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***please reply to:***

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2025-06-30

Dear ESCC,

### **Draft East Sussex Freight Strategy 2025-2050**

#### **Respondent Information**

*Questions 1-3:* Railfuture is Britain's leading and 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.

#### **Roles and responsibilities**

*Q4 - Do you agree with the roles and responsibilities related to freight as set out in section 3 of the draft strategy?*

Yes.

(optional open response box: a 'Key organisation' which needs to be singled out for special mention in 'Central Government' is HM Treasury. It is significant both for its post-Spending Review 10-year Industrial Strategy just published, and also for the forthcoming revised Green Book as HMG's guidance on appraisal.)

#### **Freight Priority Investment Areas**

*Q5 - Have we included reference to relevant policy documents, evidence or opportunities for Priority Investment Area 1 (strategic freight movements)?*

Yes.

*Q6 - Do you agree with the freight related schemes and initiatives included in Priority Investment Area 1 (strategic freight movements)?*

Yes.

*Q7 - Have we included reference to relevant policy documents, evidence or opportunities for Priority Investment Area 2 (decarbonisation)?*

Yes.

*Q8 - Do you agree with the freight related schemes and initiatives included in Priority Investment Area 2 (decarbonisation)?*

Yes.

[www.railfuture.org.uk](http://www.railfuture.org.uk) [www.railfuturescotland.org.uk](http://www.railfuturescotland.org.uk) [www.railfuturewales.org.uk](http://www.railfuturewales.org.uk)  
[www.railwatch.org.uk](http://www.railwatch.org.uk)

*Q9 - Have we included reference to relevant policy documents, evidence or opportunities for Priority Investment Area 3 (last mile logistics)?*

Yes.

*Q10 - Do you agree with the freight related schemes and initiatives included in Priority Investment Area 3 (last mile logistics)?*

Yes.

*Q11 - Have we included reference to relevant policy documents, evidence or opportunities for Priority Investment Area 4 (planning and policy)?*

Yes.

*Q12 - Do you agree with the freight related schemes and initiatives included in Priority Investment Area 4 (planning and policy)?*

Yes.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment**

*Q13 - do you have any feedback on the draft Freight Strategy Equalities Impact Assessment?*

No.

### **Overall support and any other comments**

*Q14 - To what extent do you support or not support the draft East Sussex Freight Strategy?*  
Somewhat agree.

*Q15 - Do you have any further comments, not covered in the previous questions, that you wish to make? Yes (open response box: HMT's Modern Industrial Strategy identifies eight growth-driving sectors – Advanced Manufacturing, Clean Energy Industries, Creative Industries, Defence, Digital & Technologies, Financial Services, Life Sciences, Professional & Business Services – at least some of which are represented to a greater or lesser extent in the East Sussex economy and have freight and logistics playing a more or less significant role in their operations. It will therefore be important for this Strategy to recognise and support the needs of those specific sectors and the growth opportunities which they bring to contribute to the prosperity and productivity of East Sussex.)*

Yours faithfully,

Roger Blake BA, MRTPI (Rtd), MTPS  
Railfuture  
London & South East regional branch  
Director for Infrastructure & Networks, national Board