

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

## What has the Chancellor done for us?

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024 will be remembered for, amongst other things, announcements of a £5 increase to the price of most rail cards (except the disabled person's rail card) – subject to an industry proposal, and the annual regulated rail fares cap rising by 4.6% on 2 March 2025, one percentage point above RPI, albeit the lowest absolute increase in three years – see the [Budget Statement - HC295](#) at paragraph 4.72.



The Budget Statement also says this, at para. 3.19: *“East West Rail will connect Oxford, Milton Keynes, and Cambridge and unlock land for housing and laboratories, supporting the wider Cambridge life sciences cluster. The first East West Rail services will begin operations next year, running between Oxford, Bletchley, and Milton Keynes. The acceleration of the Marston Vale Line will ensure these services extend to Bedford from 2030. To deliver the next stages of East West Rail the government is launching a consultation.”*

Plus: *“HS2 trains will run to Euston, with funding provided for tunnelling to the central London terminus, catalysing private investment into the station and local area.”*

Also, from para. 4.69: *“£485 million for Transport for London (TfL)’s capital renewals programme in 2025-26. This includes funding for rolling stock on the Piccadilly and Elizabeth Lines.”*

The [letter to the Mayor of London](#) from the Transport Secretary includes this: *“HMG understands the importance of long-term funding certainty to enable investment in critical upgrades to major capital projects (e.g. the Bakerloo Line Upgrade, signalling and major road renewals), to create certainty for the supply chain and generate greater efficiencies that come with longer term planning. The Department will continue to work with TfL with the aim to place it on a long-term financially sustainable footing as part of Phase 2 of the Spending Review.”* At long last, a move away from hand-to-mouth annual settlements may be in prospect.

## What shall we be doing this month?

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

- ~ participating in this year's Transport Planning Day event: *“The politics of reducing car use in the UK.”*
- ~ participating in the second in-person Transport Forum of Transport for the South East.
- ~ participating in Southeastern's Stakeholder Forum.
- ~ attending consultation drop-in events in Bedford for East West Rail's latest non-statutory consultation.
- ~ holding regular meetings of our Eastern, Kent and Herts & Beds Divisions **online**, London Metro in-person.
- ~ holding a regular monthly meeting of the L&SE regional branch committee, in-person for a change!

## What has @RailfutureLSE been doing?

Since the early-October edition of **inter-railse** no.76, Railfuture's London and South East regional branch members, and / or committee members, have:

- ~ attended the final public drop-in event – in Tunbridge Wells – for Kent County Council's consultation on its draft Local Transport Plan 5 *“Striking the balance.”*
- ~ contributed to Network Rail's Tonbridge Strategic Station Plan, following their Medway Valley Line Strategic Study published earlier this year.
- ~ participated in the annual joint meeting of Southeast CRP's Oxted – Uckfield / East Grinstead and Tonbridge – Redhill – Reigate lines' steering groups.
- ~ participated in the annual **online** Kent Rail Summit.
- ~ contributed to Network Rail's stakeholder workshop for the East Sussex Coast / MarshLink Strategic Study.
- ~ met Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce Group about their [Western Rail Link to Heathrow](#) proposal.
- ~ held regular meetings of our Sussex & Coastway and Herts & Beds Divisions **online**.
- ~ held a regular **online** meeting of the L&SE regional branch committee.
- ~ responded to Kent County Council's consultation for its [draft Local Transport Plan 5](#) *“Striking the balance.”*

**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.*

## Calendar of forthcoming diary dates

**Until Sunday 3 November** Schools' autumn half-term holiday: >95% of the rail network remains open for customers! Enjoy your local heritage railways.

**Until Sunday 3 November** – MarshLink part / full closures between Hastings and Ashford International for works to Ore Tunnel (1402 yds between Ore and Three Oaks, not to be confused with Mount Pleasant Tunnel at 230 yds between Ore and Hastings).

**Until Saturday 2 November** – MarshLink shuttle train service between Rye and Ashford International, approx. 07:30 to 18:30, with rail replacement buses between Hastings and Ore and Hastings and Rye, and either side of those times between Hastings and Ore and Hastings and Ashford International.

**Sunday 3 November** – rail replacement buses between Hastings and Ore and Hastings and Ashford International.

**Monday 11 November** Transport Planning Day: event at ICE – “*The politics of reducing car use in the UK.*”

**Wednesday 13 November** Eastern Division **online** evening meeting. Invite non-members!

**Friday 15 November** Southeastern's Stakeholder Forum, London.

**Saturday 16 November** Herts & Beds Division morning meeting, St. Albans. Invite non-members!

**Saturday 16 November** Kent Division **online** afternoon meeting. Invite non-members!



**Tuesday 19, Thursday 21, Friday 22, Tuesday 26, Saturday 30 November** Public drop-in events for East West Rail's latest non-statutory consultation.

**Thursday 21 November** ORR publishes annual estimates of station and regional usage 2023-24.

**Thursday 21 November** London Metro Division evening meeting, Farringdon. Invite non-members!

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

## Britain's Growing Railway in London & South East: November birthdays

~ 7<sup>th</sup>, in 2007 – London St. Pancras International.

~ 8<sup>th</sup>, in 1999 – Braintree Freeport.

~ 14<sup>th</sup>, in 1994 – Channel Tunnel, Waterloo Curve / Stewarts Lane Viaduct, Waterloo International.

~ 14<sup>th</sup>, in 2007 – Channel Tunnel Rail Link/HS1 phase 2 (Southfleet Junction - London St. Pancras International)

~ 19<sup>th</sup>, in 2007 – Ebbsfleet International.

~ 21<sup>st</sup>, in 1960 – Southbury, Theobalds Grove, Turkey Street.

~ 21<sup>st</sup>, in 1999 – Luton Airport Parkway.

~ 25<sup>th</sup>, in 1974 – Basildon (25 years after designation as a New Town!)

~ 30<sup>th</sup>, in 2009 – Stratford International.

**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 eg 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](#); it's accompanied by branch newsletter [railse](#).

~ All members can 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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