

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

24 August 2009

**Report of the Director of Planning Transport and Leisure
and the Head of Transport and Development**

Part 1- Public

Matters For Information

1 KENT ROUTE UTILISATION STRATEGY – CONSULTATION RESPONSES

1.1 Consultation Responses

- 1.1.1 Network Rail published its Draft Kent Route Utilisation Strategy for public consultation several weeks ago and invited responses by a return date of 23 July 2009. The strategy sets out Network Rail's vision for rail infrastructure and service patterns in Kent for the next thirty years, though in reality the detailed focus is over the first decade of that period through to 2019.
- 1.1.2 For the information of the Board the replies submitted by the Borough and the County Councils are reproduced at **Annex 1** and **Annex 2**. In very general terms, Network Rail has had the 'windfall' of additional passenger capacity within Kent arising from the High Speed services into St Pancras and it is fair to say that, without this, the general tone of this RUS document would have been bleaker than it currently is.
- 1.1.3 That said, there are still elements of the strategy that prompt concerns. The medium to long term prognosis for passenger crowding in the peak hours, especially the high peak, on West Kent services, where the direct influence of the High Speed services will be least felt, appears to be as now or slightly worse. This is despite actions to alleviate this through train lengthening and selective door opening.
- 1.1.4 Also in the short term, Network Rail is anticipating significant service impacts from the major remodelling of London Bridge. This is only touched on in the Draft RUS and more detail will need to come from the final document when it is published next year.

1.2 Legal Implications

- 1.2.1 Not applicable.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 Not applicable.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 Nil.

Background papers:

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Nil

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