

# East Herts Council Non-Key Decision Report

Date: 17 March 2020

Report by: Councillor Graham McAndrew – Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability

Report title: Rail Strategy Consultation, Hertfordshire County Council, January 2020

Ward(s) affected: All

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## Summary

To consider East Herts Council's response to Hertfordshire County Council's Rail Strategy Consultation.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DECISION: That Hertfordshire County Council be informed that, in respect of its Rail Strategy Consultation, East Herts Council:**

- (a) Welcomes the revision of the 2016 Rail Strategy to reflect updated positions and aspirations for rail provision in Hertfordshire.
- (b) Submits the comments included at Appendix A to this report as its detailed response to the Rail Strategy Consultation.

## 1.0 Proposal(s)

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of Hertfordshire County Council's (HCC) consultation on its draft Rail Strategy revision and to agree this Council's response to it.

## 2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020, HCC opened a consultation on its draft Rail Strategy. This document is intended as a revision to replace the current Rail Strategy, which was originally adopted in 2016. The consultation document is available to view via the link at the bottom of this report.
- 2.2 The draft document explains that the purpose of the Rail Strategy is to set out the County Council's aspirations for the development of the rail network in Hertfordshire. This is then used as the basis of discussion between the County Council and the train operating companies (TOCs), Network Rail, Department for Transport and other organisations with an interest in rail matters.
- 2.3 The Strategy is particularly used to influence the rail industry's strategy development process, such as Network Rail's Long Term Planning Process (LTPP) and also feeds into key documents such as the Government's Initial Industry Plans and High Level Output Specifications (HLOS). Likewise, the Strategy can be used to inform the specifications for the local rail franchises serving the county as and when they are retendered.
- 2.4 In the context of considering the draft Strategy revision, it is important that the document should not only reflect the aspirations of HCC but, in responding, East Herts Council should also ensure that its contents take into account the potential to include additional considerations, where appropriate, and contain accurate information.
- 2.5 "Appendix A" therefore tables issues with the current version, which should be addressed, and also suggests amendments and additional matters to be incorporated into the final version. It is recommended that this table be submitted to HCC as part of the Council's response to the consultation, which closes on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

### **3.0 Reason(s)**

3.1 The recommendation is sought to ensure that East Herts Council may make a meaningful response to the consultation which, if taken into account by HCC, will result in an improved document, better fit for its purpose.

### **4.0 Options**

4.1 As the report relates to an external consultation the only alternative would be to fail to respond to it.

### **5.0 Risks**

5.1 Failure to respond to the consultation would present the risk that necessary amendments/improvements to the document are not made to the detriment of the final publication and, potentially, to East Herts residents.

### **6.0 Implications/Consultations**

6.1 There are no significant concerns or issues with consultation.

### **Community Safety**

No

### **Data Protection**

No

### **Equalities**

No

### **Environmental Sustainability**

No

### **Financial**

No

## **Health and Safety**

No

## **Human Resources**

No

## **Human Rights**

No

## **Legal**

No

## **Specific Wards**

No

### **7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material**

7.1 Rail Strategy Consultation, Hertfordshire County Council, January 2020: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/about-the-council/consultations/draft-rail-strategy-2019.pdf>

7.2 "Appendix A" – East Herts Council Response to Hertfordshire Council's Draft Rail Strategy, January 2020

### **Contact Member**

Councillor Graham McAndrew – Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability. [graham.mcandrew@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:graham.mcandrew@eastherts.gov.uk)

### **Contact Officer**

Sara Saunders – Head of Planning and Building Control, Tel: 01992 531656. [sara.saunders@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:sara.saunders@eastherts.gov.uk)

### **Report Author**

Kay Mead – Principal Planning Officer (Policy and Implementation), Tel: 01992 531625. [kay.mead@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:kay.mead@eastherts.gov.uk)