Presentation to Lewes u3a

12th November 2026

by Railfuture's national Board Director

for Infrastructure & Networks

Roger Blake BA MRTPI (Rtd) TPS

My journey from East Kent to East Sussex

- Faversham
- Newcastle-upon-Tyne
- Stockton-on-Tees
- Chester
- Gaborone
- Stoke Newington

railfuture

campaigning for a bigger, better railway

https://www.railfuture.org.uk

Railfuture's journey to East Sussex

- SRUBL (UK) founded in 1950s, became Railway Invigoration Society, merged with Railway Development Association to become Railway Development Society in 1978
- RDS known as Railfuture from 2000, been Railfuture Ltd, a not-for-profit Company Limited by Guarantee, since 2004
- Independent, funded solely by members' subs and legacies
- National Board of 9 Directors
- Hon. President and 10 Vice-Presidents
- Branches – 12 in England plus Scotland and Wales
- London & South East regional branch has been at its most active in East Sussex since c.2012

Railfuture's activities in East Sussex

- Uckfield traffic improvements from 2012
- High-Speed Hastings from 2014
- Southern's East Coastway / MarshLink timetable changes up to and since the May 2018 changes
- Sussex Community now Southeast Communities Rail Partnership Stakeholder Advisory Board and line Steering Groups
- Lewes Town plus Lewes and Wealden District Councils – presentations to Lewes Town 9th August 2022, Lewes District 19th April 2018
- Lewes Societies Fair
- Uckfield Festival's 'Big Day' / Uckfield & District Lions Family Fun Day
- East Sussex County Council
- Transport for the South East

ACCESS and CONNECTIONS: EAST SUSSEX

Opportunities to align railway investment to the economic growth requirements of East Sussex

Author: Jonathan Roberts, JRC Ltd
Sponsor: Railfuture

First published July 2013

A Railfuture report commissioned from JRC Ltd. jrc@jrc.org.uk
Paid for by Railfuture's Fighting Fund.
© Railfuture and JRC Ltd, 2013

ACCESS and CONNECTIONS: EAST SUSSEX

Options for rail development within and beyond East Sussex

- **Shape quicker, easier links for local economic growth**
- **Support all who live, work, study in or visit East Sussex**
- **Help travel to and from neighbouring South East towns**
- **Respond to current and future commuting needs**

railfuture

The independent campaign for a better passenger and freight rail network

This report was fully-funded by a grant from Ralfuture's Fighting Fund

For more information on the Uckfield-Lewes campaign go to
www.railfuture.org.uk/Uckfield+Lewes

www.railfuture.org.uk

The Railway Development Society Limited is a (not for profit) Company Limited by Guarantee.
Registered in England and Wales No. 5011634.
Registered Office:- 24 Chedworth Place, Tattingstone, Suffolk IP9 2ND

“Imagine”

… there’s no rail link,
replacement? Answer ‘Why?’
No rails beneath us,
above - pie in the sky?
Imagine all the users
living for that day.

The Rule of ‘P’

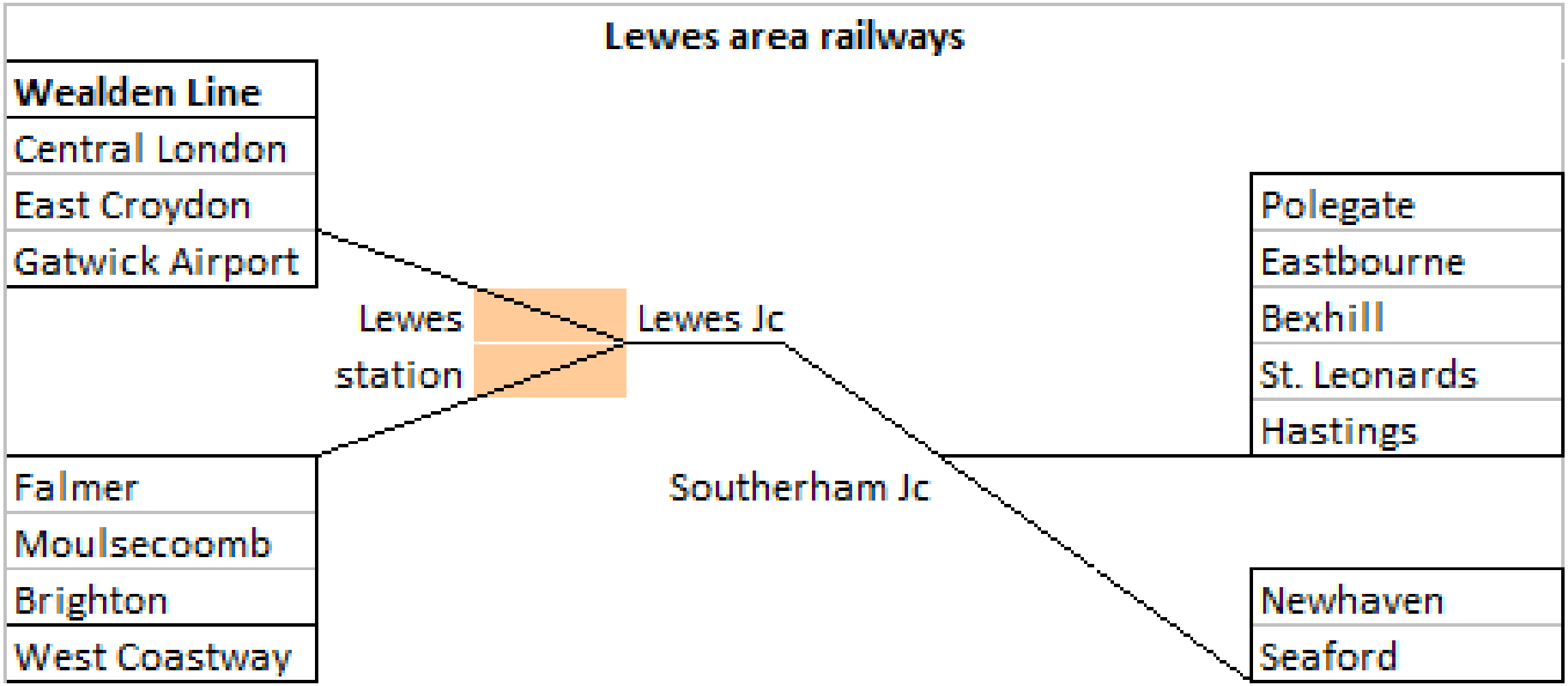
- Presentations
- Persuasive
- Personable
- Polite
- Persistent
- Patient
- Pragmatic
- Professional
- Politicians
- Processes

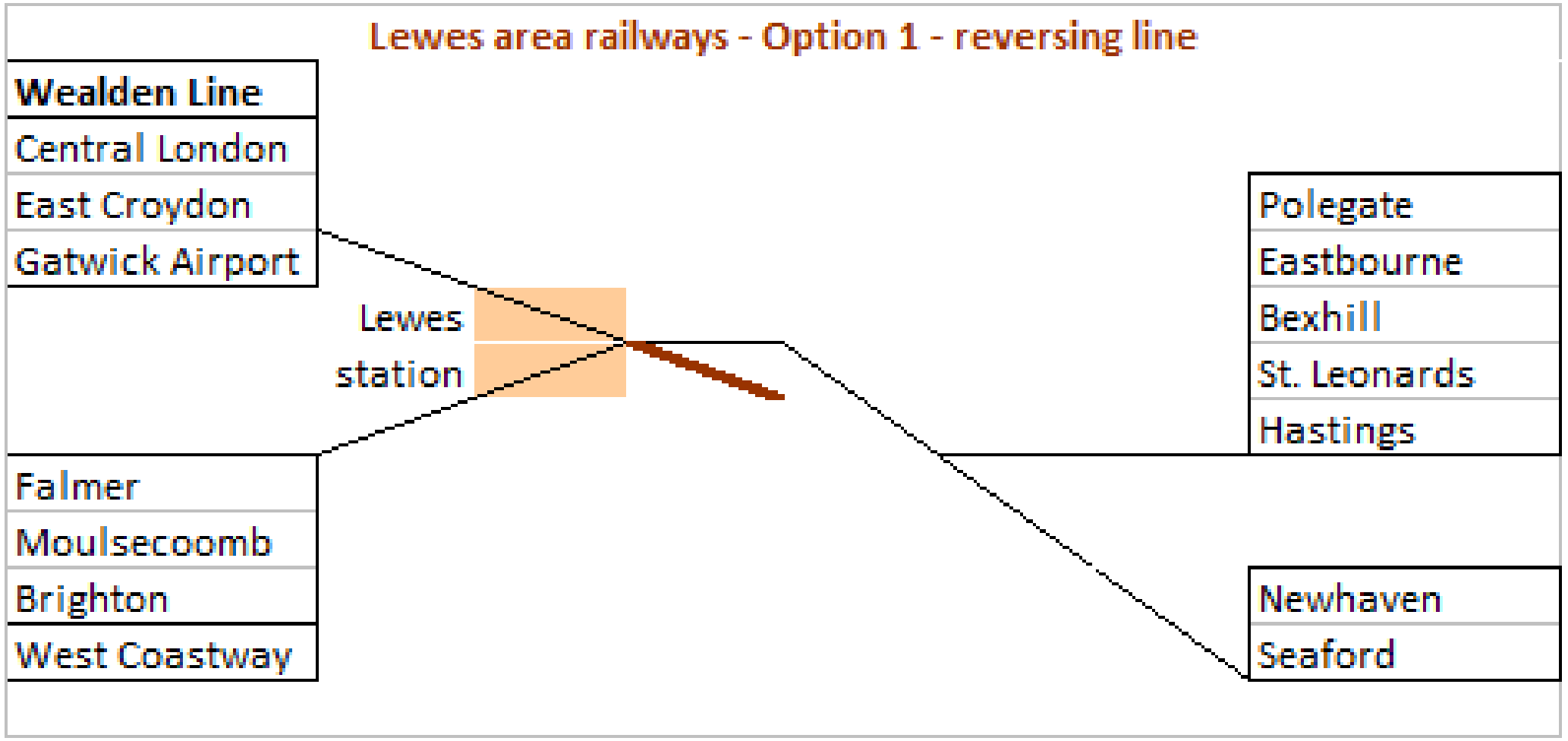
Processes-a-plenty!

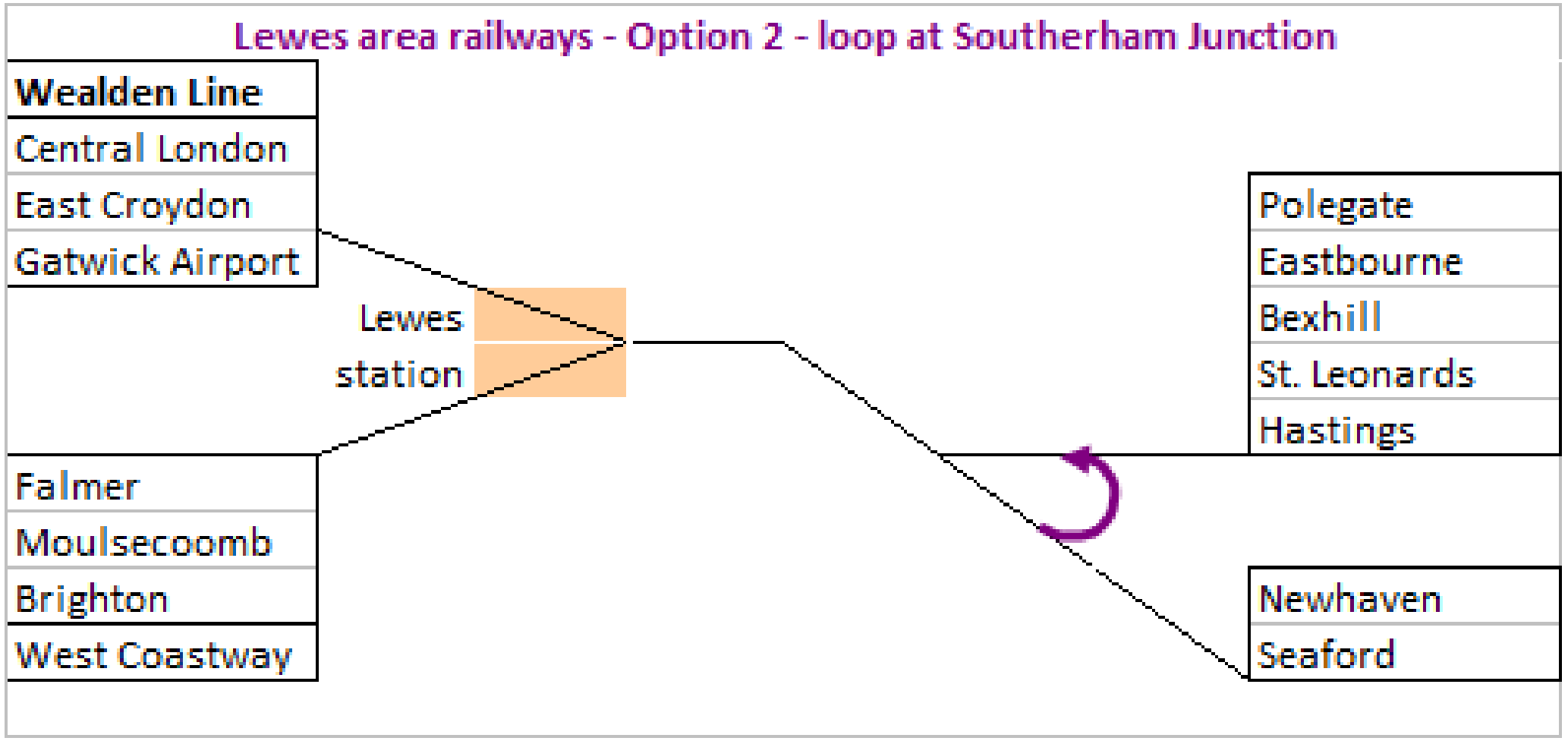
- Local Plans – Lewes and Wealden Districts, a new East Sussex unitary
- Local Transport Plan (LTP) – ESCC
- Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) – TfSE
- Rail Network Enhancements Pipeline (RNEP) – DfT – 5 stages (Determine > Develop > Design > Deliver > Deploy)
- Business cases – Strategic Outline (SOBC), Outline (OBC), Full (FBC) – 5 dimensions (strategic+economic+commercial+financial+management)
- Development Consent Order (for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, NSIPs) considered by Planning Inspectorate
- Devolution with Sussex & Brighton Strategic Authority (Spatial Development Strategy, Local Transport Plan)

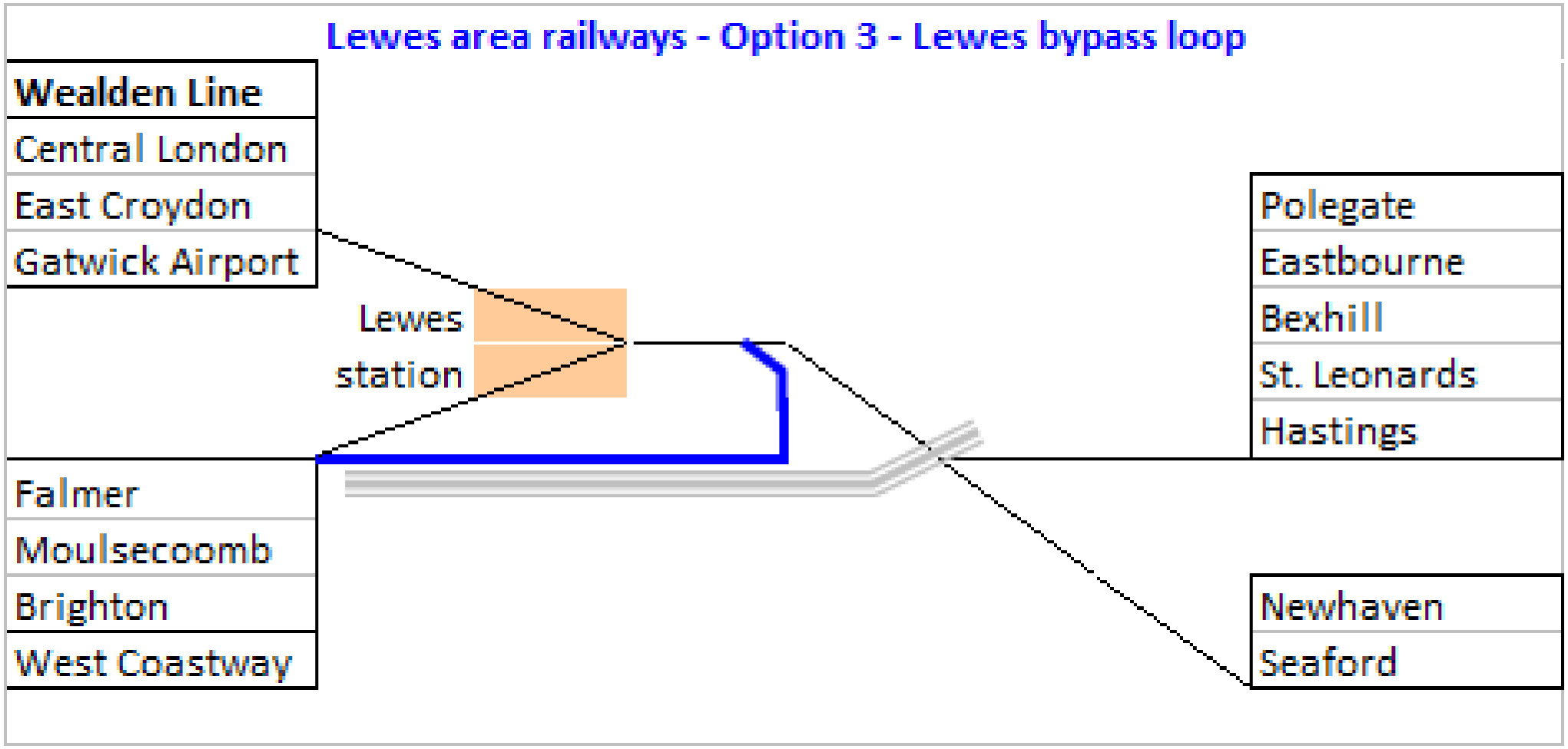
Connecting communities

- Lewes – population of built-up area c.16k, with little scope for growth
- Uckfield – population of built-up area c.15.5, growing and with scope for more
- Ringmer / Broyle Side – population of built-up-areas c.4.5k, growing and with scope for more
- Multiple pressures driving need for more homes of different tenures and types
- Choices about distribution and location
- Integrated transport means aligning new development and new connections
- Lewes-Uckfield corridor is a given, route within it to be chosen, a detailed alignment to follow

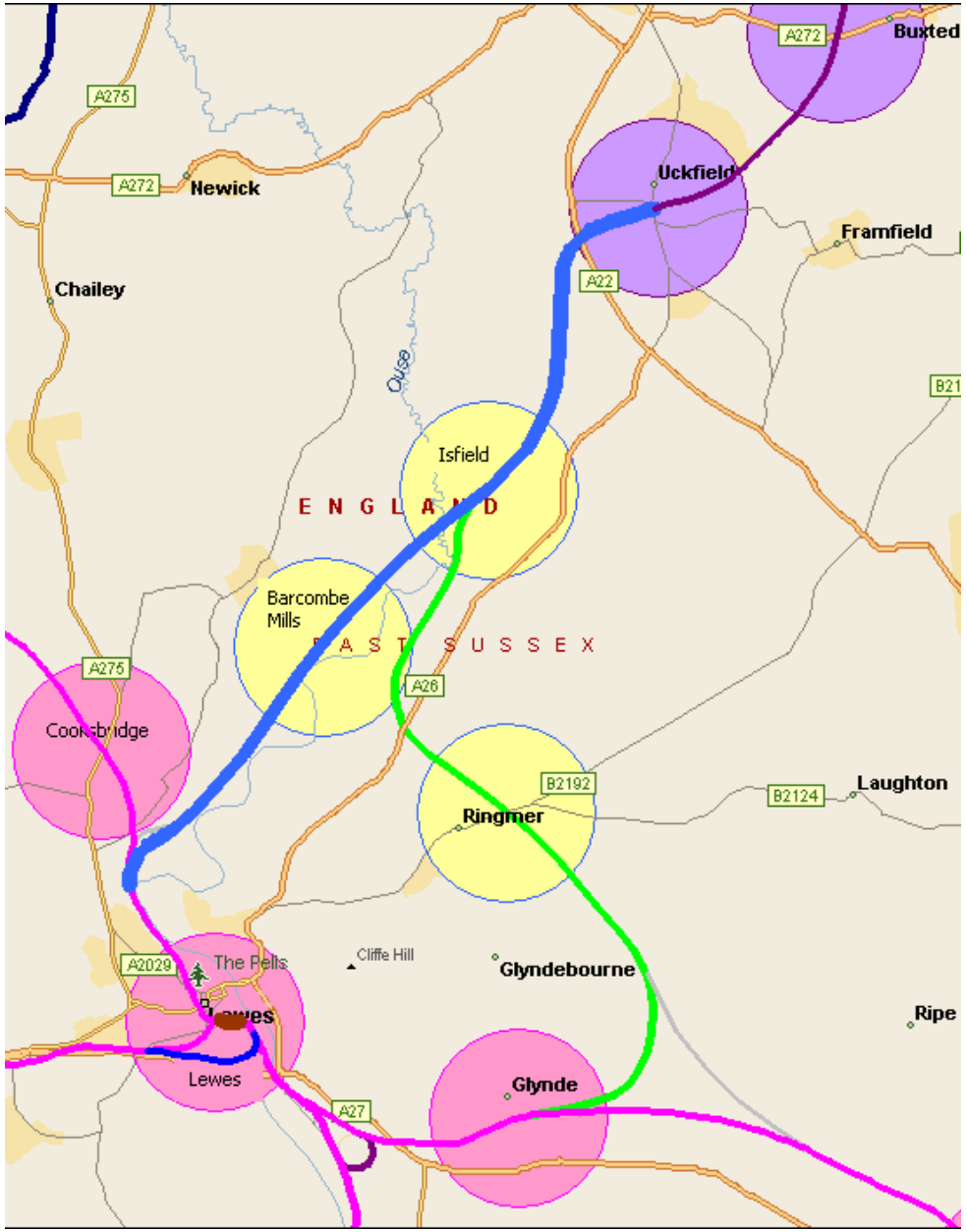

Lewes area railways
Wealden Line
Central London
East Croydon
Gatwick Airport
Lewes
station
Lewes Jc
Polegate
Eastbourne
Bexhill
St. Leonards
Hastings
Falmer
Moulsecoomb
Brighton
West Coastway
Southerham Jc
Newhaven
Seaford


Lewes area railways - Option 1 - reversing line
Wealden Line
Central London
East Croydon
Gatwick Airport
Lewes
station
Falmer
Moulsecoomb
Brighton
West Coastway
Polegate
Eastbourne
Bexhill
St. Leonards
Hastings
Newhaven
Seaford

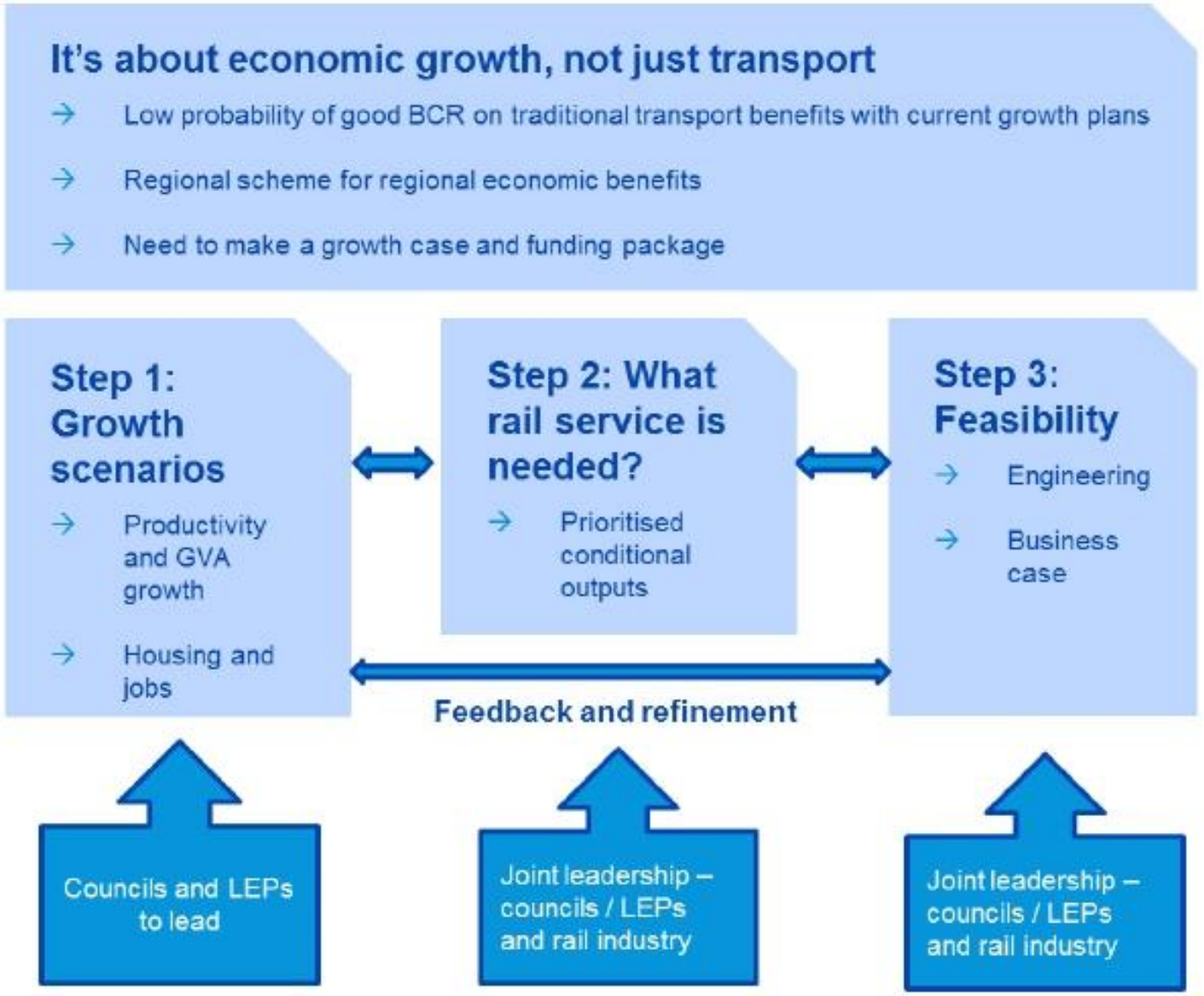

Lewes area railways - Option 2 - loop at Southerham Junction
Wealden Line
Central London
East Croydon
Gatwick Airport
Lewes
station
Falmer
Moulsecoomb
Brighton
West Coastway
Polegate
Eastbourne
Bexhill
St. Leonards
Hastings
Newhaven
Seaford


Lewes area railways - Option 3 - Lewes bypass loop
Wealden Line
Central London
East Croydon
Gatwick Airport
Lewes
station
Falmer
Moulsecoomb
Brighton
West Coastway
Polegate
Eastbourne
Bexhill
St. Leonards
Hastings
Newhaven
Seaford

Lewes option 4: Uckfield via Ringmer to Glynde, Lewes and Brighton, and to Eastbourne



“make no little plans, they have no magic …”



“Bridge the gap”

