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Title: Transport Committee – Croydon Bottleneck

Executive Summary

At the Transport Committee meeting on 15 June 2020, the Committee resolved:

That authority be delegate to the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Lead Members, to agree a response to the Network Rail consultation Unblocking the Croydon Bottleneck.

Following consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Lead Members, the Chair agreed a response to the Network Rail consultation attached at Appendix 1.

Decision

That the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Lead Members, agree a response to the Network Rail consultation *Unblocking the Croydon Bottleneck*, attached at Appendix 1.

Assembly Member

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

Signature

Date 17 September 2020



Printed Name Dr Alison Moore AM (Chair, Transport Committee)

Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

Notes:

1. *The Lead Officer should prepare this form for signature by relevant Members of the Assembly to record any instance where the Member proposes to take action under a specific delegated authority. The purpose of the form is to record the advice received from officers, and the decision made.*
2. **The 'background' section (below) should be used to include an indication as to whether the information contained in / referred to in this Form should be considered as exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). If so, the specimen Annexe (attached below) should be used. If this form does deal with exempt information, you must submit both parts of this form for approval together.**

Background and proposed next steps:

On 1 June 2020, Network Rail launched a consultation entitled *Unblocking the Croydon Bottleneck*, details of which can be found here - <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/our-routes/sussex/upgrading-the-brighton-main-line/unblocking-the-croydon-bottleneck/>. The deadline for submissions is 20 September 2020.

At the Transport Committee meeting on 15 June July 2020, the Committee resolved:

That authority be delegate to the Chair, in consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Lead Members, to agree a response to the Network Rail consultation Unblocking the Croydon Bottleneck.

Following consultation with the Deputy Chair and party Group Lead Members, the Chair agreed a response to the Network Rail consultation, as attached at Appendix 1.

The submission will be reported back to the next suitable meeting of the Transport Committee, currently scheduled for 8 October 2020.

Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision

Signed by Committee
Services



Date 14 September 2020

Print Name:

Laura Pelling

Tel: X. 5526

Financial implications NOT REQUIRED

NOTE: Finance comments and signature are required only where there are financial implications arising or the potential for financial implications.

Signed by Finance

Date

Print Name

Tel:

Legal implications

The Transport Committee has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signed by Legal



Date 14 September 2020.....

Print Name

Emma Strain, Monitoring Officer

Tel: X 4399

Supporting detail/List of Consultees: Caroline Pidgeon MBE AM (Deputy Chair), Keith Prince AM, David Kurten AM, Caroline Russell AM.

Public Access to Information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the FoIA, or the EIR and will be made available on the GLA Website, usually within one working day of approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary. **Note:** this form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

Part 1 – Deferral

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? No

Until what date: (a date is required if deferring)

Part 2 – Sensitive information

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA or EIR should be included in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form - No

Lead Officer/Author

Signed



Date 16 September 2020

Print Name

Haley Bowcock

Tel: x 4880

Job Title

Senior Policy Advisor

Countersigned by
Executive Director

E. Williams

Date 16 September
2020

Print Name

Ed Williams

Tel: X4399

Chair of the Transport Committee

Dr Alison Moore AM

Londonwide London Assembly Member



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17 September 2020

CARS Consultation

Network Rail

(via email)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Brighton Main Line upgrades: Unblocking the Croydon bottleneck – Phase 2 Consultation

Further to the London Assembly Transport Committee's December 2018 submission to the first phase of the consultation on the Croydon bottleneck, I am writing on behalf of the Committee to submit views to the second phase of the public consultation.

The London Assembly Transport Committee is responsible for scrutinising the work of the Mayor and Transport for London in delivering the capital's transport network, ensuring that Londoners have a reliable, accessible and cost-effective transport network to get around the city and beyond.

The Committee has done extensive work on Britain's railways. The Committee's 2018 report ***Broken Rails: A rail service fit for passengers*** highlighted the need for Network Rail to deliver targeted upgrades to London's rail infrastructure in order to keep up with growth and demand in the capital. I therefore wish to reiterate our support for proposals to upgrade the Brighton Main Line and unblock the Croydon bottleneck. When delivered, these important proposals will ease congestion, improve capacity and enhance the vital rail corridor connecting the capital to the South coast.

While the Committee does not have any specific comments to make with regards to the detailed questions set out in the consultation survey, we do seek assurances on some matters.

The Committee notes that the proposals have changed since the first phase of consultations, with plans now in place to move and reconstruct East Croydon station. Given the scale of the redevelopment, with plans to operate five out of the six platforms during the construction phase of the project, we would emphasise the importance of good project

management to minimise service disruption, and would welcome assurances about how any potential impacts on passenger safety and the level of service they receive will be mitigated.

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on travel patterns in the capital, resulting in significant uncertainty in how they will affect London in the longer term. Indeed, at the peak of the pandemic, passenger numbers fell by 90 percent. In this context, we would welcome assurances that Network Rail has undertaken the necessary scenario planning to inform future rail infrastructure decisions as well as the timeline and delivery of these set of proposals.

The Committee would welcome a response to the points raised above by 30 October 2020. Please include Haley Bowcock, Senior Policy Adviser, Transport and Environment, into your response: haley.bowcock@london.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Alison Moore AM
Chair, Transport Committee