

East Sussex County Council
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please reply to:

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localtransportplan@eastsussex.gov.uk

roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk

2024-02-25

Dear ESCC,

Draft Local Transport Plan 4, 2024-50 – survey

Railfuture is Britain's leading and longest-established national independent voluntary organisation campaigning exclusively for a better railway across a bigger network for passengers, 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.

Section A

Questions about the person responding to the survey.

A1 What is your name? Roger Blake

A2 What is your email address? roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk

A3 What is your main mode of travel for everyday journeys?
Cannot answer for all our members in East Sussex.

A4 Who are you responding on behalf of? On behalf of an organisation or group.

A5 What is the name of your business, organisation or group?
Railfuture Ltd (London & South East regional branch's Sussex & Coastway Division).

Section B

Vision, objectives and outcomes.

Do you wish to answer questions and provide feedback on the LTP's vision, objectives and outcomes? Yes.

B1 How strongly do you agree or disagree with our vision for East Sussex?

Our vision for transport in East Sussex is:

An inclusive transport system that connects people and places; that is decarbonised, safer, resilient, and supports our natural environment, communities, and businesses to be healthy, thrive and to prosper. Strongly agree.

B2 Does objective 1 and its outcomes support our vision?

Objective 1: Deliver safer and accessible journeys. Strongly agree.

B3 Does objective 2 and its outcomes support our vision?

Objective 2: Support healthier lifestyles and communities. Strongly agree.

www.railfuture.org.uk www.railfuturescotland.org.uk www.railfuturewales.org.uk
www.railwatch.org.uk

B4 Does objective 3 and its outcomes support our vision?

Objective 3: Decarbonise transport and travel Strongly agree.

B5 Does objective 4 and its outcomes support our vision?

Objective 4: Conserve and enhance our local environment Strongly agree.

B6 Does objective 5 and its outcomes support our vision?

Objective 5: Support sustainable economic growth Strongly agree.

B7 Does objective 6 and its outcomes support our vision?

Objective 6: Strengthen the resilience of our transport networks Strongly agree.

B8 Do you wish to explain or add detail to any responses in section B? The vision of an inclusive transport system should be one which also offers improved travel choices as all objectives would be supported by changed travel behaviours towards more sustainable modes.

Section C

Questions regarding the principles and policies.

Do you wish to answer questions on Principles and Policies? Yes.

C1 How Strongly do you agree or disagree with the principles that underpin LTP4?

Our principles are:

Embedding sustainable development

Integration with spatial strategies (e.g. Local Plans from Local Planning Authorities (District and Borough Councils and South Downs National Park Authority)

Transport connectivity for all (i.e. everyone can get to where they want to go)

The importance of digital connectivity (e.g. quality and fast mobile, broadband and fibre networks)

Removing barriers to sustainable transport use

Implementing a sustainable movement and place framework

Strongly agree.

C2 Do the policies in Theme A support objectives 3 and 4 (assuming sufficient funding)?

Theme A: Tackling climate change and enhancing our local environment. Strongly agree.

C3 Do the policies in Theme B support objective 2 (assuming sufficient funding)?

Theme B: Safer, healthier and more active travel. Strongly agree.

C4 Do the policies in Theme C support objective 1 (assuming sufficient funding)?

Theme C: Integrated and seamless travel. Strongly agree.

C5 Do the policies in Theme D support objectives 5 and 6 (assuming sufficient funding)?

Theme D: Keeping East Sussex connected. Strongly agree.

C6 Do you wish to explain or add detail to any responses in section C?

The Executive Summary Figure 2, repeated as Figure 7, supporting Theme C and Figure 3, repeated as Figure 8, supporting Theme D both refer to “Uckfield-Lewes Line Re-opening” and “Spa Valley Line Modern Operations Reopening” and each pose issues requiring far more detailed development in the new Rail Strategy. It should not be assumed that the only option for a new 21st-century rail link between Lewes and Uckfield is a reinstatement of the 19th-century rail link, and ‘modern operations reopening’ of the Spa Valley Line has at present untold implications for the existing Spa Valley Railway which demand full assessment.

Section D

Questions on the Implementation Plan

Do you wish to answer questions on the Implementation Plan? Yes.

D1 How strongly do you agree with the proposed interventions in the Implementation Plan that will deliver Theme A?

Theme A: Tackling climate change and enhancing our local environment. Strongly agree.

D2 How strongly do you agree with the proposed interventions in the Implementation Plan that will deliver Theme B?

Theme B: Safer, healthier and more active travel. Strongly agree.

D3 How strongly do you agree with the proposed interventions in the Implementation Plan that will deliver Theme C?

Theme C: Integrated and accessible transport for all. Strongly agree.

D4 How strongly do you agree with the proposed interventions in the Implementation Plan that will deliver Theme D?

Theme D: Keeping East Sussex connected. Strongly agree.

D5 Have we missed any interventions that will deliver on Themes A, B C and D?

Theme C: the potential role of new rail stations should be referenced eg Stone Cross.

Section E

Question regarding LTP4 assessments

Do you want to respond about any of the assessments that have been completed? No – insufficient specialist knowledge and expertise.

E1 Do you have any comments on the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)? No.

E2 Do you have any comments on the Health Impact Assessment (HIA)? No.

E3 Do you have any comments on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)? No.

E4 Do you have any comments on the Habitats Regulation Assessment? No.

E5 Do you have any comments on the Equalities Impact Assessment? No.

Section F

Questions on your support for East Sussex Draft LTP4

F1 To what extent do you support or not support East Sussex Draft Local Transport plan? Strongly agree.

F2 Do you have any further comments, not covered in the previous questions, that you wish to make?

Despite one of the Principles which is stated to underpin LTP4 being Integration with spatial strategies there is no clear evidence of any direct read-across between the addition to the county's public transport connectivity and capacity through a new Lewes-Uckfield rail link and the choice of location(s) for long-term economic growth (housing and employment) as reflected in the Local Plans for its wider catchment, both Lewes and Wealden Districts being at similar stages in their Local Plan development. Such long-term economic growth wherever located must be served by sustainable public transport of sufficient capacity and connectivity to meet its needs, just as any Lewes-Uckfield rail link must serve a wider spatial strategy, not merely transport, purpose if it is to have any prospects of establishing a viable business case.



Section G

These questions are about you (equalities monitoring)
Cannot answer for all our members in East Sussex.

Yours faithfully,

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