

## 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

### Runways? Railways! – update

As indicated in the previous bulletin, 27 February duly saw the Secretary of State for Transport's decision - or rather interim or 'minded to' decision - on applicant Gatwick Airport Ltd's Northern Runway project. A brief guide helps focus on the aspects for Railfuture interest.

A letter published on National Infrastructure Planning's website indicates "*The Secretary of State is minded to grant consent for the proposed development, subject to further information or evidence from the applicant on a number of specific issues.*" Furthermore "*To allow time for the applicant to submit further information by 24 April 2025 and to allow for consultation on the further information with Interested Parties, the Secretary of State has set a new deadline of 27 October 2025 for her decision on this application.*"

Heidi Alexander's Written Statement to Parliament included this: "*Given the examining authority's report, for the first time, recommends an alternative DCO which includes a range of controls on the operation of the scheme and not all the provisions have been considered during the examination, I am issuing a minded to approve decision that provides some additional time to seek views from all parties on the provisions, prior to a final decision.*"

The familiar question for Railfuture campaigners – any of this matters to us, why? The Examining Authority's 409-page Recommendation Report's Chapter 5 Conclusion on 'Traffic and Transport' at para. 5.4 deals almost exclusively with road traffic and parking, with only a passing reference to public transport: "*as a result of the Proposed Development, there would be increased road traffic and public transport passenger journeys creating additional stress on already congested networks.*"

The Secretary of State's 54-page letter of 27 February to Gatwick Airport Ltd has two paragraphs on 'Rail network capacity' at paras. 88 and 89. At great length, it is clear that she shares the Examining Authority's reservations about surface access mode share.

Buried in the 459 pages of Appendices is a 188-page Recommended, or revised Development Consent Order (rDCO). What is apparent from Part 6 of this 'alternative' DCO's 'Miscellaneous and General' Section 51 'Protection of interests' and related Schedule 9 'Protective provisions' in Part 4 'For the protection of railway interests' is that it is only the interests of Network Rail as the owner, operator and maintainer of the railway's infrastructure which are within the scope of the Development Consent Order, not train operators' services using that infrastructure.

### Britain's Growing Railway in London and South East: March birthdays

~ in 1991 (date/s uncertain) the new three-platform Stansted Airport station, and north and south chords off W. Anglia Main Line; airport open officially on 15<sup>th</sup>.

~ in 2008, on 27<sup>th</sup>, Heathrow Airport T5 extension from Heathrow Central / T1-3, and new Terminal 5 station.

**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.

### What shall we be doing this month?

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

~ seeking nominations by Monday 31 March for officers and other members of your regional branch committee for 2025/26, ahead of the AGM on Saturday 12 April. Nomination forms in [L&SE AGM](#).

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

~ holding regular meetings of our Sussex & Coastway and Eastern Divisions [online](#), and of our London Metro and Herts & Beds Divisions in-person.

~ attending the regional roadshows at London Euston, London Oval and in Milton Keynes for the DfT's earlier Call for Ideas to support the development of an [Integrated National Transport Strategy](#) for England.



~ running the regional branch's campaigns stall at the annual London Festival of Railway Modelling at Alexandra Palace.

~ drafting the composite Railfuture response to Transport for the South East's '[Your voices](#)' survey about its refreshed Transport Strategy, which closes Friday 7 March.

~ drafting Railfuture London & South East regional branch's response to Medway Council's consultation on the [Hoo Peninsula: Community Infrastructure Framework](#), which will close on Tuesday 18 March.

**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.

## What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-February edition of *inter-railse* no.80, Railfuture's London and South East regional branch members, and / or committee members, have:

~ held a regular meeting of our Sussex & Coastway Division, [online](#). The regular quarterly meeting of our Kent Division had to be cancelled.

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

~ been seeking nominations by Monday 31 March for officers and other members of your regional branch committee for 2025/26, ahead of the AGM on Saturday 12 April. Nomination forms in [L&SE AGM](#).

~ attended the regional roadshow in Brighton for the DfT's Call for Ideas to support the development of an [Integrated National Transport Strategy](#) for England.



~ contributed to the national Railfuture response to the DfT's Call for Ideas for an Integrated National Transport Strategy, which closed on 20 February.

~ attended the drop-in events for Lewes District Council's first of a two-phase consultation on its draft [Local Plan - Lewes 2040](#) for Lewes District, excluding the area within the South Downs National Park.



~ submitted our regional branch's response to the latest consultation by Lewes District Council on its draft [Local Plan - Lewes 2040](#) by close on 28 February.



~ attended the pop-up events for Transport for the South East's ['Your voices'](#) survey about its refreshed Transport Strategy, closing on Friday 7 March.

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](mailto:londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk)

## 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.

## Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

**Saturday 1 March** Herts & Beds Division in-person morning meeting, King's Cross. [Invite non-members!](#)

**Tuesday 4 March** DfT roadshow for Integrated National Transport Strategy Call for Ideas, London.

**Wednesday 5 March** DfT roadshow for Integrated National Transport Strategy Call for Ideas, London.

**Wednesday 12 March** Eastern Division evening meeting, [online](#). [Invite non-members!](#)

**Saturday 15 / Sunday 16 March** L&SE regional branch campaigns stall at Alexandra Palace, N22 7AY.

**Thursday 20 March** Sussex & Coastway Division evening meeting, [online](#). [Invite non-members!](#)

**Thursday 20 March** London Metro Division evening meeting, in-person. [Invite non-members!](#)

**Monday 31 March** Closing date for nominations for 2025/26 regional branch committee.

**Wednesday 9 April** Herts & Beds Division evening meeting, [online](#). [Invite non-members!](#)

**Saturday 12 April** Annual open morning meeting with speaker/s, followed after lunch by members' AGM.

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

# **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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