



**TONBRIDGE & MALLING
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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.

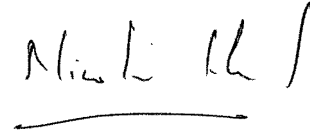
A wholly separate franchise of inner-suburban rail services would fragment responsibility for rail services at the expense of our residents. The Mayor and London Assembly have responsibility for Greater London and not the surrounding area, and therefore, what confidence would we have that there was not 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

Handwritten signature of Mark Worrall in black ink, featuring a stylized 'M' and 'W' with a horizontal line underneath.

Mark Worrall
Leader

Handwritten signature of Nicolas Heslop in black ink, with the name written in a cursive style and a horizontal line underneath.

Nicolas Heslop
Cabinet Member for
Planning & Transportation

cc: Rt Hon Sir John Stanley MP
Tracey Crouch MP
Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Michael Fallon MP