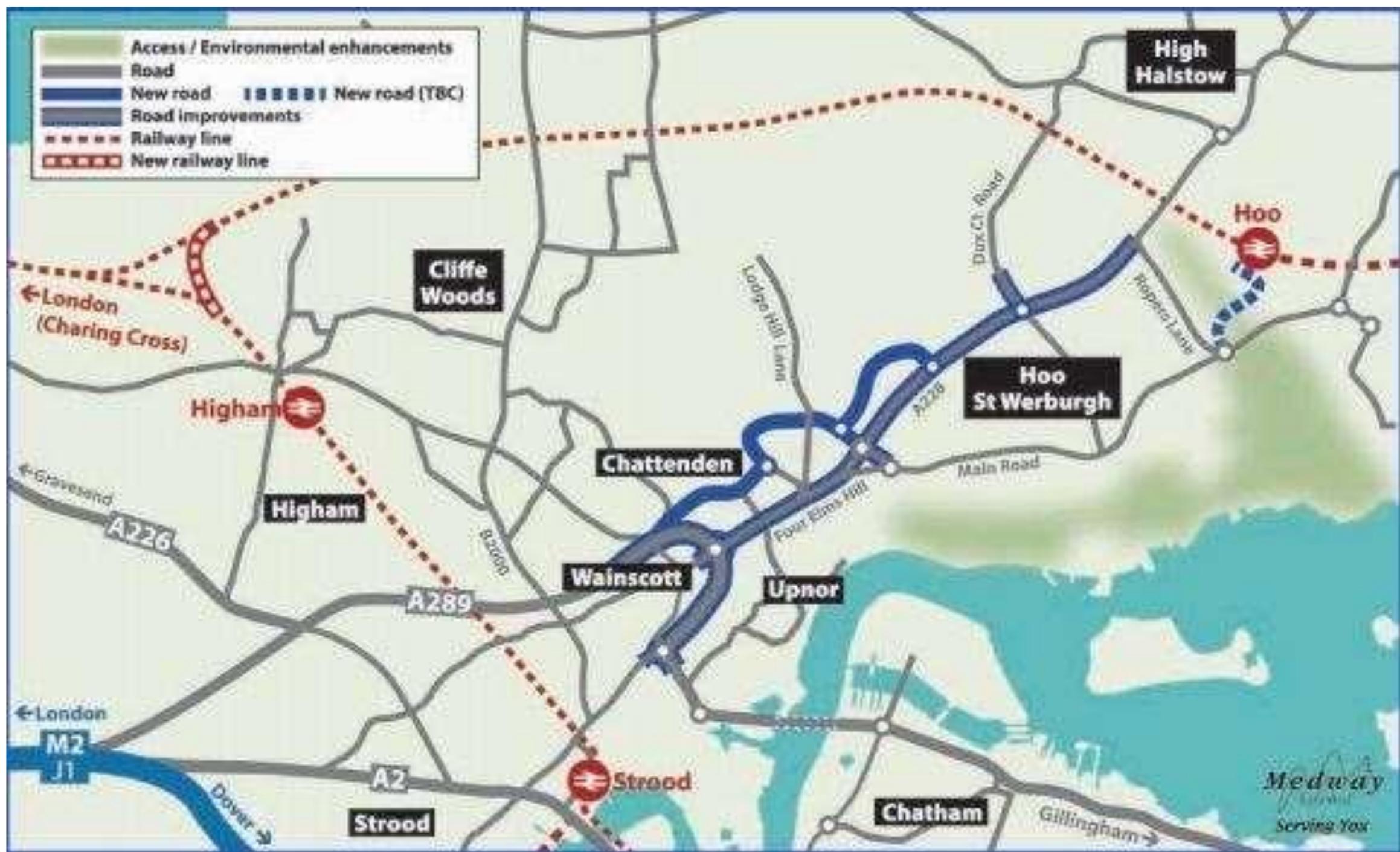
We also advocated the connectivity and sustainability benefits of a new east-south chord for direct rail access to Strood and the Medway towns / Medway Valley line, recognising that additional funding would be required.

Future Hoo – new routes to good growth

The specific railway proposals being developed within the HIF rail budget of £67 million include upgrading the existing single-track freight-only line for passenger use, including new passing loops and dealing with seven level crossings, and building the new station.

Pending the imminent completion of a Rail Safety and Standards Board report on possible limited extensions to the third rail network, train type and traction remain to be determined.

We do have serious concerns about the limited initial train service for encouraging 'rail-mindedness'.



Planning for growth > new routes for old

“The Hundred of Hoo Railway Story” (part)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9CysGBaring>

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