

West Sussex County Council  
County Hall  
West Street  
Chichester  
West Sussex  
P019 1RG

*please reply to:*

70 Dynevor Road  
Stoke Newington  
London  
N16 0DX

[ltf@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:ltf@westsussex.gov.uk)

[roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk)

2021-10-08

Dear West Sussex County Council,

## **West Sussex draft Transport Plan 2022-2036**

Railfuture is Britain's leading, longest-established, national independent voluntary organisation campaigning exclusively for a better railway across a bigger network for passenger and freight users, to support economic (housing and productivity) growth, environmental improvement and better-connected communities. We seek to influence decision makers at local, regional and national levels to implement pro-rail policies in transport and development planning.

We respond below to the principal questions in the online survey (respondent details 1-10 given within the body of this letter):

### **Key issues**

Climate Change, Local Environmental Impacts, Variable Economic Performance, Development and Regeneration Pressures and Opportunities, Growing and Ageing Population, Public Health and Wellbeing, Access to Services, Transport Network Performance Issues.

11. How much do you agree with the list of key issues highlighted within the draft plan?  
Fully

12. Do you have any comments on these key issues? Are there any other key issues which you think are missing?

It is concerning that Rail is no more than a sub-heading within Transport Network, the more so since the adoption of its own Transport Strategy by Transport for the South East, of which WSCC is a member, which includes ambitious targets for the growth of passenger rail travel.

### **Vision**

~ A West Sussex transport network in 2036 that works for communities in the Coastal West Sussex, Gatwick Diamond and Rural West Sussex economic areas by helping to address the spatial economic challenges of the County, level up the coastal economy and provide access to employment and services countywide.

~ The transport network will be on a pathway to net zero carbon by 2050 through mass electrification, reduced use of fossil-fuels and local living. It will also be safer and more efficient overall with more walking, cycling and use of public or shared transport and less congestion on major routes that connect West Sussex towns with Gatwick Airport, London and nearby cities.

[www.railfuture.org.uk](http://www.railfuture.org.uk) [www.railfuturescotland.org.uk](http://www.railfuturescotland.org.uk) [www.railfuturewales.org.uk](http://www.railfuturewales.org.uk)  
[www.railwatch.org.uk](http://www.railwatch.org.uk)

~ The transport network will connect communities and allow residents to live healthy lifestyles with good access to the West Sussex coast and the protected South Downs, High Weald and Chichester Harbour.  
~ Active travel modes, public or shared transport will be attractive options in built up areas and between towns, and rural communities will have access to the services they need.  
~ Transport impacts such as air pollution, noise and rat-running on adjacent communities and the environment will be minimised to protect a quality of life that reflects the characteristics of the County.”

13. How much do you support this vision?

Fully

14. Do you have any comments on the content of the vision?

## Objectives

Prosperous, Healthy, Protected, Connected West Sussex.

15. How much do you support the draft West Sussex Transport Plan objectives?

Fully

16. Do you have any comments on the objectives?

## Transport Theme Strategies

17. How much do you support the transport theme strategies and priorities?

Active travel strategy - Fully

Shared transport strategy - Fully

Rail strategy - Fully

Access to Gatwick Airport strategy - Fully

Road network strategy - Fully

18. Do you have any comments on the specific transport strategies?

Rail – Conspicuous by its absence from the Spatial Portrait, Railways in paras. 2.17-2.20 is any mention of the accessibility of the county's 39 stations. Identification and prioritisation of non-step-free stations for accessibility improvements up to full step-free standard must be included in the final Transport Plan's Thematic Transport Strategies & Priorities, Rail Strategy paras. 6.9-6.11.

Similarly conspicuous by its absence is any reference to the availability of car- and cycle-parking at rail stations as transport hubs, including electric charging points. Identification and prioritisation of stations requiring additional provision of spaces and charging points for both cars and cycles must also be included in the final Transport Plan's Thematic Transport Strategies & Priorities, Rail Strategy.

## Area Transport Strategies

19. How much do you support the area transport strategies and priorities?

Area transport strategy for Adur - Fully

Area transport strategy for Arun - Fully

Area transport strategy for Chichester - Fully

Area transport strategy for Crawley - Fully

Area transport strategy for Horsham - Fully

Area transport strategy for Mid-Sussex - Fully

Area transport strategy for South Downs National Park - Fully

Area transport strategy for Worthing - Fully

20. Do you have any comments on the area transport strategies?

## **Implementation and Monitoring**

21. Do you have any comments on the implementation and monitoring sections of the draft plan?

The Table 2 Outcome Measures must in the final Transport Plan be far more ambitious than, for Public Transport Trips, merely identifying raw numbers of bus and rail journeys and, for Sustainable Transport Mode Share, confining such measures solely to Gatwick Airport passengers and employees. The 2021 Census, for a Transport Plan from 2022, will provide a solid evidence base which can and must first be compared with 2011 data and second used as a baseline for setting a variety of targets which WSCC would wish to see reflected in the 2031 Census data as a result of Output Measures over which it has direct control or at least influence. Interim targets must also be set, and Output Measures applied, in the final Transport Plan to align with the conclusion of the Short Term Action Plan and the first 5-year review of this Transport Plan.

## **Short Term Action Plan**

22. Do you have any comments on the Action Plan measures in Appendix A of the draft plan?

It is noteworthy that not only are there as many as 46 measures identified, but in only 12 cases is WSCC not shown as the lead organisation. That cannot but raise considerable concerns about the capacity and capability of the organisation to first prioritise and second adequately resource effective delivery of the Short Term Action Plan.

## **Other issues**

23. Do you have any other comments you would like to make about the draft plan, or any comments on the background documents published with the draft plan, including the Sustainability Appraisal?

24. Are you happy to be included on our stakeholder database to receive further information about the West Sussex Transport Plan review?

Yes

25. Are you happy to be included on our stakeholder database for further information about future transport scheme consultations related to the West Sussex Transport Plan?

Yes

26. Which statement best describes your response?

I am responding as a representative of an organisation.

27-36. About you

Not applicable to an organisation.

Yours faithfully,

Roger Blake BA, MRTPI (Rtd), MTPS  
Railfuture  
Vice-Chair London & South East regional branch  
Director for Infrastructure & Networks, national Board

**West Sussex draft Transport Plan 2022-36**