

The **monthly** branch newsletter of **railfuture** in London and the South East

Britain's leading *independent* campaign for a bigger better railway for passengers and freight

## Railfuture responds to GE '24

*"All change please, all change! The 2010 from Westminster, re-timed at 2015, 2017 and 2019, has been terminated and is now out of service, all change!"*

If alignment between national and local governments matters, then Westminster and London leaderships have returned to that for the first time since 2016.

The new Minister for Rail, Minister of State Lord Henty of Richmond Hill CBE, is responsible for:

"rail transformation and reform, rail markets, rail infrastructure, High Speed 2 (HS2), international rail, rail freight, rail accessibility, rail decarbonisation, the British Transport Police."

Other transport responsibilities of relevance for our regional branch are with Minister for Local Transport, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (PUSS) Simon Lightwood (Wakefield & Rothwell) – a Shadow Transport Minister since October 2022 – including buses and light rail, local transport accessibility and cross-cutting transport accessibility, modal shift, regions and devolution, DfT's relationship with London including TfL, integrated transport strategy.

Also at PUSS level are Minister for Future of Roads Lilian Greenwood (Nottingham South) and Minister for Aviation, Maritime and Security Mike Kane (Wythenshawe & Sale East). Lilian Greenwood was Shadow Secretary of State for Transport from 2015 to 2016, also operating as Shadow Rail Minister from 2011 to 2015. She also chaired the Transport Select Committee from July 2017 to January 2020.

Parliament remained in session until the end of July, with some pivotal policy statements by new Ministers: # Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves (Leeds West & Pudsey) with a Statement on Public Spending Inheritance on 29<sup>th</sup> July and also saying in Parliament "my Rt Hon Friend will also cancel projects in the "Restoring our Railways" programme which have not yet commenced."

# Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government Angela Rayner (Ashton-under-Lyne) on 30<sup>th</sup> July launching Our plan to build more homes and Changes to national planning policy and on 31<sup>st</sup> July announcing increased housing targets and a new generation of new towns. Never before has Railfuture's hashtag #**RailTransportForNewHomes** been so strongly aligned with government policy! # Secretary of State for Transport Louise Haigh (Sheffield Heeley) on 10<sup>th</sup> July setting out her 5 key priorities, on 18<sup>th</sup> July introducing the Passenger Railway Services (Public Ownership) Bill, and on 30<sup>th</sup> July launching a Transport Infrastructure Review.

## What shall we be doing this month?

London and South East regional branch members, and / or committee members, will be:-

- ~ first and foremost, taking stock of and responding to the new government's various policies for change. See [All change for rail](#) and our social media channels.
- ~ holding a regular meeting of L&SE regional branch's committee, in-person and at a place of refreshment close by a station near the convergence of heritage and mainline railways in East Sussex, with a focus on attracting more active members.
- ~ holding a regular meeting of our Kent Division [online](#).
- ~ running our regional branch's "Bridge the gap" campaign stall at the annual [Lewes Societies Fair](#), in Lewes Town Hall.
- ~ attending [public drop-in events](#) for Medway Council's consultation on its draft Local Plan 2041, closing on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September.
- ~ attending [public drop-in events](#) for Kent County Council's consultation "Striking the balance" on its draft Local Transport Plan 5, closing Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October.

*Our vision for Railfuture: An independent organisation whose views are respected by the rail industry, to which decision makers come for advice, which rail users are proud to join and recommend.*

## What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-July edition of **inter-railse** no.73, Railfuture's London and South East regional branch members, and / or committee members, have:

- ~ responded via our national Infrastructure & Networks and Freight & Logistics policy groups to a Network Rail request to contribute to draft Strategic Advice for the North Downs Line.
- ~ participated in GTR's informal summer social for selected stakeholders.
- ~ participated in the annual stakeholder event of our neighbouring Hampshire CRP (within the TfSE area).
- ~ contributed to Southeast CRP's Stakeholder Advisory Board, and MarshLink Steering Group.
- ~ held regular meetings of our London Metro and Sussex & Coastway Divisions in-person, and of our Eastern and Herts & Beds Divisions [online](#).
- ~ held a regular [online](#) meeting of the L&SE regional branch committee.

## Britain's Growing Railway in London and the South East: August birthdays

~ on the 12<sup>th</sup> (after a 'soft opening' to passengers on 25<sup>th</sup> July) the official opening of London Overground's Hackney Interchange walkway, in 2015.



(photo – the author)

~ on the 31<sup>st</sup> (after the official opening on 30<sup>th</sup> July) Docklands Light Railway first opened for passengers between Island Gardens and Tower Gateway / Stratford, in 1987.

**Our vision for rail:** A railway system that provides services which travellers and freight forwarders want to use, and which offers more journey opportunities to more people and more freight.

### Railfuture is 'in the news' / 'making the news' / sharing 'news and views'

~ Stay abreast of Railfuture members making, not just watching, things happen in our website [media extracts](#).  
~ Stay abreast of Railfuture making, not just reporting, the news through our [press releases](#).  
~ Stay abreast of Railfuture's and others' reports and thoughts published in our [website articles](#).

~ Railfuture is active on [Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#) / [LinkedIn](#).

### Railfuture publications by email

~ All members – individual, joint, affiliated organisation such as a rail user group or similar, or a business – are being encouraged to receive [Railwatch](#) direct to their Inbox immediately on publication by logging-in at [Member services](#).

~ All members receive Railfuture's regular monthly newsletter [Rail User Express](#) and occasional [Rail Action](#) bulletin direct to their Inbox upon publication.

This branch e-newsletter is free, published monthly and distributed to branch members with their GDPR consent Items for our newsletters, and our branch Local Action column in *railwatch*, to [londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:londonandsoutheast@railfuture.org.uk)

# railfuture

**Railfuture's mission: to be the number one advocate for Britain's railway and rail users**

Website: [Welcome to Railfuture](#) Twitter: [@RailfutureLSE](#)

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## Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

**Tuesday 6 August** Railfuture East Midlands regional branch annual lunchtime 'summer conversation'.

**Tuesday 6 August** Kent County Council public drop-in event for consultation on "Striking the balance" – draft Local Transport Plan 5.

**Tuesday 6 August** Medway Council public drop-in event for consultation on draft Local Plan 2041.

**Thursday 8 August** Medway Council public drop-in event for consultation on draft Local Plan 2041.

**Tuesday 13 August** Kent County Council public drop-in event for consultation on "Striking the balance" – draft Local Transport Plan 5.

**Tuesday 13 August** Medway Council public drop-in event for consultation on draft Local Plan 2041.

**Thursday 15 August** Kent County Council public drop-in event for consultation on "Striking the balance" – draft Local Transport Plan 5.

**Saturday 17 August** Kent Division afternoon **online** meeting. [Invite non-members!](#)

**Wednesday 21 August** Kent County Council public drop-in event for consultation on "Striking the balance" – draft Local Transport Plan 5.

**Thursday 22 August** Kent County Council public drop-in event for consultation on "Striking the balance" – draft Local Transport Plan 5.

**Friday 23 August** Kent County Council public drop-in event for consultation on "Striking the balance" – draft Local Transport Plan 5.

**Thursday 29 August** Medway Council public drop-in event for consultation on draft Local Plan 2041.



**Saturday 31 August** Railfuture "Bridge the gap" campaign stall at annual Lewes Societies Fair, in Lewes Town Hall.

Full details in our [Events](#) and [Rail dates](#) web pages.