

Annex 2

Mark S WORRALL OBE

BA MCMI MCIM

Leader of The Council

Boris Johnson Mayor of London Greater London Authority City Hall The Queen's Walk More London London SE1 2AA

28 February 2012

Dear Mayor

We are writing in light of recent media coverage of your proposal that responsibility for London's inner-suburban rail services should be devolved to the Mayoralty from 2014.

This was discussed at length at a recent meeting of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council's Planning and Transportation Advisory Board, at which we were asked to write to express our concerns on the potential impact on the communities we serve from such a transfer.

Specifically, we are concerned at the quality, frequency and cost of rail services provided to our residents. For example, we would not welcome an increase in London-based stops by routes serving Kent and East Sussex (down to Hastings). Such additional stops would add journey times for Kent commuters into London. Moreover, additional London stops would also increase congestion as more people will view trains operating on the route as a local suburban service. This will be especially the case during evening peak hour services out of London.

We would also be concerned about the implications for fare structuring. Our understanding is that routes operated by Transport for London are more expensive than their Southeastern counterparts.

A wholly separate franchise of inner-suburban rail services would fragment responsibility for rail services at the expense of our residents. The Mayor and London Assembly have responsibility for Greater London and not the surrounding area, and therefore, what confidence would we have that there was not a natural bias from the Mayor and the London Assembly towards Greater London constituents in both decision-making and scrutiny.

We very much look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Jack Wome.

Mark Worrall Leader

cc: Rt Hon Sir John Stanley MP Tracey Crouch MP Rt Hon Greg Clark MP Michael Fallon MP Nicolas Heslop Cabinet Member for Planning & Transportation

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