

WEST LONDON LINE GROUP

98 Manor Way, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3LR

020 8650 0667

4 January 2011 (should have been dated 4 February 2011)

RUS Programme Manager
West Midlands and Chilterns RUS Consultation Response
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London
N1 9AG

Dear Sir or Madam

West Midlands and Chilterns Route Utilisation Strategy

1. Introduction

1.1 I am writing on behalf of the West London Line Group to give the Group's responses to this document. We would ask that these be read in conjunction with the Group's recent documents, "West London Line Developments – 2008-2015" (May 2008), "Development Proposals for the West London Line 2009-2019" (June 2009), and "Key Concerns regarding the L&SE and WCML RUS's" (February 2011), plus the Group's responses to the Electrification and the London & South East RUS documents.

2. Main Response

2.1 Broadly speaking, the Group agrees with the present and future situation as described in this RUS.

3. Birmingham – Marylebone Corridor

3.1 However, the Group would strongly urge that: advantage be taken of the opportunities offered by the West London Line (WLL) to future traffics on the Chiltern Line, given:-

- (i) the forecasted capacity problems in the Marylebone area;
- (ii) the perceived need to provide strong, yet cost-effective, links between the Chiltern Line corridor and both (i) Heathrow, and (ii) southern England (without putting additional pressure on London termini and the tube network between them) via the proposed new

interchange at Old Oak Common and/or the West London Line (WLL) to, for example, Clapham Junction; and

(iii) the desirability of using the Chiltern Line to move spoil from and material to the Old Oak Common area during the construction of the new interchange there.

3.2 Ease of interchange for Chiltern Line passengers at the Old Oak Interchange onto other links such as the GWML and HS2/HS1 should further strengthen the case for:-

(i) the interchange, and

(ii) enhancements on the WLL

These improvements should have an impact on the demand figures between these Chiltern services and the links above.

3.3 Again, ease of interchange for Chiltern Line passengers at WLL stations should further strengthen the case for:-

(i) enhancements on the WLL, particularly at Clapham Junction, and

(ii) have an impact on the demand figures on the Southern and SWT networks from Clapham Junction.

4. Coventry Corridor

4.1 The Group would also urge that further work be done to facilitate extension of the Southern WLL service, presently operating between East Croydon and Milton Keynes to be extended to Birmingham New Street - or beyond, if trains on this service are unable to reverse there.

4.2 In this regard, the Group believes that this RUS should also include the paragraphs within Regional Gap RL14 (Gap in morning peak fast service between Birmingham and Milton Keynes) in the West Coast Main Line RUS.

5. Related items

5.1 Providing new links between Birmingham and Southern England via either the main Chiltern Line or the WCML to the WLL would also at least partially replace the Cross-Country service between Brighton and Birmingham that was removed in December 2008.

5.2 The Group would also support London TravelWatch's comment that platforms should be provided on the Chiltern tracks at West Hampstead to allow interchange here with London Overground and other services.

- 5.3 Inserting a diagram of existing and future services in the Old Oak area should be included as an Appendix in this RUS and in those for the WCML and London & the South East.
- 5.4 Gaps and options mentioned in one of these RUSs that would be relevant to other RUSs should ideally be included, or at least referenced, in all concerned.

Yours faithfully

Mark Balaam
Chairman

cc WCML RUS team, Network Rail
L&SE RUS team, Network Rail
Simon Chapman, Network Rail
HS2 Team
Ashton Kumar, Passenger Focus
Tim Bellenger, London TravelWatch
Chris Burchell, Southern
Steve Murphy, London Overground
Julie Dixon, Transport for London
Matthew Lodge, DfT
Jim Lawman, LB Brent
Mark Chetwynd, RB Kensington & Chelsea
Chris Bainbridge, LB Hammersmith & Fulham
John Slaughter, LB Wandsworth
Hanif Islam, LB Harrow
Alissa Ede, Herts CC
Steve Mortimer, Milton Keynes Council